

Child Marriage and Its Effects to Women Development in Zanzibar

By

Kheir, Khuzaimat Bakar

THESIS

Submitted to
KDI School of Public Policy and Management
in partial fulfillment of requirements
for the degree of

MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

2011

Child Marriage and Its Effects to Women Development in Zanzibar

By

Kheir, Khuzaimat Bakar

THESIS

Submitted to
KDI School of Public Policy and Management
in partial fulfillment of requirements
for the degree of

MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY AND MANAGEMENT

2011

Professor Lee, Yong. S

Child Marriage and Its Effects to Women Development in Zanzibar

By

Kheir, Khuzaimat Bakar

THESIS

Submitted to
KDI School of Public Policy and Management
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of

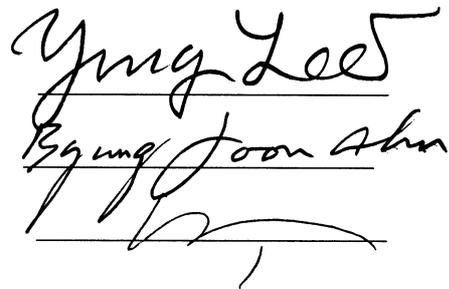
MASTER OF PUBLIC POLICY

Committee in charge:

Professor Lee, Yong. S Supervisor

Professor Ahn, Byung-Joon

Professor Kim Taejong



Approval as of May, 2011

Abstract

Underage marriage is a serious issue in many parts of the world but particularly in Zanzibar society in Tanzania. In Zanzibar society, the focus of this study, many girls of age 14 to 18 are forced to marry for a number of reasons, including financial pressures. In this study I argue that underage (child) marriage is immoral, violates their human rights, deprives them of educational and gainful employment opportunities, and perpetuates a life of abject poverty. Equally important, the child marriage costs society in terms of the lost human capital. The study examines why child marriage is practiced in Zanzibar society, how it affects the life of young girls, and what it is required to protect young girls from such inhuman practice.

The study finds that child marriage in Zanzibar is influenced by cultural and religious values, the archaic marriage law of the country and selfish economic motives. In particular, the study finds that the two major factors, religious belief and culture and weakness of the law have a determining influence on the practice of child marriage in Zanzibar. Based on these findings the study makes a set of suggestions which may end the child marriage practices in Zanzibar. Such suggestions are enforce existing laws and policies, reform cultural and traditional norms and values, providing support to married girls, providing economic opportunities to the young girls and promoting education to young girls.

Acknowledgement

Firstly, I would like to thank Almighty Allah for giving me good health, strength and inspirational thoughts during my studies.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to KOICA and KDI School for offering me this golden opportunity to be in this program.

Secondly, I would like to express my deep gratitude to Professor Yong, S. Lee, my thesis supervisor. I am really indebted to him for his encouragement and support. Professor Ahn Hoon Byong, thank you for your knowledge, support and assistance. I would also like to show my appreciation for the support of all KDI staffs in academic affairs office.

Thirdly, many thanks go to the officials of the Ministry of Social Welfare and Child and Women Development. Their cooperation during data collection enabled me to gather the data and needed information to accomplish this research.

My special thanks go to my parents, family members and KDI School students 2010 for being cooperative in all spheres during my stay in Korea.

Finally, I would like to dedicate this thesis to my loving husband and daughter for their persistent and continuous love. Without their moral support this study could not have been successful. I thank them very much.

Table of Contents

1	Introduction	1
1.1	Research Questions.....	1
1.2	Research Methodology.....	1
1.3	Data Analysis Techniques.....	2
2	Background and literature Review	3
2.1	Background.....	4
2.2	Overview of Early Marriage in Literature.....	4
2.3	The social-economical forces underlying under-age marriage in the literature	
2.4	Difference cases of early marriage.....	5
3	Findings and Analysis	9
3.1	The social economical forces underlying “under-age marriage” in Zanzibar	
4.	Consequences of early marriage in Zanzibar	12
4.1	Impact of the early marriage to young girls.....	12
4.2	Health Problem.....	13
4.3	Psychological disadvantage.....	13
4.4	Divorce or abandonment and Early Widowhood.....	14
4.5	Effect of Child Marriage on Girl’s Education.....	16
5	Feasible Options/Recommendation	16
5.1	Enforce Existing Laws and Policies.....	19
5.2	Reform Cultural and traditional values and norms.....	19
5.3	Reducing misconception of Islamic religion concerning child marriage...	20
5.4	Support for physical well-being.....	21
5.5	Provide Support to Married Girls.....	22
5.6	Providing economic opportunities to young girls:.....	23
5.7	Promoting education of Girls.....	23
5.8	Using mass media to increase the awareness of the whole community.....	24
5.9	Improving Data.....	25
6	Summary and Conclusion	27

List of Tables

1. Married adolescents: percentage of 15-19 year-olds married.....8
2. Reported cases of child marriages In Zanzibar Island for year 2000 to 2010.....10

Section 1: Introduction

Law in Tanzania states that “No person shall marry who, being male, has not attained the minimum age, the apparent age of eighteen years, or being female, has not attained the apparent age of fifteen years” (The Marriage Act of 1971, section 13). Today, the Tanzanian government is reviewing the country's Marriage Act with an aim to raise the girl's age for marriage from 15 to 18 years. The government's rationale is that the 15-17 year old girls are not physically and psychologically mature enough for marriage.

