PROBLEMS OF FEMALE HEADED FAMILIES IN UGANDA.
A CASE STUDY OF TORORO DISTRICT 1970 – 2014

BY

NYAFWONO CATHERINE

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT
OF REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE
IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES OF KYAMBOGO UNIVERSITY

JANUARY 2015
DECLARATION

I Nyafwono Catherine declare that this is my work and to the best of my knowledge it has never been submitted for the award of any degree in any university.

Signature ....... [Signature]

Date ......... 15/06/2016

Name: Nyafwono Catherine

Reg. No. 12/U/049/GMAR/PE
APPROVAL

This is to certify that this research has been done under my supervision and has never been presented anywhere for any other purpose.

Supervisors

Name: Dr. Tumushabe Sulpeius

Principle Supervisor, Kyambogo University

Signature

Date 15/6/2016

Name: Dr. Kenyi Lawrence Gowon

Co-Supervisor, Kyambogo University

Signature

Date 15/6/2016
DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to my parents Opiyo Alexander and Petwa Nyachwo, my brothers Omondi John and Ofumbi Godfrey, my sisters Naula Caroline, Akoth Constance and Nyagali Jacqueline. This book too is dedicated to my husband Opeero David, and my children Emily, Enid, Edwin and Egilas.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Glory to the Lord God Almighty, for His wisdom and Grace that was sufficient for me to complete this work. I thank Him also for the life and the strength He gave me through out the time of this research work. The success of this research report was also as a result of support rendered to me by many people. I am very grateful to all those who offered any form of assistance, financial, material and moral support that contributed to the accomplishment of the research study. The following however, deserve special mention.

The academic Staff of the Department of Religious Studies – Kyambogo University, for the input of lectures during the first year. Special thanks go to my supervisors: Dr. Tumushabe Sulpcius and Dr. Kenyi Lawrence Gowon without whose advise, it would have been difficult for me to accomplish this work.

Special thanks also go to Mr. Oculi Victor, Head of Department Religious Studies and Philosophy Gulu University for his fatherly love, guidance and support.

Management of Tororo District Local Government and all those who participated in this study are highly appreciated for the cooperation in form of assistance offered during the data collection process.

Sincere gratitude is also extended to my family members especially my parents, brothers, sisters; my husband and children for their love, patience and financial support to this research work.

The head teacher Gulu Army Secondary School, Capt RB Tazzy. He is highly appreciated for the support he gave during the study. Ms Lakot Sophie and her husband Mr. Okidi George are highly appreciated for proof reading the research report. Thank you for sparing your limited time to read through my work. The researcher would like to appreciate her colleagues Ms Lakot Sophie, Aparo Lucy, Abbo Georginah and Oketcho Chombo with whom she shared common interests. May the Almighty God richly bless you according to His riches in Glory.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION............................................................................................... i
APPROVAL........................................................................................................ ii
DEDICATION ...................................................................................................... iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT................................................................................... iv
LIST OF TABLES ........................................................................................... ix
ABSTRACT ....................................................................................................... x
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS ............................................................................ xi
MAP OF TORORO DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHOWING AREAS OF THE
STUDY ........................................................................................................... xii

CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION ................................................. 1
1.1 Back ground to the study ....................................................................... 1
1.1.1 Political structure .............................................................................. 1
1.1.2 Physical features .............................................................................. 3
1.1.3 Economic activities ........................................................................... 3
1.1.4 Education .......................................................................................... 6
1.1.5 Ethnicity ............................................................................................ 6
1.1.6 Health sector ..................................................................................... 7
1.1.7 Demography ....................................................................................... 8
1.1.8 The phenomenon of female headed families .................................... 8
1.2 The statement of the problem ................................................................ 10
1.3 Hypotheses of the study ...................................................................... 11
1.4 The scope of the study ........................................................................ 11
1.5 Objectives of the study ....................................................................... 12
1.5.1 General objectives .......................................................................... 12
1.5.2 Specific objectives .......................................................................... 12
1.6 The significance of the study ............................................................... 13
1.7 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE ............................................. 14
1.7.0 Introduction ....................................................................................... 14
1.7.1 Concept of female headed family ................................................................. 14
1.7.2 The causes of female headed families .............................................................. 16
  1.7.2.1 Pregnancy before marriage ........................................................................ 16
  1.7.2.2 Death of husbands ..................................................................................... 17
  1.7.2.3 Divorce .................................................................................................... 17
  1.7.2.4 Deliberate choice ....................................................................................... 18
  1.7.2.5 Fear of marriage ........................................................................................ 18
  1.7.2.6 Lack of opportunity ................................................................................... 19
  1.7.2.7 Circumstances ........................................................................................... 19
  1.7.2.8 The changing roles of women: .................................................................... 20
  1.7.2.9 Sexual Permissiveness .............................................................................. 20
  1.7.2.10 The ratio of male to female seems to be big. .............................................. 21
  1.7.2.11 Lack of sex education .............................................................................. 21
  1.7.2.12 Women activist ....................................................................................... 22
  1.7.3 The challenges of Female Headed Household Families ..................................... 22
  1.7.3.1 Responsibility overload: ............................................................................ 23
  1.7.3.2 Task overload: ........................................................................................... 23
  1.7.3.3 Emotional overload: ................................................................................... 23
  1.7.4 The impact of female headed families ............................................................ 25
1.8. Research Methodology ..................................................................................... 28
  1.8.1 Introduction .................................................................................................. 28
  1.8.2 Research design ............................................................................................ 28
  1.8.3 Area of study ................................................................................................ 29
  1.8.4 Study population ........................................................................................... 29
  1.8.5 Sample Size ................................................................................................ 30
  1.8.6 Sampling Procedure .................................................................................... 31
  1.8.7 Research Instruments for Data Collection .................................................... 31
  1.8.7.1 Introduction .............................................................................................. 31
  1.8.7.2 Questionnaire ........................................................................................... 31
1.8.7.3 Interview Schedule .................................................................................. 32
1.8.7.4 Observation ............................................................................................. 32
1.8.7.5 Focus group discussion .......................................................................... 33
1.8.7.6 Document sources .................................................................................. 34
1.8.8 Procedure of Data collection .................................................................... 34
1.8.9 Data processing and Analysis .................................................................... 34
1.8.10 Ethical considerations .............................................................................. 35
1.9 Research constraints .................................................................................... 35
1.10 Operational Definition of Terms ................................................................ 37

CHAPTER TWO: THE CAUSES AND CHALLENGES OF FEMALE HEADED ........ 38
FAMILIES IN TORORO DISTRICT ....................................................................... 38
2.1 Introduction .................................................................................................... 38
2.2 CAUSES OF FEMALE HEADED FAMILIES IN TORORO DISTRICT ......... 41
2.2.1 Divorce ....................................................................................................... 44
2.2.1.1 Socio economic cause ........................................................................... 44
2.2.2 Death of husband ...................................................................................... 54
2.2.3 Domestic Violence ...................................................................................... 56
2.2.3.1 The causes of domestic violence ............................................................ 59
2.2.4 Irresponsible husbands ............................................................................. 62
2.2.3 Challenges of female headed families in Tororo district: ....................... 64
2.4 conclusions .................................................................................................... 69
CHAPTER THREE ............................................................................................... 71
THE EFFECTS OF FEMALE HEADED FAMILIES ............................................. 71
Introduction ......................................................................................................... 71
3.1.1 Effects on the women ................................................................................ 75
3.1.2 Effects on the children ............................................................................... 84
3.1.3 Effects on the society ................................................................................ 88
3.2 Conclusions ................................................................................................... 90
CHAPTER FOUR .................................................................................................. 91
GENERAL CONCLUSION ........................................................................................................... 91
4.0 Introduction .................................................................................................................... 91
4.1 Summary of findings ...................................................................................................... 91
4.1.2 The causes of female headed families ...................................................................... 91
4.1.3 The challenges faced by female headed families ...................................................... 92
4.1.4 Impacts of female headed families .......................................................................... 93
4.4 Conclusions .................................................................................................................... 95
4.5 Recommendations ........................................................................................................ 96
RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER STUDY ....................................................................... 99
BIBLIOGRAPHY .................................................................................................................... 100
LIST OF INFORMANTS ........................................................................................................ 102
APPENDICES ........................................................................................................................ 103
APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE .......................................................................................... 103
APPENDIX II: QUESTIONNAIRES FOR CHURCH LEADERS ............................................ 108
APPENDIX III ....................................................................................................................... 114
INTERVIEW GUIDED FOR SINGLE MOTHERS ................................................................... 114
APPENDIX IV: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR CHURCH LEADERS ............................................ 116
LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Number of respondents ................................................................. 38

Table 2: Causes of female headed families .................................................. 42

Table 3: Causes of divorce which has resulted in the rise of female headship ........ 45

Table 4: Female headed families caused by death of husbands ....................... 54

