

**CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF EARLY MARRIAGES IN KAPCHORWA TOWN  
COUNCIL KAPCHORWA DISTRICT**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL  
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## **ABSTRACT**

The study concentrated on causes and effects of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District. The study concentrated on the: To find out the causes of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town council, Kapchorwa District, to investigate the impact of early marriages in of Kapchorwa Town council, Kapchorwa District and lastly to find out possible solutions to early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District. The study findings concluded that: Findings concluded that lack of employment and economic opportunities is the leading cause of early marriages, that parents offer their daughters to early marriages for financial gains, that early marriages lead to depression and feeling alone as they are in most cases always forced and there is no love always between partners, findings also concluded that forced sexual intercourse and denial of free will are in most cases a result of early marriages, that establishment of possible laws and regulations can help in prevention of early marriages, and lastly that women empowerment may play a great role in prevention of early marriages. Findings recommended that there should be more policies designed by the Government to curb early marriage among teenagers that parents should play their daily roles during children's teenage age such as paying tuition to avoid early marriages and lastly that Government should design more programs that give teenagers more opportunities to stay in school.

**DECLARATION**

I, **Chebet Miracle** hereby declare that this research report entitled “causes and effects of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council Kapchorwa District” is my original work and to the best of my knowledge has never been submitted to any other institution of higher learning for any academic award.


Sign: .....  .....

Date: ..... 02/09/2024 .....

**Chebet Miracle**

## APPROVAL

This research report was carried out under my supervision on the topic “causes and effects of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District” and it is now ready for submission as a partial fulfillment for the requirements of the award of a bachelor’s degree of social work and social administration of Uganda Christian University.

Signature:  Date: 02/09/2024

**Mr Nuwagaba Naboth**

**Supervisor**

## **DEDICATION**

This research report is a special dedication to every person who contributed towards its successful completion. May the Almighty God bless the work of their hands.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I acknowledge God the Alpha and Omega, for the precious gift of life because without this gift, this research would have not been successful. May His Mighty name be gloried in the Highest.

I acknowledge my research supervisor Mr. Nuwagaba Naboth for his tireless efforts and guidance until the completion of this research report. May the Almighty Lord bless the work of His hands.

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

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 <sup>1</sup>

# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Introduction

This study is about causes and effects of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District. This chapter comprises of the introduction, background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose, objectives, and research questions, scope of the study, the significance of the study, limitations and delimitations.

### 1.1 Back ground of the study

Globally, Child marriage is a problem affecting millions of girls across the world. It is considered a human rights violation because it deprives those involved of education and health services, the chance to learn skills and develop their personalities and leaves them vulnerable. It is an appalling violation of human rights and robs girls of their education, health and long-term prospects” (Osotimehin, 2019). Despite the physical damage and the persistent discrimination to young girls, little progress has been made toward ending the practice of child marriage. This is commonly caused by increasing levels of poverty, low levels of education backed by cultural and traditional beliefs of securing the lives of girls in marriage. In fact, the problem threatens to increase with the expanding youth population in developing world.

Child marriage (under 18 years) and young age marriage (under 16 years) have lot of concerns because of its overspread nature across societies of different class and status predominantly in developing countries (UNCF, 2019). It is a very common practice in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa to give early marriage to their daughters. There are social, psychological and health consequences of early marriage and it will affect both young mother and their children. It is recognized as both human rights violation and social development barrier (ICRW, 2020). Studies by Pandya and Bhanderi, (2018) have found that the effect of early marriage is negative and it is detrimental for the young mother and their children and as whole for the community. Teenage mothers have more child and give early birth than their adult peers and hence suffer from long chain of health complications (Raj et al., 2019). Nevertheless it does not stop there because serious health consequences are also experienced by the children of teenage mother. Child of a young mother is prone to die twice times greater than the child of a woman in their twenties (ICRW,

2019). In the event that they endure some way or another, these babies will in general have higher rates of low birth weight with inborn oddities, untimely birth and newborn child mortality than those destined to more aged mothers (Save the Children, 2017). Moreover, unconstrained fetus removal, preterm conveyance, Low Birth Weight (LBW), medical issues in new conceived child, defective feeding practices, absence of knowledge with respect to family welfare strategies are found to be associated with child marriage (Pandya and Bhanderi, 2019).

Early marriages is defined as marriage under the age of 18, early marriage is a health and human rights issue, especially for women in the developing world. A growing body of evidence has linked early marriage with negative health, education, and economic outcomes. Recently published global reviews by (UNICEF, 2028) have documented that young women who marry early are more likely than their peers to experience early school departure, lower earning capacity, earlier and more frequent childbearing, complications in pregnancy, higher maternal mortality, increased risk of HIV infection, and higher infant mortality (Mukuria et al., 2019). From a human rights perspective, many women who marry before age 18 do not have the opportunity to decide for themselves whether and when to marry and, in many cases, this single event shapes their entire adult lives. Nevertheless, early marriage continues to be widespread and is still socially accepted in many cultures (Okilinge et al., 2020).

In Latin America and Caribbean about one third of women population gives 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 (UNESCO, 2020).

In Africa, the prevalence, causes and impacts of child marriage are widespread because of legal frameworks that prohibit child marriage and describe some of the circumstances that result in laws being ineffective in practice (Mwiti et al., 2019). Without discounting the needs of children who are already married or adults who were married as children, it outlines a selection of successful interventions and makes recommendations towards the progressive elimination of child marriage in Africa. The objective of this study is to provide an overview of child marriage in Africa, focusing in particular on information about child marriage in the following ten countries: Cameroon, the DRC, the Gambia, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique and South

Africa. Specific objectives include identifying the root causes, prevalence, practices, customs and beliefs that perpetuate child marriage, assessing the level of compliance with international and regional obligations requiring states to prevent child marriage and reporting on legislative and policy frameworks and selected initiatives to address child marriage. According to the study, the countries with the worst child marriage scores also have the highest maternal mortality ratios, the highest pregnancy rates, and constitute the greater majority of people living with HIV. According to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA, 2023), if present trend continue, 1,353,000 of the young girls born between 2015 and 2020 will be married/ in union before age 18 by 2030. This calls for urgent programmes to prevent that from happening.

In Uganda, the rate of child marriage, 40%, is higher than the African average of 39%. A number of factors contribute to this high rate, including poverty, gender norms and expectations, culture and tradition (Ojangole et al., 2023). Uganda falls among the 15 worst African countries with high numbers of child brides; it is in the eleventh position while Niger tops the list at 75% followed by Chad with 72%. While child marriage is common in Uganda, prevalence is highest in Northern (59%), followed by Western (58%), Eastern (52%), East Central (52%), West Nile (50%), Central 2 (46%), Central 1 (41%), Southwest (37%), and Kampala (21%), according to UNFPA (2023). Almost two million Ugandan minors are forced or lured into alleged marriage, according to an African human social development report presented at the Women Deliver Conference in Kuala Lumpur in June 2013. Child marriage has many causes: cultural, social, economic and religious. In many cases, a mixture of these causes results in the imprisonment of children in marriages without their consent.

Early marriage and early pregnancies are prevalent in areas such as Kapchorwa, Karamoja, Teso Land, Iganga, Mbarara, Sironko, Kween, Bukwo, Isingiro, Budaka and West Nile 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. Evidence shows regional variations in the prevalence of child marriage among girls with the northern region having the highest prevalence rates estimated at 59%, followed by Western region (58%), Eastern region (52%), East central (52%), West Nile (50%), Central (41%), South west (37%), and lowest in Kampala (21%) (UNFPA, 2020). According to Lubaale (2023) the highest proportion of children in marital union was registered in the Eastern region (5.4%) followed by the Northern region (5.2%) while Central and Western regions had same proportion of 3.8% of children ever

married. The median age at first marriage for women (20 – 49 years) living in northern Uganda is lower (16.9) as compared to western and south western (18.1 and 19.9 respectively) (UBOS and ICF International Inc, 2022).