Zanzibar society is one among the most backward societies with the problem of childhood marriages in Sub Sahara Africa; the trend of which becomes a developmental burden on the island. The tendency of child marriage is immoral and against the UN convention on the right of children article 34 and African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC).

Literature is imbued with the problems and traumas associated with the underage, child marriage. Zanzibar society, however, is insular. It is tradition-bound and clings to the archaic cultural and religious values, which sanction the early marriage. The old values perpetuate because the social pressure is strong for families to conform. Failure to conform often results in a ridicule and disapproval. Besides the traditional values, there are other practical, survival necessities. A family may have too many mouths to feed so it needs to get rid of them as soon as possible. Parents are unable to control their children's promiscuity so they let their children marry at early age. Parents find that there are too many sex predators from whom to protect their children. So they find marriage to be a safe heaven. There is a larger social pressure, too. Infant mortality is high in Zanzibar society. So the society, as a whole, encourages fertility.

No doubt, the problem caused by the under-age marriage is a tragedy. It is inhumane. It is a denial of human freedom and self development. It is a moral issue. It must be addressed

quickly and comprehensively.

The line of argument I develop in this study is this: child marriage damages young girl's intellectual and psychological development. It is an intractable social problem. The Zanzibar government should intervene in order to save the life of these children. However, government intervention alone cannot overcome this culture-bound problem. Hence, we must also work on the cultural transformation of the Zanzibar society.

In this study I examine the problems of early marriage in Zanzibar society in greater detail. The questions I examine in this study are: what are the factors which perpetuate the practice of child marriage in Zanzibar? What is the impact of child marriage practices to girls who are under 18 years? What are the possible causes of action government and society should take to reduce/ eliminate the problem of child marriage?

To examine these questions, I borrow data from the National Bureau of Statistics of Tanzania, and Ministry of Health in Zanzibar. I also use the documents from library, files and research reports. In addition, I have developed a structured interview questionnaire to obtain information which is not available in literature. This interview survey was conducted to supplement the argument that I develop in the study. The sample size is small; hence the views expressed in the study are exploratory in nature.

A Sample size of 20 people was used. Purposive sampling technique used to select 5 community development officers because they are potential people who deal with the problem of early marriage in Zanzibar, 2 parents and 13 victims of early marriage were interviewed among them 9 were old women who affected more than 10 years and four were still under 18 years.

The discussion of this study is structured along the following subheadings: issue background and literature review; finding and analysis, recommendations and conclusion.

Section 2: Background and Literature Review

Zanzibar constitutes an archipelago of two islands, Ungula and Pemba situated in the Indian Ocean of the coast of East Africa. Zanzibar gained independence in 1964 the same year the merger to the union with mainland part namely Tanganyika to form the United Republic of Tanzania. Zanzibar remains a semi autonomous region with population of 1.2 million people where by over 45% of the population is aged between 0-15 years (MFE, 2006). Zanzibar Island has its own constitution parliament and administrative structure responsible for non union issues. Children affairs are not a union issue although the law which Govern marriage is in Union.

The United Republic of Tanzania ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1991, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC) in 2003 and the Optional Protocols in 2003 and 2004 respectively. This means that theoretically, Zanzibar must respect the UN convention, as well as the ACRWC.

The Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar is the executive body responsible for introducing legislation on the islands and has a duty to draft and implement domestic legislation to give full force to the principles of the UN Convention and the African Charter. In November 2009, the National Parliament in mainland Tanzania passed the Law of the Child Act 2009.

In defining the parameters that label a marriage as ‘early,’ the most common is marrying at the age as early as 13 and below 18 years. In other dimension early marriage means marriage involving a person who is child as stipulated by Article 1 of the Convention on the Right of the Child whose age is less than 18 years, in accordance.

The context of Zanzibar, early marriage is a traditional practice that starts when society ‘sends off’ teenage-wives to complete womanhood, the tendency used to select girls as future wives while there were at young ages.

Overview of Child Marriage In Literature

According to United Nation Convention on the Right of the child article 1 a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier.

Child marriage which is a process where a child under 18 years or between the stages of birth and puberty is forced or influenced to get into formal relationship called marriage (Cole 2000).

Different literature proclaims that when you educate a woman you educate a nation. Education, even at a basic level, is not only about livelihood and technical skills but more importantly provides social 'connectedness' or aptitude which enables one to access key resources to alleviate poverty. By allowing women to go to school they create interaction with others, acquire the social skills and personal capacities needed to access resources and opportunities, and to form social networks for support and assistance when required in the future. Women can also develop their self esteem and confidence to voice their opinions and to take control over their own actions, lives and bodies. Other positive benefits of education are linked to improved reproductive health and child survival and welfare (Amin 2008.),

It is not only the girls that pay for the consequences early marriage but also the society. Population pressure, health care costs and lost opportunities of human development are just a few of the growing burdens that society shoulders because of early marriage. Girls' education is one of the means to address poverty and developmental problems (Shobha 1999).

On other hand education gives girls a chance to choose their own futures and not one chosen by their parents and guardians. Women who marry at early age are likely to find the sole focus of their lives, at the expense of development in other areas such as formal education, and training for employment, work experience and personal growth. Early marriage can, therefore, be a significant barrier for communities seeking to raise education

levels and break the cycle of poverty.

According to United Nation population fund which addresses reproductive health and population issues between 20 percent and 40 percent of these girl in Zanzibar do so before reaching adulthood.