Table 5: Data from the survey concerning violence by husbands towards their wives, which has led to increased female headship in Tororo district is displayed ................................. 57

Table 6: Causes of domestic violence ......................................................... 59

Table 7: Number of women abandoned or neglected ..................................... 62

Table 8: Challenges of female headed families ............................................ 64

Table 9: Existence of female headed families in Tororo district are rated .......... 71

Table 10: Effects of female headed families (negative) .................................. 75

Table 11: Strength of female headed families ............................................. 80

Table 12: Effects of female headed families on the children .......................... 84

Table 13: Effects of female headed families ............................................... 88
ABSTRACT

The study focused on the problems of female headed families in Tororo district. The study was mainly descriptive in nature and employed both qualitative and quantitative methods. Face to face interview schedule, questionnaires, focused group discussion; documentary review and observation checklist were used as tools for data collection.

The study also used purposive sampling so as to get representative information. The study was undertaken to fulfill the following specific objectives. To establish the causes of the emergency of female headed families in Tororo district; to examine the challenges of female headed families in Tororo district and to find out the effects of female headed families in Tororo district.

The findings established that the major causes of female headed families are domestic violence which is evidently increasing in our societies. Other factors included divorce and death of husbands.

The study also revealed that female headed families face a number of challenges such as: financial crisis, responsibility overloads and lack of respect among others.

The findings further established that, female headed families impacts negatively on both children and society. The children are denied fatherly love and guidance, and as a result the children reflect perverse socialization, which equally affects the society.

The study recommended that: female headed families should be trained on income generating activities, the government should come in to fight domestic violence and the church needs to teach and sensitize both men and women on family life among others.

The study concluded that female headed families exist and is on the increase. The major factor was domestic violence which gave rise to divorce.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CAO</td>
<td>Chief Administration Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FBI</td>
<td>Federal Bureau of Investigation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FHF</td>
<td>Female Headed Families.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>Human Immune Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOH</td>
<td>Ministry of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RDC</td>
<td>Resident District Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TCI</td>
<td>Tororo Cement Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UBS</td>
<td>Uganda Bureau of Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>United States of America</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MAP OF TORORO DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHOWING AREAS OF THE STUDY
CHAPTER ONE
GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the study
This study is about the challenges of female headed families, a case study of Tororo District. Female headed family is the type of family formed by divorce, separation or death of husband. Divorce however, is against the purpose of God for marriage. In Malachi 2:16, God said that, He hates divorce and in Mark10:9, Jesus said, ‘what therefore God has joined together, let no man separate’. Presence of female headed families therefore shows that most people have dishonored the marriage institution which should be honored by all. Hebrews 13: 4

Tororo District where the study was carried out is in the Eastern region of Uganda. It is bordered by the districts of: Bugiri to the south west, Butaleja to the North West, Busia to the South, Manafwa to the North East, Kenya to the East and Mbale to the North.

1.1.1 Political structure
The district has two counties, one municipality with two divisions, seventeen sub counties, two town councils, two town boards, eighty parishes and eight hundred and seventy five villages. The district headquarter is located in Tororo municipality, which is 214km from Kampala city.\footnote{Tororo district development plan 2010/2011, 2014/2015 (April), pp.11.}
The district has established political administrative structure up to the village level. The local councils make the political structures, representing the district council at the village level. County councils and parish councils are administrative units. District, municipality and sub counties/ divisions/ town councils are independent local governments. All these councils are policy making bodies which monitor all developmental programmes in the district. The district chairperson is the district political head.

The chief district Administrative officer (CAO) heads the civil service in the district, coordinates the government departments and is the chief executive of the local administration.

In the district, there is the Resident District Commissioner (RDC) who represents the President and the Central Government.

The assistant chief administrative officers head the counties and coordinate government business at county level being supported by extension officers from the technical departments, for example, agriculture, community services, veterinary, fisheries, health, water and sanitation. Sub county chiefs head and coordinate government business at sub county level while the parish chiefs head the lowest administrative units, the parishes. Municipality, divisions, and town councils are headed by the town clerks.²

1.1.2 Physical features
Tororo District has a sub humid climate with orographic and bimodal rainfall with peaks during the months of May and October. The sub total rainfall lies between 1,130mm and 1720mm with a temperature of about 16.2 degrees cent grade to 28.7 degrees cent grade. The relative humidity ranges between 52% and 89% and Tororo town is 1,459.5 metres above sea level.\footnote{Tororo District Development Plan 2010/2011,2014/2015 (April), pp. 14.}

The tertiary pre- elgon volcanic rocks which include Tororo rock and the Osukuru hills are known to be very rich in minerals which are potential for the growth of industries, for example, cement, fertilizers and fungicide industries.