In Kapchorwa, a survey carried out by Isabella (2023) in the mountainous sub counties of Tegeres, Kabat ward inhabited mainly by Sabiny people in; it was found out that child marriage is the leading cause of girls dropping out of school. At Tuban Primary school in Kapteret Sub County, the school dropout rate of girls for marriage was at 15% in 2023 and 10% in 2019. The young girls are married off in exchange of goats ranging from 1-5. Chelimo Marion (not real name) 14 did not sit for her Primary Leaving Examination 2021 at Kabat Primary School in Kapteret Sub County. Her parents negotiated for her marriage without her consent in exchange of 2 goats in a nearby community. The Head Teacher reported the case to police but the parents insisted that their daughter went to visit her relatives in another district.

Additionally, there has been no comprehensive single author survey on the causes and effects of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District. Not that the subject has suffered from any lack of interests but many historical scholars and publications particularly in Uganda and Africa have often been drawn more to the international scene than to the potentially more hazardous subject of secondary school management at home. Very few historical nodes have been made on the subject and the resulting literature has, however, almost exclusively taken the form of edited volumes, specialized monographs and polemical contributions to debates and this is the gap this study intends to fill.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

The Uganda Constitution (1995) and the Penal Code set the legal age of marriage or engagement in sexual acts at the age of 18. Chapter 4 of the Constitution provides for the protection and promotion of fundamental and other human rights and freedoms for all Ugandan citizens with specific provision for the protection of women and girls. While Article 31 provides for the right to marriage and family formation, it criminalizes child marriage and spells out 18 years as the minimum age at which men and women should marry. However, the already existing laws are not enforced and implemented; instead, traditional and religious laws often allow marriage as soon as puberty has started, which puts young girls at stake of being married.

The public has with great concern observed that social, cultural and economic factors contribute to early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District. Despite the interventions by government and civil society in Kapchorwa Town Council through protection of children's rights, community sensitization and policy and legislation, incidences of early marriages has continued to rise uninterrupted and if nothing is done there would be a likelihood of high illiteracy, constant morbidity, death and low economic development Kapchorwa Town Council. There are no strong and focused strategies to deal with the rising trends in early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council. Additionally, there is no study that has investigated the causes and effects of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District leading to limitations and distortions in literature.

It is therefore upon the above background that this study was carried out on the causes and effects of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District.

### **1.3 Research objectives**

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

The general objective of this study was to find the causes and effects of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District.

#### **1.3.2 Specific objectives**

The specific Objectives of this study were:

- 1) To find out the causes of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town council, Kapchorwa District
- 2) To investigate the impact of early marriages in of Kapchorwa Town council, Kapchorwa District
- 3) To find out possible solutionS to early marriages in Kapchorwa Town council, Kapchorwa District.

### **1.4 Research questions**

1. What are the causes of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town council, Kapchorwa district?
2. What is the impact of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town council, Kapchorwa District?
3. In which ways can early marriages be prevented in Kapchorwa Town council, Kapchorwa District?

## **1.5 Scope of the study**

The study scope was categorized into geographical, content and time scope as follows:

### **1.5.1 Content scope**

The study contained information about the causes and effects of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District. It specifically found out the causes of early marriages and the impact of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town council in Kapchorwa district. The study also found out possible solution to early marriages in Kapchorwa Town council in Kapchorwa district. Through this content scope, the researcher was able to collect adequate and relevant information that helped to attain study objectives.

### **1.5.2 Geographical Scope**

The study was conducted in selected wards of Kapchorwa Town council in Kapchorwa district.

### **1.5.3 Time Scope**

The research study considered the period between 2020-2023. This period was considered because it is during this time that incidences of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District were on increase. (Kapchorwa District Report, 2023)

## **1.6 Significance of the study**

The findings of the study may be an eye opener to parents in helping them deal with the problem of early marriages

The study findings may help stakeholders and policy makers in devising strategies of overcoming the problem of early marriages in communities

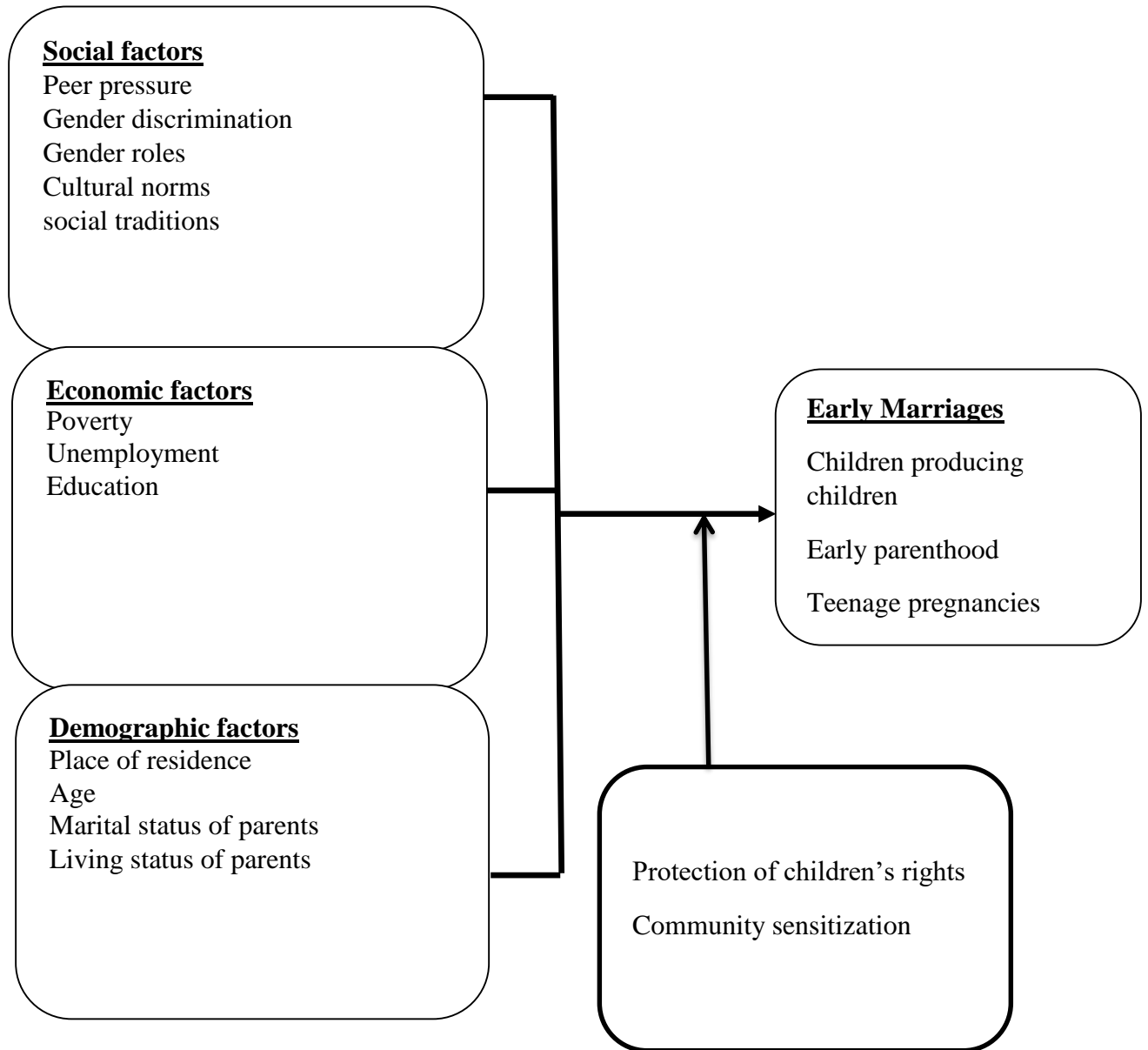
The study findings may add to existing body on knowledge on the causes and impacts of early marriages

Study findings may also help future researchers as a reference material who intend to carry out research in the same area of investigation.