Additionally, literature shows that in developing countries there is a close relationship between child marriage and economic necessity of the family. The connection on monetary value of bride price, or bride wealth, with marriage is critical to developing countries compared to developed countries (UNICEF 2001). Bride price is a sum, either in cash or kind, used to purchase a bride for her labour and fertility. Since many young girls are not sent to schools they mostly regarded as a burden to the family as a result families want to get rid of them hence allowing or forcing them to get marriage while they are under 18 years.

Furthermore, religious belief is another reason for the child marriage practices. Religions consider marriage as respected event regardless of ages. The tendency of believing marriage is a protection stimulates parents to think on getting their children into marriage as early as possible. (Clark 2006). It is also other literature raised the point that a number of children are forced to get marriage because of parents in order to create family relationship. (Amin 2008.)

Finally, reason for the continuity of the practice of child marriage is weak implementation of Law. Countries law which protect children are not enforceable because the weakness of the institutions is the impression among parents that the laws and their consequences pose little real threat. On the other hand, there are other areas in developing countries which hold laws which are not favourable to child thus it allows early marriage practices. (Bankole 2004.)

Difference cases of child marriage

There are several examples from other regions/ parts of the World which also suffer the same problem in different contexts include:-

Rajasthan, India: The custom survives of giving very small children away in marriage. On the auspicious day of Akha Teej, the mass solemnization of marriages between young boys and girls is performed. From the parents' point of view, this is the tried and tested way of organizing the passing on of property and wealth within the family. A small but significant proportion of the children involved are under age 10, and some are mere toddlers of two or three-years-old (Nair 1995).

Niger: A recent study by UNICEF in six West African countries showed that 44 per cent of 20-24 year old women in Niger were married under the age of 15. The needs to follow tradition, reinforce ties among or between communities, and protect girls from out-of-wedlock pregnancy were the main reasons given. In the communities studied, all decisions on the timing of marriage and the choice of spouse are made by the fathers. (UNICEF, 2001)

Bangladesh: Many Bangladeshi girls are married soon after puberty, partly to free their parents from an economic burden and partly to protect the girls' sexual purity. Where a girl's family is very poor or he has lost her parents, she may be married as a third or fourth wife to a much older man, to fulfil the role of sexual and domestic servant. (Dhaka., 1999)

Albania: Families in rural areas, reduced to abject poverty by the post-Communist transition, encourage their daughters to marry early in order to catch potential husbands before they migrate to the cities in search of work, and to avoid the threat of kidnapping on the way to school.

Table 1: Married adolescents: percentage of 15-19 year-olds married

SUB SAHARAN AFRICA	BOYS	GIRLS
Democratic Republic of Congo	5	74
Niger	4	70
Uganda	11	50
Mali	5	50
ASIA		
Afghanistan	9	54
Bangladesh	5	51
Nepal	14	42
MIDDLE EAST		
Iraq	15	28
Syria	4	25
Yemen	5	24

Source: UNICEF 2001

Teti, & Lamb, (1987) suggest that the high marital instability in teen marriages may be a result of multiple stresses from marriage, parenthood, and adolescent stage. Lindsay (1985) found that young couples married or not, face many difficulties including financial hardship, communication problems, three generational living, sexual adjustment, and transitioning into parenthood before the couples have a chance to strengthen their relationship with each other.

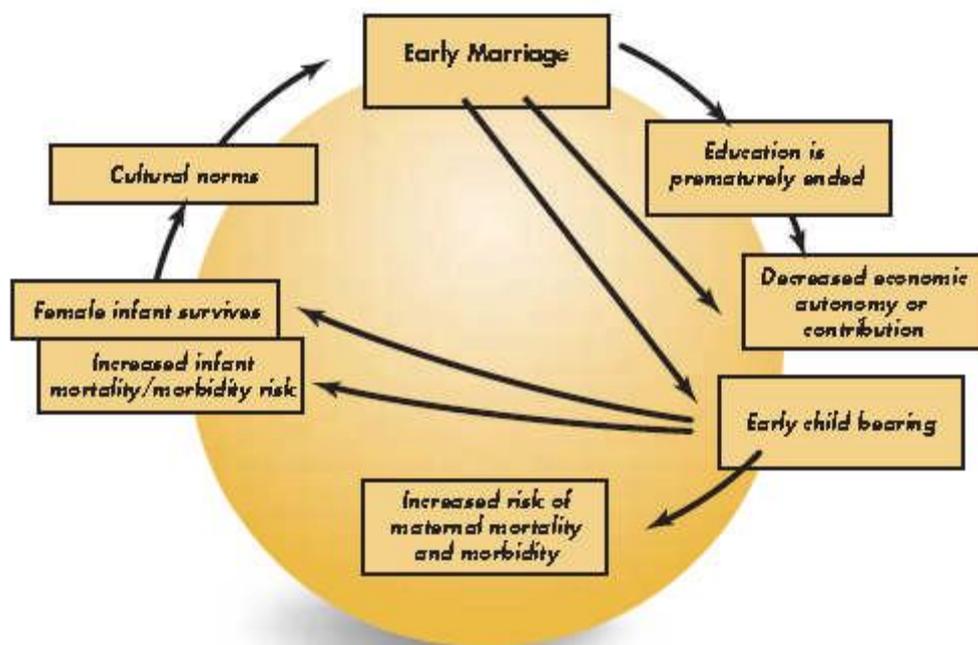
Marriage or living with a partner brings many changes into an adolescent's life such as communication, arguments, and financial issues (Lindsey, 1985). There is also a loss of individual freedom because for a marriage to work both partners have to be fully committed. It is likely that couples who marry as adolescents have had less experience in developing the maturity and social cognitive skills required maintaining a stable marital union than couples who marry as adults (Teti et al. 1987).

Adolescent marriage is associated not only with a higher rate of dissolution of first marriages but with subsequent marriages as well.

Adolescent marriages are more likely to end in divorce than are marriages that take place when Perceptions of Early Marriage 12 couples are in their twenties or older for both whites and African Americans because younger partners are less likely to be e

emotionally mature (Strong et al. 1998).

The diagram below shows how the cycle of early marriage is in term of its effect to society



Source: Le Fevre 2001

Section 3: Findings and Analysis

a. Cases of underage marriage in Zanzibar

The trend of child marriage in Zanzibar has been increasing from year 2001 to 2010. The figure from 2001 show that there is an increasing of at least 3 cases every year which has have been reported from courts. However, the drop of the figure in the year 2005 to 23 cases as shown in the table below was mostly influenced by the special programme from the Zanzibar Government to force parents to send their children to the Universal primary education schools .The programme could not last long because of the weakness of the marriage law which allow kids to get marriage when they attain 14 years under consent of the parents.

Table 2: Reported cases of child marriages In Zanzibar Island for year 2000 to 2010

YEAR	UNGUJA	PEMBA	TOTAL
2001	10	17	27
2002	9	22	31
2003	10	24	34
2004	13	25	38
2005	8	15	23
2006	14	25	39
2007	15	28	43
2008	16	31	47
2009	18	31	49
2010	20	33	53

Source: Ministry of Education and Vocational Training in Zanzibar.

b. Social forces for Child Marriage in Zanzibar Society

This part provides two dimension of the impact of early marriage in Zanzibar whereas it explores impact of the practices to girls, and the second part touch the impact to the nation as

whole.

In Zanzibar society, many girls are forced to get married between the ages of 14 and 18. The custom and culture of this traditional society permits, and often encourages, this underage marriage. Evidence abounds that the girls who marry at this age are robbed of their youth and take on unwanted roles for which they are not prepared--physically and psychologically. Most of these girls, however, have no choice about the timing of their marriage or the selection of their partner. They are coerced by their parents into marriage and end up living a life of brutal labour and abject poverty. All too often, young married girls perform a heavy load of domestic work, bear children under pressure, and take on the responsibility to raise them—even though they are still children themselves. Married girls and child mothers find their life that is plainly miserable but has no way out. Boys are also affected by the under age, child marriage, but their plight is much less bounded than their counterpart girls.

Finding of research revealed various factors which cause under age marriage practices in Zanzibar. They range from economical, social and political dimensions, Study revealed that in some other cases more than one reason influence the problem.

1. Religious value and cultural reason

In Zanzibar the most influenced cause of child marriage is religious belief, as large part of Zanzibar population surrounding by Muslims they have a tendency to follow Islamic Shariah which restrict sexual relationship out of marriage. Despite the fact that Zanzibar follow the general law of Tanzania which is non religious law it is noticeable that society follow Islamic directives where a girl is ready for marriage when reaches puberty as referred to 8 years. This tendency create environment for the parents to arrange marriage for the young girl even when they are born. Out of the 20 respondent in questionnaires and interview 13 claim this as a major reason for their con

sent to get marriage. Among 13 affected wives' seven admit to afraid to be caught in adultery as their expected husbands were married before.

2. Desire to maintain the family name and social status

Study revealed that families in Zanzibar society are in favour of child marriage in order to maintain their social status and name of the families. In average, large number of people are influenced and sometimes forced to get marriage with the parents in order to create family relationship or maintaining good status. Usually parents make bookings/reservation for the young girl, young boy or sometimes themselves. Among 13 victims 7 admit to be influenced with family members because of relations with other families.

3. Economic Necessity

Another reason for the early marriage revealed in study in Zanzibar is the economic reasons. Study revealed some other families impose huge amount money as bride price when they want their daughter to get marriedⁱ, Study revealed that some other families regard girls as source of gaining money to sustain life or creating business. For them marriage represents a significant economic activity for a family. A daughter may be the only commodity a family has left to be traded and sometimes girls can be used as currency or to settle debts. A girl's marriage may also take place as a perceived means of creating stabilities. Therefore the practice of paying bride price can encourage early marriage. People . All 5 community development officers interviewed in this study admit this problem as another cause of early marriage in Zanzibar.

4. Marriage Law of Tanzania

The study revealed that unlike other country where enforcement of law is a problem,

Tanzania existing marriage law which enacted in 1971 is another reason for early marriage. The law provide a loop hole for a girl to get married at 14 years if get consent of parents. It is observed by a study that although other factors too influence early marriages but existence of the law which allow 14 years girl to get marriage stimulate the practices and neglect girls who are older than 13 years but still under childhood. Among the interviewed victims of the early marriage 8 out of 13 admitted to get marriage at the age of 14 up 17 they could not get legal help to stop them getting in under age marriage .

5. Beliefs protecting girls/ Male domination

Another reason for early marriage in Zanzibar is wrong belief that marriage can protect the young girl to be associated with sexual exposure especially in younger ages. Most of parents believe that the earlier the girl get married she can be able to be protected by her husband (male). This perception is very common in Zanzibar where almost larger part of population support this assertion since in most of the society sex outside marriage is forbidden and it has harsh punishment. Therefore, belief is a protection for young girl to force them getting in marriages. Among the interviewee 2 parent and 4 community development officers admit this as one of the influential factor for early marriage. Reason of this is rapid increase of HIV Aids transmission in Zanzibar.