## 1.7 Conceptual Frame work

**Independent variable**

**Dependent variable**



**Figure 1.1 Conceptual Framework showing relationship between variables**

*Source: Miles & Huberman (2019) and modified by the researcher (2024)*

Form the above conceptual framework, causes of early marriages (IV) involves includes social factors (gender discrimination, gender roles, peer pressure, cultural norms and traditions), economic factors (poverty, unemployment and educational levels) and demographic factors (place of residence, age, marital status and living status of parents). The dependent variable in this case is early marriages with parameters of children producing children, early parenthood and teenage pregnancies. The framework assumes that if factors causing early marriages are controlled, then early marriages can be prevented. Nevertheless, this may not be automatic as other factors may come into play. These may include protection of child rights, community sensitization and policy and legislation. These factors have been dully coined as intervening variables by the study and are being isolated to avoid making wrong conclusions

### **1.8 Definitions of key concepts**

**Child marriage** refers to any marriage of a child younger than 18 years old, in accordance to Article 1 of the Convention on the Right of the Child. While child marriage can happen to both sexes, it disproportionately affects girls (World Bank, 2021).

#### **Social factors**

These are factors related to the different groups of people in society and their habits, traditions and beliefs. They are characterizing acts as social and cultural forces that influence feelings, attitudes, values, thoughts, beliefs, interactions and behaviors of individual groups. They include consumer's lifestyle, Buying habits, education and religion (UNESCO, 2021)

#### **Economic factors**

These are factors that impact the economy as a whole as well as individual businesses, they include, tax rates, exchange rates, laws and policies, government activities and recessions (Onayango et al., 2020)

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents the review of the past literature related to area under investigation. The review has been conducted according to objectives of the research study as seen below:

#### **2.1 The causes of early marriages**

The most leading reasons for such high incidences of child marriage is lack of employment and economic opportunities followed by overspread poverty (Gazi et al., 2019). The median age of marriage for girls who live in the poorest households of Bangladesh is 15, compare to 18 for those who live in the richest households (Girls Not Bride, 2019). To ensure their daughter's future, underprivileged families often offer marriage to their daughter (BITA, 2019). Some families may believe early marriage as financially beneficial due to the increased cost of dowry as a girl gets older. Hence, if the families can marry off their daughters, they don't have to support their child financially anymore (Plan International, 2019). Poor families sell their children into marriage either to settle debts or to make some money and escape the cycle of poverty. For such families, marrying their daughter at an early age essentially is a strategy for economic survival; it means one less person to feed, clothe and educate.

#### **Gender discrimination**

Child marriage is a product of cultures that devalue women and girls and discriminate against them. Discrimination, according to a UNICEF report on "Child Marriage and the Law"(2021), often manifests itself in the form of domestic violence, marital rape, and deprivation of food, lack of access to information, education, healthcare, and general impediments to mobility. Gender inequality is one of the driving factors for child marriage. Communities from the different regions of the world support norms and customs that cause discrimination against women and girls. Bangladesh is the country where male child is considered as source of income and female child is considered as economic burden. In order to release this burden, parents of female child found marriage as a solution. Therefore, early marriage also promotes gender inequity since young brides have no equality in their marriages (Nasrin and Rahman, 2019).

## **Cultural norms, social safety and provocation**

One of the leading causes of child marriage is acquired from cultural norms and their corresponding social pressure. Girls' marriage is seen as an essential and inevitable process by everyone and it is regarded as a major parental responsibility nowadays. It is also the responsibility of the parents to protect the chastity of the daughter until she gets married (Plan International, 2019). That is the main reason when a girl attains puberty, parents feel it is the right time to discharge their 'duty' and marry their daughter. Social stigma adds to the responsibility of the parents for the marriage of a daughter, particularly when a girl starts looking mature (Plan International, 2020). According to a 17-year old girl who participated in the research conducted by Plan International in Bangladesh: "If a girl doesn't get married people will start to gossip about her. She will lose her reputation and people will think she is having affairs. For a man, it is less of an issue. He can remain single (Plan International, 2020)"

## **Illiteracy**

Child marriage is associated with illiteracy and lack of access to education (Plan International, 2020; UNESCO, 2021). Among Bangladeshi women who do not have formal education, the median age of marriage is 15 compared to 20 for those who have completed secondary education or higher (Girls Not Bride, 2019). Marriage of girls generally associates with low levels of education, or no education at all (IPPF, 2018). Bangladesh has cultural settings where girls are raised for a lifetime restriction to household occupations and are expected to marry at very young age. So to fulfill the social stigma, many girls drop out from school at a very early age. Marriage is often considered as an alternative for illiterate girls who do not have any choices for the future (World Vision, 2018). Besides, uneducated parents are less likely to be aware of the laws forbidding child marriage and the consequences connected with the malpractice than educated parents. Illiteracy and early motherhood typically results in a lack of decision-making power, which makes the girls vulnerable to violence and injustice (ICRW, 2016).

## **Inadequately enforced laws**

The Uganda Constitution (1995) and the Penal Code set the legal age of marriage or engagement in sexual acts at the age of 18. Chapter 4 of the Constitution provides for the protection and promotion of fundamental and other human rights and freedoms for all Ugandan citizens with

specific provision for the protection of women and girls. While Article 31 provides for the right to marriage and family formation, it criminalizes child marriage and spells out 18 years as the minimum age at which men and women should marry. However, the already existing laws are not enforced and implemented; instead, traditional and religious laws often allow marriage as soon as puberty has started, which puts young girls at stake of being married.

Non-Enforcement of the law in Bangladesh for example has made it compulsory to present a birth certificate at the time of marriage (Girls Not Bride, 2019). However, because of weak enforcement mechanism or inadequate application of remaining laws, child marriage remains without getting proper punishments (Plan International, 2020). Laws are available but enforcement is inadequate because Laws can only be executed if cases are reported and resolved by the legal system, but this often does not occur because of a lack of awareness of national laws and because children are usually married with their parents ' approval (UNICEF, 2022). Practices of child marriage, which usually violate national laws, are progressing because many jurisdictions do not have a reliable system for registering marriages (UNICEF, 2022).

## **2.2 The impact of early marriages**

### **Depression and feeling alone**

Because of childhood marriage, a girl often find herself in a state of distress since she is still in her puberty and in that process losses her childhood, chances of being educated and make friends. The pressure to reproduce at young age is also a common phenomenon and sometimes if unable to get pregnant then the husband rarely hesitates to marry again (Nour, 2016). Forced sexual intercourse and the denial of free will and social development resulting from early marriage have serious psychosocial and emotional consequences that often adversely affect the life of the young bride (UNICEF, 2022).

### **Children bearing and delivering children**

A Major Consequence of Early Marriage Early marriage is responsible for early pregnancy. Many challenges have to face by the girls who got pregnant at a very early age. As early pregnancy suppresses the immune system, the young girls possess a high risk of acquiring diseases like malaria. In addition to being most vulnerable to malaria during their first pregnancy (Staalsoe et al., 2018), pregnant women also have higher rates of malaria-associated complications

(particularly pulmonary edema and hypoglycemia) and death than non-pregnant women. The density of Malaria parasite is much higher in pregnant girls 19 years (Brabin and Brabin, 2019). A study conducted in the South Asian countries including Bangladesh, revealed that lower contraceptive use, poor fertility outcome and poor maternal well-being are some factors that are significantly correlated with child marriage. Usage of contraceptive methods was not very common in women who were married as children. Lower fertility control can lead to adverse fertility outcomes such as termination of pregnancy and unplanned pregnancy (Godha et al., 2020).

In another study carried out in Bangladesh to identify the association between child marriage and preterm birth considering pregnancy weight gain as mediator showed a small but statistically significant indirect effect on preterm birth (RR indirect effect = 1.02; 95% CI: 1.00,1.05) (Rahman et al., 2019). A study which was based in BDHS 2018, showed that still birth, miscarriage and pregnancy termination are significantly associated with child marriage and it was also found that 70.4 % and 23.4% women who got early marriage had still birth and pregnancy termination which were greater than that women who married after getting adult (Kamal and Hassan, 2019).