6. Influence of 'Ndoa ya Mkeka'

Study revealed that there is existence of 'ndoa ya mkeka'ⁱⁱ which is a forcing marriage while the parents especially in girl's side find out that their daughter is having sexual relationship. The marriage process usually done in ten or fifteen minutes at the same place boy and girl are caught making sexual relationship. This tendency observed to be increased in Zanzibar. This kind of marriage is used to protect girls to make relations before marriage.

Section 4: Personal and Social Consequences of child Marriage in Zanzibar

This part of provide two dimension of the impact of early marriage in Zanzibar whereas it explores impact of the practices to girls and in the second part touch the impact to the nation.

a. Impact of child marriage to young girls

The impact of child marriage on girls and to a lesser extent on boys – is wide-ranging. Within a rights perspective, three key concerns are the denial of childhood and adolescence, the curtailment of personal freedom and the lack of opportunity to develop a full sense of selfhood as well as the denial of psychosocial and emotional well-being, reproductive health and educational opportunity. Early marriage also has implications for the well-being of families, and for society as a whole. Where girls are uneducated and ill-prepared for their roles as mothers and contributors to society, there are costs to be borne at every level, from the individual household to the nation as discussed in the following points:-

1. Health Problem

Early child bearing and unwanted pregnancies: Young girls who get married will most likely be forced into having sexual intercourse with their, usually much older, husbands. This has severe negative health consequences as the girl is often not psychologically, physically and sexually mature. Early marriage is associated with early child bearing. Young married girls are under tremendous pressure to prove their fertility in the first year of marriage. Girls, who marry young, inevitably have children early, and have many children, because their knowledge of contraception is poor and their power to negotiate its use is weak. According to Ministry of health report on child pregnant bearing it shows around 30% of women bearing children while they are under 18.

Increased risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS: Girls and women have limited power in decision making related to reproductive and sexual health.

There is silence on issues of sexuality and limited discussion of protective gear for HIV infection such as the condom use; lack of information materials and youth friendly resource centres for adolescents to access information and have their ASRH questions answered. As a result of these issues there is high level of teenage pregnancy; increased HIV/STIs; low level of knowledge on sexual and reproductive health among adolescents; drug abuse; low utilization of family planning and contraception methods, etc

Fear of HIV infection, for example, has encouraged men in Zanzibar to seek young virgin – and therefore uninfected –partners. On top of pregnancy-related complications, young married girls are also at high risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. Young married girls are even at higher risk because their older husbands may already be infected in previous sexual relationships. Furthermore, the age difference between the girl and the husband and her low economic status make it almost impossible for the girl to negotiate safe sex or demand fidelity. Early marriage usually means that young girls enter marriage without adequate information about critical sexual intercourse, contraception, sexually transmitted diseases, pregnancy and childbirth

2. Psychological disadvantage

Study found that girls are affected psychologically when they get into marriage while they are still children. Among 13 respondents 12 admitted to get stress related to management of their husband and house among mentioned reasons include, being forced sexual relations, and the denial of freedom and personal development attendant on child marriage have profound psychosocial and emotional consequences. The impact can be subtle and insidious and the damage hard to assess. It includes such intangible factors as the effect of a girl's loss of mobility and her confinement to the home and to household roles. Obviously there is a marked lack of data in these areas, and social researchers have failed to examine the impacts of child marriage in this context. Most girls who are unhappy in an imposed marriage are

very isolated. They have nobody to talk to as they are surrounded by people who endorse their situation.

3. Divorce or abandonment and Early Widowhood

Study revealed that due to its nature, child marriage is associated with unwillingness or acceptances especially for the girls. This creates a problem with their husbands as at last get abandoned. Consequently girls and women are usually left with the responsibility of raising children without the husband or family's financial support, thus making them more likely to live in poverty. In Zanzibar culture rate of divorce associated with child marriage is a common matter. According to interview conducted to 5 community development officers in Zanzibar many cases of divorce are associated with a reason of failure to full fill family obligation in a sense that young girls do not manage to carry out husband demands.

The existence of 'Ndoa ya Mkeka' a forced marriage done at a place where girls and boys caught having sexual relationship is also associated with the divorce problem. Usually the parties are forced to get into marriage without their consent; hence sustainability of marriage is becoming very low. Apart from that, polygamy which is allowed in Islamic Shariah has also increased the number of divorce in Zanzibar. in many cases the elder wives view the younger wives with bitterness and resentment hence forcing the divorce to young girls.

Recent media reports that divorce in Zanzibar is on the rise according to the island's Ministry of Youth, is having high rising rate of divorce in Islamic states. Because divorce is permitted in Islam as a last resort when all other avenues of dispute resolution have been exhausted makes it very difficult for the ministry to intervene. The report indicates further that according to Kadhi Sheikh Omar Said, more than 95 percent of the 1,753 marriage disputes brought before the court in the last two years culminated in divorce, with most of the couples involved ranging from the age of 20 and above. (OMOLO 2006)

4. Effect of Child Marriage on Girl's Education

School is the most important institution outside the family involved in socializing young people into all dimensions of adult roles and responsibilities. However, child marriage inevitably denies children of school age their right to the education they need for their personal development, their preparation for adulthood, and their effective contribution to the future wellbeing of their family and society. Indeed, married girls who would like to continue schooling may be both practically and legally excluded from going so. The essence of the rights to education and to health is that they facilitate and ensure the effective enjoyment of other human rights. For a number of poorer families, the potential rewards of educating daughters are too far off and therefore their education is not recognized as an investment. Families perceive that a girl's education will only benefit her husband's household, and not her parents. Additionally, some parents believe that girls do not need education for their roles as wives and mothers, that education undermines cultural practices, and it teaches the girl to reject tradition.