### **Effects on Children**

Child marriage affects not only the young girls but also the next generation. Adolescent mothers possess a 35-55% higher risk than older women for delivering preterm and low birth weight infants. Among children born to mothers under 20 years of age, mortality rates are 73% higher than those born to older mothers. Chlamydia, syphilis, gonorrhea and herpes simplex virus infection are some untreated sexually transmitted diseases which can have deleterious effects on neonates, such as premature delivery, congenital neonatal infections and blindness. Moreover the mortality rate for children 20 years (Bicego, 2019). Problems for children correspond with young mothers, including low birth weight and malnourished babies which is responsible for significant physical and cognitive defects in adulthood (Plan International, 2013). Both adolescent mothers and children are vulnerable to anemia and anemia is reported to be a serious public health issue with 30% of adolescent girls compared to 26% of adolescent boys and nearly half of all pregnant women (UNICEF Bangladesh, 2022).

## **Sexually transmitted diseases and increased cancer risks**

Early marriage puts girls under major threats of different sexually transmitted diseases and those girls who got married early will have long-married and sexual life thus they are more prone to develop STDs than women who married later. Evidence suggests that a very deadly disease, named cervical cancer caused due to polygamy and early marriage (Nour, 2018). Research in Morocco had findings that indicate child marriage, high parity, long-term use of oral contraceptives and poor genital hygiene are risk factors of cervical cancer (Chaouki et al., 2019).

Married girls are more prone to sexually transmitted diseases, particularly HIV and human papilloma virus. As girls have to demonstrate their fertility, they had high frequency, unsafe intercourse with their partners. In most of the cases, their older husbands had former sexual partners, or in many cases they were polygamous. Besides, the girls' virginal status and physical immaturity raise the risk of HIV transmission secondary to hymenal, vaginal, or cervical lacerations (Nour, 2016). Globally, the prevalence of HIV infections among women between the ages of 15 and 24 is highest; the risk for men peaks 5-10 years later (Laga et al., 2018). It has been found that only 16% of girls aged between 15 and 24 in Bangladesh have a comprehensive knowledge of HIV (Nour, 2016). Many men in developing nations assume that having sexual intercourse with a "fresh girl" would cure their sexually transmitted disease. They, therefore, find a young girl to marry, unaware that they would only transfer the disease on to the bride and her child. In addition to health risks and a vicious cycle of poverty, child marriage often causes brides to attempt and commit suicide because of the social, physical and emotional violence they face in their marital home (Roy and Sarker, 2017).

## **Gender-based violence**

Gender-based violence is widely practiced and accepted in Uganda. Violence is defined by the World Health Organization as "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development or deprivation" (UBOS and Macro International, 2017). Violence that is targeted to women or girls based on their subordinate status in society is considered gender-based violence. Two aspects of violence are reported in this study: beliefs and experience of violence

### **2.3 Possible solutions to problems of early marriages**

The Government of Bangladesh has already established laws, regulations and preventive attempts for inhibiting early marriage. It appears that the actions of the Government both at the national and the regional level have not drawn significant progress yet. However, local government tries to intervene child marriage if information reaches out to them. Besides awareness creation about the significance of eradicating child marriage and putting legislation in place, campaign for birth registrations has introduced by governments. The Bangladesh Birth Registration Act was revised in 2004 and the law makes it mandatory for each bride and groom to have a birth certificate before they can register their marriage. The government is also making attempts to broadcast the message about birth registration through TV and public awareness campaigns (Unnayan, 2019).

Furthermore, Bangladesh has committed to eradicate child, early and forced marriage by 2030 to meet the terms of Sustainable Development Goals. During its Voluntary National Review at the 2018 High Level Political Forum, the government noted that women's empowerment plays a prominent role in the Constitution of Bangladesh, the National Women Development Policy and the Child Marriage Restraint Act (Girls Not Bride, 2019). A very admirable role is being played by NGOs to prevent early marriage. Some community-based approaches are being taken successfully by a large number of NGO's to postpone early marriage among adolescent girls.

Unnayan, (2018) found that eradication of poverty can be a way forward in this situation along with putting effort on addressing social factors which has been stated in the paper. Regulation of marital age, compulsory marriage registration, strengthening birth registration system and proper enactment of law can be effective and preventive to the child marriage. Moreover, it is needed to expand girl's education facilities, especially at secondary level and women empowerment might also help the cause. Reproductive health outcomes that arise from early marriage should be addressed accordingly and therefore, health service department may provide health knowledge on family planning, proper and timely use of contraceptives as well as other basic information not only to girls but also the other members of a family.

## **Reforming social and cultural norms**

An ICRW review of programs that address child marriage identified 66 programs in developing countries (Jain and Kurz, 2018). Most of these programs sought to change social norms that support early marriage, with the majority focused on educating families and communities using a variety of communication channels. A second category of programs were those that provided education to girls on life skills, non-formal and formal education, and livelihood and vocational skills. A third category encompassed law and policy issues, such as changes through legal mechanisms, advocacy, community mobilization, and policy. A fourth category, economic opportunities, covered programs supporting income generation for girls and monetary incentives for families. The fifth category, safeguarding rights, represented programs that provide shelter/safe spaces to young women and keep birth or marriage records (used to enforce child marriage laws and measure rates). The main target audiences for the 66 programs were families and the community, girls, and policymakers (Jain and Kurz, 2019). Few programs targeted married girls. As show in the list of 20 Ugandan organizations assisting youth (see Annex A), all of these types of programs exist in Uganda, albeit on a limited scale.

## **Keeping girls in schools**

Based on the research findings, the most important intervention appears to be keeping girls in school past the age of 14. Interventions supporting school attendance may take many forms, including making school more affordable for families, persuading parents to keep their daughters in school, providing girls with useful life skills and vocational training, and countering social norms supporting early marriage for girls. Community education and mass media programs led by local leaders, religious leaders, and other respected opinion leaders can be helpful in creating awareness of the harmful effects of early marriage and promoting positive role models (Unnayan, 2018, MoES, 2019).

## CHAPTER THREE

### METHODOLOGY

#### 3.0 Introduction

This chapter describes the methodology that was used in the study and some of the areas that were covered included research design, area and population of the study, sample size, sampling techniques, research instruments, data quality control, data analysis and ethical issues of the study.

#### 3.1 Research Design

The research study used a cross-sectional design using both qualitative and quantitative research approaches in assessing the causes and effects of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District. This design helped the researcher to generate more sufficient data and relevant information that supported the research topic and research objectives.

#### 3.2 Sample size

This study population comprised of Teachers (30), Local leaders (20), Students (60), parents (20) and lastly residents of Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District (65) and the total population was 195 respondents.

The sample size was arrived at using Krejcie and Morgan table for determining a sample size which gave a sample of 131 respondents.

**Table 1: showing sampling techniques**

Category	Population	Sample Size	Sampling technique
Teachers	30	20	Purposive
Local leaders	20	14	Purposive
Students	60	40	Simple random
Parents	20	13	Simple random
Residents of Kapchorwa Town Council	65	44	Simple random
<b>Total</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>131</b>	

**Source: Primary Data, 2024**

### **3.3 Sampling Techniques**

The researcher used a number of sampling techniques as illustrated below:

#### **3.3.1 Simple random sampling**

The researcher used simple random sampling to select students, parents and residents of Kapchorwa Town Council. This technique involved giving a number to every subject or member of the accessible population. The subject corresponding to the numbers was then included in the sample. Simple random sampling was used because it enabled the researcher to get a representative sample for the research study.

#### **3.3.2. Purposive sampling**

Purposive sampling was used on teachers and local leaders because this category of respondents was expected to have in depth information which was favourable for purposive sampling.