Government schools in Zanzibar often have a policy of refusing to allow married or pregnant girls or girls with babies to return. They may believe that it will set a bad example to other pupils or that other parents will be angry to see the school go against the traditional beliefs. Even if they do permit girls to return, the school environment - rules, timetables and physical conditions - can make it too difficult for a girl to attend school and perform her duties as wife and mother at the same time. Bullying and abuse by teachers, pupils and other parents can further reduce girls' self-confidence and sense of security, forcing them to give up on schooling. When girls dropout of school to get married, there is a knock-on effect for the community as a whole, and for future generations.

b. Impacts of the Under-age Marriage Practice on the Zanzibar Society at Large

There is various impact of child marriage practices in Zanzibar which affect the entirely nation development, the following points explore various vivid impact which are caused by these practices

1. Massive increase of population /crime rate

The increase of child marriages go together with the increase of population within the societies, and more badly this is associated with unplanned family which increase population as a result hardening life of the people as well as national economy. Zanzibar population growth is estimated to reach to 3% which is higher figure compared to level of development as well as ability to provide necessary needs for the society. The country economy is very poor since the increase in population associated with massive increase in unemployment and crime rate as many people find illegal ways in order to survive.

2. Backwardness of the Society and poverty

Child marriage associated with the backward characteristics of the society because many people are abstained from school in order to get marriage. They lack important knowledge of life which subsequently can be transferred to the children and their family. This create broad problem to the society where their ability towards working for the nations development is minimized as well as creating a burden to government and national as whole. This is seen in many families where the average number of illiteracy is still too low even on the level of Primary Education. According to 1988 censor in Zanzibar, it is revealed that 45% of the marriage women in Zanzibar were house wives with fewer roles in economic activities

3. Health problem to society /infant mortality rate

Child marriage in Zanzibar associated with premature pregnancies, which cause higher rates of maternal and infant mortality. Zanzibar has infant mortality rate of 83 out of 1000 children

which is highest rate, and it has much consequences to economy of the country. These children could have impact to the society in future. (IFAD, 2010)

Section 5: Feasible Options/ Recommendation

A range of policy and programmatic actions are needed to reduce child marriage and its impact. Actions to fulfil or restore the rights of those already married should go hand in hand with preventive actions aimed at wider society. In either case, the aim should be to inform parents and young people currently complicit in the practice of child marriage so that they are aware of its true implications and empowered to resist it. The role of government and civil society institutions is to develop and implement suitable systems to prevent or discourage the practice in Zanzibar society. While the main actors helping those directly affected will operate at household and community level, the involvement of national and international policy-makers and rights advocates is essential in order to change the policy and programme climate.

Over the entire action spectrum, a wide variety of actors must be engaged, including teenagers themselves, adult women and men, community leaders, religious leaders, politicians, policy makers, academics, researchers, lawyers, the media, and national and international non-governmental and intergovernmental bodies. While prevention measures are essential, efforts must be made to ensure that all of the following interventions are available to married, as well as unmarried girls.

1. Enforce Existing Laws and Policies.

The law provides a loop hole for a girl to get married at the age of 14 years if get consent from parents. Although laws against child marriage exist in Zanzibar, the implementation and enforcement against child marriage is rarely exist. Social and health policies have paid minimal attention to child brides as a separate category, typically grouping all married women together regardless of current age, age at marriage, or characteristics of the marital partnership.

However, today, the Tanzanian government is reviewing the country's Marriage Act with an aim to raise the girl's age for marriage from 15 to 18 years. Apart from that, the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar has passed the Bill on Children's Act 2010. This will protect the children not to get married at the early age.

Moreover, government action is critical in providing technical assistance to increase the number of in-country professionals who can appropriately monitor and evaluate programs that help better implement, review, and update customary laws and policies intended to reduce child marriage.

Furthermore, a committed multi-sectoral approach that integrates action plans from the health, education, legal, economic, and labour sectors may be effective in reducing fertility. Effective approaches (i.e., programs, laws, policies, advocacy, and awareness-raising at local and international levels) that promote birth and marriage registration and increase school enrolment and retention rates of girls residing in poor areas are vital to good policy implementation.

2. Reform Cultural and Traditional Values and Norms

The study findings indicate that cultural and traditional values and norms are important determinants of child marriage. As child marriage is a tradition that has been maintained through generations, sometimes parents may be unaware of the dangers, or may feel that the dangers are justified for cultural or economic reasons. Even where parents and children understand the negative implications of child marriage, societal pressure to conform may be great. Traditions promoting child marriage need to be challenged.

Empower the youth (building the capacity of youth associations) by providing them with information and knowledge they can use to convince family and community members that child marriage has a negative effect on all of them, and create sensitization forums for community leaders like Shehas, and Diwani.