### **3.4 Research instruments**

The researcher used both questionnaires and interview guide.

#### **3.4.1 Questionnaire**

The researcher used a self-administered questionnaire as a research tool to collect data from the teachers and local leaders' category. The questionnaire had three sections: Section A included respondents' demographic information, Section B, C and D focused on general and closed ended statements which were in accordance with the causes and effects of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District. The questionnaire had a 5 Likert scale of measurement which was based on close ended questions based on a scale of strongly agree (5), agree (4), unsure (3), disagree (2), strongly disagree (1). Questionnaires were used by the researcher because they allowed respondents to provide firsthand information which was free of bias.

#### **3.4.2 Interviews**

Data was collected using interviews with the help of an interview guide. The interview guide contained mostly open-ended questions. The interview guide was used on parents and residents of Kapchorwa Town Council because this category of respondents had more knowledge that could not fully be captured using questionnaires.

### **3.5 Data Processing and Analysis**

#### **3.5.1 Quantitative data analysis**

Data processing was done through editing of the data which was coded for further examination and analysis. After data processing, quantitative data analysis was carried out by simple frequency tabulation using a Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS).

#### **3.5.2 Qualitative data analysis**

Qualitative data was gathered from open-ended questions in the interview guide was summarized to ensure validity and authenticity; data was then be categorized according to the sub-themes.

### **3.6 Research procedure**

The researcher selected a research topic which she submitted to the department of social sciences which was later approved. After approval of the researcher topic, the researcher developed a research proposal which was approved. The researcher then obtained an introductory letter from the Head of department which was presented to the relevant authorities in Kapchorwa Town Council For data collection. Thereafter the researcher wrote a research report which she was presented to the department for further examination.

### **3.7 Ethical considerations**

#### **3.7.1 Consent**

The researcher got approved consent from the respondents who willingly decided to participate in the study after being explaining to them the purpose of the study. The researcher prepared instruments which helped to collect objective information hence fears of personal views were reduced.

#### **3.7.2 Confidentiality**

Respondents were assured of confidentiality by keeping information given confidential. Respondents' identity was kept anonymous where pseudo names were used which in return increased on the desire of participants to participate in the study.

### **3.7.3 Fraud and plagiarism**

Mugenda and Mugenda (2007) argued that fraud involves faking data. To avoid fraud and plagiarism, the researcher will personally collect, analyze present data and endeavor to present exactly what the study subject revealed. Where information was picked from another source, the author was acknowledged.

## **3.8 Validity and reliability**

### **3.8.1 Validity**

The validity of an instrument is defined as the ability of an instrument to measure what it is intended to measure. To establish the validity of the instruments, the researcher used expert judgement. The researcher ensured that the instrument was clear, relevant, specific and logically arranged. The validity of the questionnaire was tested using content validity test (CVI). To arrive at the relevancy of the questionnaire, the researcher designed the instruments that yielded content valid data by first specifying the domain of indicators that were relevant to the concept.

$$CVI = \frac{R}{R + N + 1R}$$

Where, Relevant (R), Neutral (N), to Irrelevant (IR).

### **3.8.2 Reliability**

Reliability of the instruments was tested using test re-test method of reliability and Cron-bach alpha tests to determine the reliability index with the help of SPSS. Data was collected from 10 residents not among those in the sample. The principle of reliability as far as research instruments are concerned is clearly put forward by Amin (2005) that an instrument is reliable if it produces the same results wherever it is repeatedly used to measure a trait or a concept from the same population and under similar circumstances.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

#### 4.0 Introduction

This chapter contains the findings of the study which the researcher collected from the field by use of questionnaires and interview guides. The techniques the researcher used were effective because they helped her in gathering valid data and information. The findings were also in relation to the research topic of the causes and effects of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District and in line with the three specific objectives of: To find out the causes of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town council, Kapchorwa District, to investigate the impact of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town council, Kapchorwa District and lastly to find out possible solution to early marriages in Kapchorwa Town council, Kapchorwa District.

#### 4.1 Response rate

The targeted sample for the study was 131 respondents and all of them provided data as shown below in table 4.1 below.

**Table 4.1. Response rate**

<b>Sample population</b>	<b>Actual participants</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
131	131	100%

*Source: Primary data (2024)*

#### 4.2 Demographic Data of Respondents

The study solicited and involved the participation of 131 respondents of Kachorwa Town Council who provided responses to the key research questions aligned to the research objectives. This section consists of sex of respondents, age of respondents, marital status, Category of respondents and lastly education of respondents.

#### 4.2.1 Sex of Respondents

The study assessed and described the gender details of respondents to ensure fair representation of both male and females as presented in the table 4.2 below;

**Table 4.2: Sex of Respondents**

		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
Valid	Female	81	70	70	70
	Male	50	30	70	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

*Source: Primary Data (2024)*

Table 4.2 above shows that 70% of the respondents were females and 30% of the respondents were males in assessing the causes and effects of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District. Although the females formed majority composition of the respondents with a percentage of 70%, the results show that the findings of the study were concluded in respect to views of both sexes.

#### 4.2.2 Age of Respondents

Respondents were asked not to reveal their actual age but the category where they fall this was done to ensure that information was received from fully understanding persons. Findings about the respondent's age are shown in the table 4.3 below:

**Table 4.3: Age of Respondents**

		<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
Valid	20-25 Years	15	11.6	11.6	11.6
	26-30Years	60	45	45	56.6
	31-37 Years	30	22.7	22.7	79.3
	38-43 Years	20	12.5	12.5	91.8
	44-49 Years	4	5.7	5.7	97.5
	50 Years above	2	2.5	2.5	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

*Source: Primary Data (2024)*

Outcomes in the table above show that all the respondents were above the age of 18 years and most were in the category of 26-30 years followed by those who were 31-37 years, followed by 38-43 years, followed by 44-49 years and lastly 50 years and above. This finding shows that data in relation to causes and effects of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District was collected from mature persons who understood the causes of early marriages as majority of them were in marriages ages indicating they had experienced enough to know the real causes of early marriages.

#### 4.2.3 Experience of respondents

Respondents were asked to reveal their working experience to ensure that data was gathered from persons with enough experience in line with causes and effects of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District.

**Table 4.4: showing working experience of respondents**

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1-5 years	5	3.4	3.4	3.4
	6-10 years	80	83.0	83.0	86.4
	11-15 years	30	8.0	8.0	92.1
	16 years above	16	5.6	5.6	100.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	

*Source: Primary Data (2024)*

**Table 4.4.** Above shows that 83% of the respondents had a working experience of 6-10 years making it with the majority, followed by 8%, with a working experience of 11-15 years, followed by 5.6% with a working experience of 16 years above and lastly 1-5 years constituting of 3.4%. The majority being with a working experience of 6-10 years ensured that data was gathered from persons with enough working experience which made it easier as they easily understand the topic under study due to their exposure as a result of working experience.

#### 4.2.4 Level of Education of Respondents

The researcher wanted to ensure that views regarding causes and effects of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District were gathered from people who had attained some level of education. Findings in relation to this are shown in the table 4.5 below.

**Table 4.5: Level of Education**

	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid Percent</b>	<b>Cumulative Percent</b>
Bachelors	20	16	16	16
Diploma	31	24	24	40
Certificate	80	60	60	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	

*Source: Primary Data (2024)*

The results above show that majority of the respondents had attained certificates (60%) followed by diploma qualification (24%) and lastly bachelors (16%) This implies that respondents had attained some level of education and they easily understood the questions in the questionnaires and interview guides.