Focus should be made on forming and strengthening anti-Harmful Traditional Practice clubs in schools, as they have proven to be very effective and efficient in fighting against the practice. Schools are basic stakeholders in child marriage issues, since they are the first institutions to be affected by the practice.

Efforts must be made to convince community leaders of the importance of girl's education by stressing its positive impact at the household level - especially on the well being of mothers, children, and the family.

Community-based organizations and community-support organizations (such as religious institutions and associations, and any other local civic organizations), and schools are the best channels for raising awareness about the negative impacts of child marriage. Indeed, they have played a major role in recent efforts to reduce the practice, because people tend to listen more to something that comes through these channels. Community-based and community-support organizations should continue to serve as the means to raise awareness about the negative impacts of the practice.

Provide additional training to Health Extension Workers and Community-Based

Reproductive Health Agents to enhance their knowledge and teaching on consequences of child marriage and existing laws and policies, so that they can raise the awareness of community members in these areas.

3. Reducing misconception of Islamic religion concerning child marriage

On the issue of child marriages for girls, one of the religious leader for example, emphasized that the Qur'an teachings directs that marriage should only be encouraged when the girls have reached the "right age" of maturity. When asked what they consider to be the maturity age for marriage both for girls and boys, the majority of them (58%) suggested 18 years of age for girls and 21-25 for boys respectively. In fact most of them perceive girls to be ready to marry after they are 18 because they would have menstruated and gained experiences and

maturity for child bearing. (A Study on Analysis of Policies and Laws Related to Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights in Zanzibar.)

To say that the marriage is valid is not to say that people should go ahead and make such marriages. There may be certain circumstances, which make it desirable or advisable that a very young girl should be married away in this manner but this must not be taken as the normal situation. In marriage, the normal thing is that people should marry when they are of marriageable age. That does not include girls of nine or ten years of age, although some girls may attain puberty that early. Marriage involves certain responsibilities and a very young girl could not be expected to shoulder these.

4. Support for physical well-being

This is primarily intended to maintain sexual and reproductive health, starting by ensuring that both girls and boys learn about sex, reproduction and the related risks at an early age. Information should replace ‘ignorance plus child marriage’ as the child sexual protection strategy.

Proposals that adolescents – male and female – should be given sex education and have access to reproductive health services have often been greeted with resistance. In Zanzibar culture, there is reticence about, or an actual taboo on, the discussion of sex. This feeds fears that sex education will, encourage early sexual relations and pregnancy. However, in the current situation, the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training in Zanzibar has demonstrated such fears to be unfounded, and that sex education does not lead to promiscuity. All the same, such misconceptions take time to overcome. Evidence shows that silence about sex does not reduce teenage pregnancy in Zanzibar where old-style sexual protection systems are breaking down and HIV now poses a serious threat to the lives of girls and they become infected at twice the rate of boys.

Zanzibar is now willing to include sex and family life education in the school

curriculum as a means of combating HIV, and this growing acceptance needs reinforcing, as do youth-focused programmes on this issue. However, concern with teenage vulnerability to HIV has centred on those who are in school or leading lives that expose them to risky sexual activity. This invariably excludes girls who are married. Yet they, too, are vulnerable, and need to be able to adopt systems of self-protection where they fear their husbands are infected or could be exposed to HIV. Unlike most of their unmarried peers, married girls are exposed constantly to sex, and may be more prone to STIs.

5. Provide Support to Married Girls

For those who do marry at a young age, policy-makers and program managers should open new educational opportunities, expand social networks, build economic assets, enhance the negotiating power of married girls, and provide reproductive health and HIV prevention information and services to married girls, and, as appropriate, to their partners. Specific strategies are needed to help girls make the transition to marriage as safely as possible.

The Ministry of Education in Zanzibar has opened the vocational training school to help the children who drop out from school to continue with their education. This is a starting point but they need to have more institutions.

Programs must consider the limited mobility of married girls in order to design socially acceptable means to provide needed information, social connections, and services.

To increase married girls' connections with non-familial peers and mentors and to enhance their ability to act on their own behalf, the project organizes girls who are recently married and pregnant or postpartum for the first time into groups that engage in various social and economic activities. The belief is that empowerment is good in and of itself, but also that such efforts are needed if these girls are to benefit fully from health interventions.

6. Providing economic opportunities to young girls:

Poverty is one of the major factors underpinning child marriage. Efforts to improve the access of young married and non married girls to economic resources should focus on expanding employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. Micro-credit programs provide women and girls with the basic economic opportunities they often lack and a social support network that promotes changes in attitudes and behaviour. It serves as a means of granting them higher status and more control over their lives – including their options in marriage

7. Promoting education of Girls

Educating girls seems to be the ideal solution since, if sufficiently prolonged; it helps to delay age of marriage, and confers other benefits as well. However, sending children to school costs money and where money is scarce, it is unlikely to be spent on girls. Even where education is highly subsidized or even free, poor parents have to pay for some of the costs of school attendance for their children, such as various fees, books, and school uniforms. In this case, governments, NGOs should provide support needed for girls' education such as free books, uniforms, scholarship and so on.

The key to girls' progress is education and learning. Persuading parents to keep their daughters in school and ensuring that they receive a basic education as is their right, is important for a number of personal and family, as well as wider social and economic, reasons including postponement of marriage.

Attempts to close gender gaps in education have included approaches to make schools more girl-friendly. These include building schools close to communities so that parents are less worried about their daughters' safety; employing more female teachers; improving the relevance of the curriculum and the quality of teaching; flexible schedules to allow girls to meet domestic responsibilities; in school childcare facilities; penalties for male teachers who seduce girl students; and separate sanitary facilities for boys and girls.