### 4.3 Objective one: Causes of early marriages

**Table 4.6: Descriptive Statistics**

	N	SD	D	NS	A	SA	Mean	Std. D	Comments
Lack of employment and economic opportunities is the leading cause of early marriages	131	0 (0%)	2 (1%)	8 (3%)	48 (36%)	73 (60%)	4.46	0.694	<i>very High</i>
Parents offer their daughters to early marriages for financial gains and to better their futures	131	3 (5%)	5 (7%)	14 (10%)	66 (50%)	43 (28%)	4.12	0.731	<i>very High</i>
Gender discrimination due to devaluing of women and girls	131	4 (2%)	9 (5%)	11 (10.2%)	69 (60%)	38 (22.8%)	4.01	0.875	<i>High</i>
Early marriage is associated with illiteracy and lack of access to education	131	2 (2%)	4 (3%)	7 (6.8%)	48 (30%)	70 (58.2%)	4.47	0.647	<i>very High</i>
Poor enforcement of existing laws on early marriages	131	3 (3%)	2 (1%)	2 (4%)	44 (24%)	80 (69%)	4.56	0.562	<i>very High</i>
Valid N (list wise)	131								
<b>Overall Mean &amp; Standard Deviation</b>							<b>4.34</b>	<b>0.677</b>	<i>very High</i>

*0.00-1.0 Very Low, 1.10-2.00 Low, 2.10-3.00 Moderate, 3.10-4.00 High, 4.10-5.00 Very High*

0.00-2.0

The first objective of the study was in line with causes and effects of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District and the respondents were asked to reveal if: Lack of employment and economic opportunities is the leading cause of early marriages, if Parents offer their daughters to early marriages for financial gains and to better their futures, Gender discrimination due to devaluing of women and girls, Early marriage is associated with illiteracy and lack of access to education and lastly whether Poor enforcement of existing laws on early marriages is a cause of early marriages.

Respondents were asked to reveal if lack of employment and economic opportunities is the leading cause of early marriages and 36% of the respondents agreed that lack of employment and economic opportunities is the leading cause of early marriages, 60% of the respondents strongly agreed, 3% of the respondents were not sure, 1% of the respondents disagreed and lastly none of the respondents strongly disagreed. A very high mean of 4.46 indicated that lack of employment and economic opportunities is the leading cause of early marriages. Even respondent LL1, DD1 w1 were in agreement with this. This study finding was in line with a study conducted by Opio (2020) in Ugandan rural areas who found out that lack of employment and economic opportunities is one major cause of early marriages as some times parents are forced to send their girls to early marriages to better their lives through better economic opportunities.

In addition to this, respondents were also asked whether parents offer their daughters to early marriages for financial gains and to better their futures where 50% of the respondents agreed that parents offer their daughters to early marriages for financial gains and to better their futures, 28% of the respondents strongly agreed, 10% of the respondents were not sure, 7% of the respondents disagreed and lastly 5% of the respondents strongly disagreed a very mean of 4.12 indicated that parents offer their daughters to early marriages for financial gains and to better their futures. Respondents DD1, LL3 and W3 were also in agreement with theme and they noted that many parents have become non reasoning and less hardworking to the extent that they offer their daughters to early marriages for financial gains and for their better future. This finding was in line with a study conducted by Unnayan, (2019) from Kenya on parental roles on early marriages and found out that 60% of the early marriages are as a result parents wanting financial gains.

Furthermore, responses on whether gender discrimination due to devaluing of women and girls is a cause and one that negatively affects early marriages and 60% of the respondents were in agreement with this item, 22.8% of the respondents strongly agreed, 10.2% of the respondents were not sure, 5% of the respondents disagreed and lastly 2% of the respondents strongly disagreed. A high mean of 4.01 indicated that gender discrimination due to devaluing of women and girls is a cause and one that negatively affects early marriages. Even respondents DD4 and LL5 also agreed that due to discrimination and devaluing of girls by their parents, it has pushed many of them to early marriages. This finding was in line with a study conducted by Oburu (2019) from West Africa who noted that devaluing of girls as a worldview has made many families push their daughters to early marriages in cases where they have got patterns.

Responses on whether Early marriage is associated with illiteracy and lack of access to education revealed that 30% of the respondents agreed that early marriage is associated with illiteracy and lack of access to education, 58.2% of the respondents strongly agreed, 6.8% of the respondents were not sure, 3% of the respondents disagreed and lastly 2% of the respondents strongly disagreed a very high mean of 4.01 indicated that early marriage is associated with illiteracy and lack of access to education. This finding was in line with a study conducted by Marvin (2020) who conducted a research study in Namibia on illiteracy and early marriages and his findings showed that low levels of education way highly correlated with early marriages as dormant girls always engage in early sexual activities.

Responses in line with whether poor enforcement of existing laws on early marriages is a cause of early marriages showed that, 28% of the respondents agreed that Poor enforcement of existing laws on early marriages is a cause of early marriages, 57% of the respondents strongly agreed, 5% of the respondents were not sure, 8% of the respondents disagreed. Even respondents LL2, LL1, LL3, DD1, DD2 and W2 and W1 agreed that laws are poorly enforced in the country which has greatly contributed to early marriages. This finding was in line with a study conducted by WHO (2021) IN Uganda which noted that law enforcement to prevent early marriages is greatly affected by high levels of corruption which have failed proper enforcement of these laws.

#### 4.4. Objective two: Impact of early marriages

**Table 4.7: Descriptive Statistics**

	<b>N</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>NS</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. D</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Early marriages lead to depression and feeling alone	131	0 (0%)	21 (12.8%)	10 (5.2%)	70 (60%)	30 (22%)	3.82	1.022	<b>High</b>
Forced sexual intercourse and denial of free will result from early marriages	131	15 (%)	5 (3.5%)	22 (17%)	55 (48.4%)	34 (26.1%)	3.96	0.815	<b>High</b>
Fatigue to young girls due to early pregnancies is another impact of early marriages.	131	10 (4%)	5 (3%)	15 (10.3%)	71 (60%)	30 (22.7%)	4.14	0.600	<b>Very High</b>
Adolescent mothers possess a higher risk for delivery low birth weight infants	131	1 (1.1%)	14 (12.5%)	9 (6.8%)	75 (51.1%)	32 (28.4%)	4.01	0.905	<b>High</b>
Sexually transmitted diseases and increased cancer risk is an impact associated with early marriages	131	3 (1%)	6 (2.3%)	28 (17%)	72 (62.5%)	22 (17.2%)	3.93	0.745	<b>High</b>
Valid N (list wise)	131								
<b>Overall Mean &amp; Standard Deviation</b>							<b>4.00</b>	<b>0.824</b>	<b>High</b>

*0.00-1.00 Very Low, 1.10-2.00 Low, 2.10-3.00 Moderate, 3.10-4.00 High, 4.10-5.00 Very High*

The second objective of the study was all about Impact of early marriages and respondents were asked to reveal whether: Early marriages lead to depression and feeling alone, Forced sexual intercourse and denial of free will result from early marriages, Sexually transmitted diseases and increased cancer risk is an impact associated with early marriages, Adolescent mothers possess a higher risk for delivering low birth weight infants and lastly Fatigue to young girls due to early pregnancies is another impact of early marriages.

Responses on if early marriages lead to depression and feeling alone showed that 60% of the respondents agreed, 22% of the respondents strongly agreed, 17% of the respondents were not sure, 12.8% of the respondents disagreed and lastly none of the respondents strongly disagreed. Even respondents DD2, DD2, LL5, LL4 and W5 were in agreement with this as they assured that early marriages lead to depression and feeling alone as they are in most cases always forced and there is no love always between partners. This finding was in line with a study conducted by Jacobs et al, (2019) on dangers of early marriages who noted that depression and feeling alone is one of the effects of early marriages.

Responses on whether forced sexual intercourse and denial of free will result from early marriages showed that 48.4% of the respondents agreed, 26.1% of the respondents strongly agreed, 17% of the respondents were not sure, 3.5% of the respondents disagreed and lastly 4% of the respondents disagreed. Respondents DD3, DD1 and LL1 assured that forced sexual intercourse and denial of free will are in most cases a result of early marriages. This finding was in line with a study conducted by Mark et al, (2018) who conducted a research study from Namibia and noted that most men force young girls in sexual intercourse as a result of early marriages.

Responses on whether sexually transmitted diseases and increased cancer risk is an impact associated with early marriages revealed that 60% of the respondents agreed, 22.7% of the respondents strongly agreed, 10.3% of the respondents were not sure, 12.5% of the respondents disagreed and lastly 1.1% of the respondents strongly disagreed. A high mean of 4.01 indicated that sexually transmitted diseases and increased cancer risk is an impact associated with early marriages. This study finding was in line with a study conducted by Mugenda (2022) in Tanzania on impact of early marriages on sexually transmitted diseases and noted that most of the sexually transmitted diseases were as a result of early marriages where many of them don't know how to prevent themselves and have no control over themselves. In addition to this, Byaruhanga (2019)

conducted a research study on the age where bracket where cancer is common and not noted that that it was among girls who get married at young age as they are always exposed to different family planning methods which sometimes result in to cancer.

Responses in line with if adolescent mothers possess a higher risk for delivering low birth weight infants showed that 51.1% of the respondents agreed, 28.4% of the respondents strongly agreed, 6.8% of the respondents were not sure, 12.5% of the respondents disagreed and 1.1% of the respondents strongly disagreed. This study finding was in line with a study conducted by Zilabamuzale (2022) on mother age and child birth weights who noted that teenage mothers were highly aligned with low birth weights.

Responses on if fatigue to young girls due to early pregnancies is another impact of early marriages showed that 62.5% of the respondents were in agreement with this, 17.2% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 17% of the respondents were not sure, 2.3% of the respondents disagreed and 1% of the respondents strongly disagreed a high mean of 3.93 showed that fatigue to young girls due to early pregnancies is another impact of early marriages. This finding was in line with a study conducted by Owino et al, (2023) that teenage girls always face big challenges with their first pregnancy as compared to those of 20 years and above.

#### 4.5. Objective three: Possible solutions to early marriages

**Table 4.8: Descriptive Statistics**

	<b>N</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>NS</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. D</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Establishment of possible laws and regulations can help in prevention of early marriages	131	1 (2%)	5 (4%)	9 (6%)	50 (30%)	66 (58%)	4.46	1.072	<i>Very High</i>
Women empowerment may play a great role in prevention of early marriages	131	0 (0%)	2 (3%)	11 (7%)	70 (54%)	48 (36%)	4.22	0.668	<i>Very High</i>
Eradication of poverty can work as a strategy in eradication of early marriages	131	10 (5%)	3 (2%)	18 (10.3%)	70 (60.0%)	30 (22.7%)	4.14	0.600	<i>Very High</i>
Reforming of social & cultural norms may help in prevention of early marriages	131	1 (1%)	9 (6%)	0 (0%)	49 (38%)	72 (55%)	4.50	0.684	<i>Very High</i>
Keeping girls in schools in schools past the age of 15 may also help reduced causes of early marriages.	131	4 (4%)	2 (1%)	2 (1%)	49 (34%)	74 (60%)	4.58	0.509	<i>Very High</i>
Valid N (list wise)	131								
<b>Overall Mean &amp; Standard Deviation</b>							<b>4.34</b>	<b>0.732</b>	<i>Very High</i>

*0.00-1.00 Very Low, 1.10-2.00 Low, 2.10-3.00 Moderate, 3.10-4.00 High, 4.10-5.00 Very High*

The third objective of the study was about possible solutions to early marriages and respondents were asked to reveal if: Establishment of possible laws and regulations can help in prevention of early marriages, women empowerment may play a great role in prevention of early marriages, eradication of poverty can work as a strategy in eradication of early marriages, reforming of social & cultural norms may help in prevention of early marriages, Keeping girls in schools past the age of 15 may also help reduced causes of early marriages.

Responses from table 4.8 on whether establishment of possible laws and regulations can help in prevention of early marriages showed that 30% of the respondents strongly agreed, 58% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 6% of the respondents were not sure, 4% of the respondents disagreed and lastly 2% of the respondents strongly disagreed. And this finding was in line with Tomkins who conducted a research study on strict laws and early marriages in Saudi Arabia and found out that cases of early marriages were very minimal due to strict laws against early marriages thus indicating that this can work as a strategy if properly enforced.

Responses on if women empowerment may play a great role in prevention of early marriages showed that 54% of the respondents agreed, 36% of the respondents strongly disagreed, 7% of the respondents were not sure, 3% of the respondents disagreed and lastly none of the respondents strongly disagreed. This finding was in line with Mugate (2022) who conducted a study in Lugazi and noted that due to women empowerment they have fought hard to ensure that girl child gets proper education and reduced on the high incidences of early marriages.

In addition to this, responses on if eradication of poverty can work as a strategy in eradication of early marriages showed that 60% of the respondents agreed, 10.3% of the respondents were not sure, 22.7% of the respondents strongly agreed, 2% of the respondents disagreed, and lastly 5% of the respondents strongly disagreed. A very high mean of 4.14 showed that eradication of poverty can work as a strategy in eradication of early marriages. This finding was similar to a study conducted by Opata et al, (2019) from Burundi who noted that cases of early marriage were high among poor families as compared to those that were rich because such families could not basic needs of children thus pushing them to early marriages. Thus indicating that eradication of poverty is a measure that can fight such challenges for me as the researcher.

Responses in line with if reforming of social & cultural norms may help in prevention of early marriages showed that 38% of the respondents agreed, 55% of the respondents strongly agreed, none of the respondents were not sure, 6% of the respondents disagreed and lastly 1% of the respondents strongly disagreed.

Responses in line with if keeping girls in schools past the age of 15 may also help reduced causes of early marriages revealed that 34% of the respondents agreed, 60% of the respondents strongly agreed, 1% of the respondents were not sure, 1% of the respondents disagreed and lastly 4% of the respondents strongly disagreed a very high overall mean of 4.58 revealed that keeping girls in schools past the age of 15 may also help reduced causes of early marriages. This finding was in line with that WHO (2023) which noted that keeping girls in schools has reduced 60% of the would be pregnancies in the country. In my view as a researcher I feel that keeping girls in school past the age of 15 will reduce teenage pregnancies in Kapchorwa Town Council.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the study findings' conclusions and recommendations revealed about causes and effects of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District.

#### 5.1 Discussion of findings

##### 5.1.1 Causes of early marriages

Study findings indicated that lack of employment and economic opportunities is the leading cause of early marriages. This study finding was in line with a study conducted by Opio (2020) in Ugandan rural areas who found out that lack of employment and economic opportunities is one major cause of early marriages as some times parents are forced to send their girls to early marriages to better their lives through better economic opportunities.

Secondary findings showed that parents offer their daughters to early marriages for financial gains and to better their futures. This finding was in line with a study conducted by Unnayan, (2019) from Kenya on parental roles on early marriages and found out that 60% of the early marriages are as a result of parents wanting financial gains.

Furthermore, findings indicated that gender discrimination due to devaluing of women and girls is a cause and one that negatively affects early marriages. This finding was in line with a study conducted by Wambuyi (2019) who conducted a study from West Africa and noted that devaluing of girls as a worldview has made many families push their daughters to early marriages in cases where they have got patterns.

Conclusively findings indicated that early marriage is associated with illiteracy and lack of access to education. This finding was in line with a study conducted by Marvin (2020) who conducted a research study in Namibia on illiteracy on early marriages and his findings showed that low levels of education way highly correlated with early marriages as dormant girls always engage in early sexual activities.

### **5.1.2. Impact of early marriages**

The first finding showed that early marriages lead to depression and feeling alone as they are in most cases always forced and there is no love always between partners. This finding was in line with a study conducted by Isoke (2020) on dangers of early marriages who noted that depression and feeling alone is one of the effects of early marriages.

Secondly findings indicated that forced sexual intercourse and denial of free will are in most cases a result of early marriages. This finding was in line with a study conducted by Mark et al, (2018) who conducted a research study from Namibia and noted that most men force young girls in sexual intercourse as a result of early marriages.