Other strategies to increase girls' schooling include cash incentives for parents to keep

their daughters in school; the expansion of non-formal education for girls who have left school; the involvement of communities in running schools; and conducting communication campaigns on the importance of girls' education. Where such efforts are made, resistance to girls' education can crumble surprisingly easily, even in highly traditional environments.

In schools and in non-formal education programmes there is a growing emphasis on 'life skills' to equip girls and boys to negotiate personal relationships. Life skills curricula aim to equip young people with the skills they need to cope in a world with new risks and temptations – alcohol, drugs, freer sexual codes – and much greater political and economic instability than in the past. Empowering young people to run their own lives is at the heart of the life skills approach.

8. Using mass media to increase the awareness of the whole community

The community should be informed about the consequences of child marriage on girls themselves, their family and the community as a whole. Once communities are sensitized, the parents send their girls to school and support them to stay on. This leads to the empowerment of girls into skills for self-confidence, assertiveness, speaking out, decision-making and negotiation. Gaining access to communities deeply rooted in the practice of child marriage is one of the biggest obstacles for programs to tackle. Media campaigns using radio and other traditional communication methods must be used to reach communities, especially those in rural areas. All these measures will help to ensure the domestic applicability of the national, as well as international legal instruments already ratified about girl's human rights.

9. Improving Data

Although child marriage is a matter of great concern, there is far too little concrete information on its prevalence or its impact in Zanzibar. Consequently, the first requirement in addressing early marriage must be more research and more understanding.

More effective advocacy and programming will follow. One important strategy must be to improve data collection. Actions must be informed by knowledge, and for this reason, an essential first step is to ensure that existing data collection programmes – be they run by national governments, international organizations, or NGOs – are sensitized to the issue of child marriage. They should be encouraged to provide full information on the marital status of children and young people, disaggregated by age and gender. Comprehensive data such as these are essential for making significant progress in understanding the risks associated with, and the dynamics of child marriage.

Section 6: Summary and Conclusion

The context of Zanzibar child marriage must be looked with a serious concern. The occurrence of these events is massively increasing while appropriate authorities responsible to prohibit /condemn the situation are not reasonable steps. In summary child marriage has much impact to the nation as well as individual specifically young girls and their expected children. It is therefore wisely to speed the process of making amendment of marriage law of United Republic of Tanzania as well as implementing the Children's Act 2010. Also Government should establish special training to the religious elders towards understanding the new law and force them to bury old mentality which persist child marriage practices.

Not only that but also the affected societies must be rescued by initiating adult primary and secondary school so as to give them opportunity to regain education from normal schools contrary to existent schooling law which does not accommodate children who has already got pregnancy. This will create a room for most of the girls and women who are the victim of child marriage practices to be able to attend school and becoming potential to the nation. These efforts in its totality will create new era which will prohibit child marriage and associated humiliation and spear heading to development of Zanzibar as whole.

ENDNOTE

ⁱ Bride price is a sum, either in cash or kind, used to purchase a bride for her labour and fertility usually it is given to families/parents.

ⁱⁱ Ndoa ya Mkeka means a forced marriage influenced by parent when they caught girl and boys in sexual relationship

REFERENCE

- Amin, C. E. (2008.). Programs to Address Child Marriage: Framing the Problem. *"Promoting Healthy, Safe, and Productive Transitions to Adulthood"* .
- Bankole, S. S. (2004.). Risk and Protection: Youth and HIV/AIDS In Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Clark, S. B. (2006). Protecting Young Women from HIV/AIDS: The Case against Child and Adolescent Marriage. *International Family Planning Perspectives* , 32.
- Cole, w. (2000). Transformation in the Meaning of marriage. *Attitude and Norms about Marriage* , 168.
- D.M, T. (1987). Long-range socioeconomic and marital. *consequences of adolescent marriage in three cohorts of adult males* , 23-24.
- Dhaka., U. (1999). *A Selective Review of Interventions for Adolescent Girls in Bangladesh*.
- IFAD. (2010). Retrieved November 12, 2010, from Rural Poverty Portal: <http://www.ruralpovertyportal.org/web/guest/country/voice/tags/tanzania/zanzibar>
- J, L. (1985). *Teens look at marriage: Rainbows, roles, and reality*. Buena Park,. CA Buena Park: Morning Glory Press.
- Janaki, N. (1995). 'Prohibited Marriage:'. *State Protection and Child* , 78.
- Le Fevre J., Q. R. (2001). Future Options Foreclosed: Girls Who Marry Early. (UNICEF, 2001) .
- MFE. (2006). *Ministry of finance and Economic affairs* . Retrieved November 15 , 2010 , from Zanzibar stastics : <http://www.zanzinet.org/stati.html>
- Omolo, J. (2006). *The Challenges Of Modernity To Islamic Divorce Law*. Retrieved November 17 , 2010, from <http://www.somalilandtimes.net/sl/2005/226/8.shtml>
- Shobha, S. (1999). '*Who Cares for Child Marriages?*' *Pioneer*,. Retrieved November 15 September, 2010, from www.hsph.havard.edu
- Strong, B. a. (1992). *The marriage and family experience*. St.Pau: West Publishing Co.
- UN. (1989). Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 1.
- UNICEF. (2001). *Early Marriage;Child spouse*. UNICEF.