Thirdly, findings indicated that sexually transmitted diseases and increased cancer risk is an impact associated with early marriages. This study finding was in line with a study conducted by Chege (2017) in Tanzania on impact of early marriages on sexually transmitted diseases and noted that most of the sexually transmitted diseases were as a result of early marriages

Findings also showed that fatigue to young girls due to early pregnancies is another impact of early marriages. This finding was in line with a study conducted by Frank D. (2022) that teenage girls always face big challenges with their first pregnancy as compared to those of 20 years and above.

### **5.1.3 Possible solutions to early marriages**

Findings showed that establishment of possible laws and regulations can help in prevention of early marriages and this finding was in line with Tomkins who conducted a research study on strict laws and early marriages in Saudi Arabia and found out that cases of early marriages were very minimal due to strict laws against early marriages thus indicating that this can work as a strategy if properly enforced.

Findings also indicated that women empowerment may play a great role in prevention of early marriages. This finding was in line with Faye (2017) who conducted a study in Lugazi and noted that due to women empowerment they have fought hard to ensure that girl child gets proper education and reduced on the high incidences of early marriages.

In addition to this, findings illustrated that eradication of poverty can work as a strategy in eradication of early marriages. This finding was similar to a study conducted by Opata et al, (2019)

from Burundi who noted that cases of early marriage were high among poor families as compared to those that were reaching because such families could not afford basic needs of children thus pushing them to early marriages. Thus indicating that eradication of poverty is a measure that can fight such challenges for me as the researcher.

## **5.2 Conclusions**

### **5.2.1 Causes of early marriages**

Findings concluded that lack of employment and economic opportunities is the leading cause of early marriages, that parents offer their daughters to early marriages for financial gains and to better their futures that that gender discrimination due to devaluing of women and girls is a cause and one that negatively affects early marriages and lastly that early marriage is associated with illiteracy and lack of access to education.

### **5.2.2 Impact of early marriages**

Findings concluded that early marriages lead to depression and feeling alone as they are in most cases always forced and there is no love always between partners, findings also concluded that forced sexual intercourse and denial of free will are in most cases a result of early marriages, findings also concluded that sexually transmitted diseases and increased cancer risk is an impact associated with early marriages and lastly findings conclude that fatigue to young girls due to early pregnancies is another impact of early marriages.

### **5.2.3 Possible solutions to early marriages**

Findings concluded that establishment of possible laws and regulations can help in prevention of early marriages, findings also concluded that women empowerment may play a great role in prevention of early marriages and lastly findings also illustrated that eradication of poverty can work as a strategy in eradication of early marriages.

## **5.3 Recommendations**

Basing on the discussion of the study findings and conclusions of this report, the study recommends the following;

There should be more policies designed by the Government to curb early marriage among teenagers.

I also recommend parents to play their daily roles during children's teenage age such as paying tuition to avoid early marriages.

I recommend Government to design more programs that give teenagers more opportunities to stay in school.

There should be more sensitization to parents and their children on the dangers of early marriage.

#### **5.4. Suggested areas for further research**

The study focused on social economic factors and early marriage in causes and effects of early in Kapchorwa Town Council, Kapchorwa District depending on these findings, the study recommends further research on the following research topics;

Influence of parental roles on early marriages

Effect of Government policies on early marriages

Role of community in prevention of early marriages

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**SECTION A**

**APPENDICES**

**Appendix I: Consent Letter**

**CHEBET MIRACLE**

*Bachelor of Social Work and Social Administration*

**Dear Respondents**

**Date .....**

**Ref. Request to Complete the Research Questionnaire**

I am **Chebet Miracle** a student of Uganda Christian University pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree of social work and social administration. Am currently undertaking a research on the topic “ causes and effects of early marriages in Kapchorwa Town Council Kapchorwa District”. You are kindly requested to participate in this research and your selection to this effect has been based on random basis. Please feel free as you respond to the study questions because the information you are to give will only be used for academic purposes only.

Thank you

.....

**Chebet Miracle**

**(RESAERCHER)**

**Appendix II: Questionnaire Guide to Residents of the Town Council**

**SECTION A: REpondent's BIO – DATA**

**INSTRUCTIONS**

Please fill in the blank spaces or tick (✓) in the boxes provided where necessary.

1. Name: (optional)

.....

2. Age: 15 – 30  31 – 45  46 – 60  60 +

3. Sex: Male  Female

4. Marital status: Single  Married  Divorced  Separated  Widowed

5. Location:

Cell ..... Parish .....

Sub – county .....

6. Levels of education:

None  Primary  Secondary  Tertiary and above

Other (please specify)

.....

.....

7. Religion: Protestant  Catholics  Muslims  Born again

Others (please specify).....

## RESPONSE SCALE

1	2	3	4	5
Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Undecided	Agree	Strongly Agree

<b>SECTION B: Causes of early marriages</b>						
1.	Lack of employment and economic opportunities is the leading cause of early marriages	1	2	3	4	5
2.	Parents offer their daughters to early marriages for financial gains and to better their futures	1	2	3	4	5
3.	Gender discrimination due to devaluing of women and girls	1	2	3	4	5
4.	Early marriage is associated with illiteracy and lack of access to education	1	2	3	4	5
5.	Poor enforcement of existing laws on early marriages	1	2	3	4	5
<b>SECTION C: Impact of early marriages</b>						
6.	Early marriages lead to depression and feeling alone	1	2	3	4	5
7.	Forced sexual intercourse and denial of free will result from early marriages	1	2	3	4	5
8.	Fatigue to young girls due to early pregnancies is another impact of early marriages.	1	2	3	4	5
9.	Adolescent mothers possess a higher risk for delivery low birth weight infants	1	2	3	4	5
10.	Sexually transmitted diseases and increased cancer risk is an impact associated with early marriages	1	2	3	4	5
<b>SECTION D: Possible solutions to early marriages</b>						
11.	Establishment of possible laws and regulations can help in prevention of early marriages	1	2	3	4	5
12.	Women empowerment may play a great role in prevention of early marriages	1	2	3	4	5
13.	Eradication of poverty can work as a strategy in eradication of early marriages	1	2	3	4	5

14.	Reforming of social & cultural norms may help in prevention of early marriages	1	2	3	4	5
15.	Keeping girls in schools in schools past the age of 15 may also help reduced causes of early marriages.	1	2	3	4	5

### Appendix III

#### Morgan and Krejcie, (1970) and Amin's (2005) mathematical table for sample size determination

N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S
10	10	100	80	280	162	800	260	2800	338
15	14	110	86	290	165	850	256	3000	341
20	19	120	92	300	169	900	269	3500	346
25	24	130	97	320	175	950	274	4000	351
30	28	140	103	340	181	1000	278	4500	354
35	32	150	108	360	186	1000	285	5000	357
40	36	160	113	380	191	1100	291	6000	361
45		170	118	400	196	1200	297	7000	364
50	44	180	123	420	201	1300	302	8000	367
55	48	190	127	440	205	1400	306	9000	368
60	52	200	132	460	210	1500	310	10000	370
65	56	210	136	480	214	1600	313	15000	375
70	59	220	140	500	217	1700	317	20000	377
75	63	230	144	550	226	1800	320	30000	379
80	66	240	148	600	234	1900	322	40000	380
85	70	250	152	650	242	2200	327	50000	381
90	73	260	155	700	248	2400	331	75000	382
95	76	270	159	750	254	2600	335	100000	384

Source: Adopted from R.V. Krejcie and D.W. Morgan, (1970), determining sample size for research activities. Educational and psychological measurement.30.608.

### **Appendix III: Interview Guide for Parents**

1. What is your position?
2. How long have you worked here?
3. Explain the hindrances to prevention of early marriages?
4. What are the causes of early marriages?
5. Explain the impact of early marriages on girls' education?
6. What interventions/ solutions can be implemented to prevent early marriages?