The topography of Tororo is not prone to soil erosion. The landscape is general plain with few rocks. Most of the land therefore is gentle and suitable for agriculture without risking several run off of the top soils. This further makes Tororo soils good for moderate and appropriate mechanized farming. The roads can be relatively easily constructed and the bandy surfaces that are common in the district provide opportunities for high grade feeder road surfacing.

1.1.3 Economic activities
The major industries in Tororo district includes, Tororo Cement Industry (TCI) which produces cement, lime and roofing materials, the Elgonia industries which processes and packs fruits, coffee and tomato sauce. The district also has Nyakesi oil millers which produces cooking oil and soap.
The district has some Eco Tourist attractions which include the famous Tororo Rock in Tororo town, Rock classic Hotel, Tororo Golf Course, the Osukuru Hills and Nyakiriga Hills.

However, the general level of poverty is adverse in the rural areas that are isolated from basic services though there are some few urban areas that are severely affected. The notable areas include, some part of Kisoko, paya, petta and Nabuyonga in West Budama county, then Mollo and Kwapa in Tororo county, then Kasoli, Bison Maguria, Amagoro and Agururu in the municipality. The study was intended to find out how poverty in the district could have amplified the problem of female headed families.

The majority of the households in the district are involved in some agricultural activities with cassava growing being more dominant represented by 23.7%, followed by maize, and millet; while coffee is the least grown crop in the district with a low percentage of only 0.3%. Other crops include sweet potatoes, sorghum, groundnuts, bananas, beans and cotton.

However, livestock keeping is another economic activity practiced in the district. The most common of which are the local goats and indigenous livestock representing 39.6% and 30% respectively. The least common type of livestock in the households was the exotics/cross breed. Other live stocks found common in Tororo district were pigs and sheep.

---


5 Tororo district development plan 2014/2015 (April), pp. 21
A number of households are engaged in the poultry keeping which constitute up to 74.2%. The poultry type least kept in the district was the exotic or cross breed. However, other types of poultry were found in the households amongst which includes, ducks, turkeys and guinea fowls. Fish farming is one of the activities taking place in the district with only 3% of the population taking part in it. At least 21.1% of the farmers are fishers most of whom have fish ponds for tilapia while 0.2% have their ponds not stocked.

Like the economy many Ugandan districts, the economy of Tororo is dependent on agriculture which employs over 80% of the total population. Fertile soils and suitable climate combine to support the cultivation of number of crops in most part of the district. Up to 75% of agriculture is mainly subsistence and takes place on small holdings of approximately two acres using simple farming tools such as (hoes, pangas and slashers). Only 0.35% of the populations are engaged in commercial agriculture and family members constitute the single important source of labor.

The main source of income to the population is agriculture followed by livestock and fishing. The other sources of income are derived from non-farming activities such as employment in the civil service and businesses. There is an increasing trend towards non-farming activities due to uncertainty and seasonality of agricultural produce (income) and also increase in new demands for households for example, paying tertiary education and health services.

---

6 Tororo District Development Plan, department of agriculture. 2010/2011 (April), pp. 25
7 Tororo district development plan ,department of agriculture 2010/2011 (April) , pp. 25-27
Very few women work in the formal sector with 21.2% of the sub total labour force. Women are generally poor without independent sources of income and so have less access to resources. Cultural practices against and low education among women are some of the factors that explain this scenario. The study aimed at examining the challenges of female headed families.

1.1.4 Education
The adult literacy rate in the district stands at 55 percent. The district has a sub total of 163 government aided primary schools, 31 government aided secondary schools, 10 tertiary and vocational institutions and one branch of Busitema University in Nagongera. According to the statistics by the district development plan in the district, only 55% of the people can read and write with women’s level as low as 41.7% while that of men stand at 64%.

Due to low education level, the average number of children a woman produces during her child bearing period is as high as 6.91 that is, about 7 children. The researcher’s intention was to find out how educational levels in general have impacted female headed families in Tororo district.

1.1.5 Ethnicity
Tororo district is one those Districts with diverse traditional culture. There are many tribes in the district. However, there are two distinct ones, the Jopadhola who form the largest number; they are located mainly in West Budama County, and then the Iteso found mainly in Tororo county.

---

9 Tororo district development Plan. Education department 2014/2015 (April), pp. 30-35
Whereas Tororo municipality comprises of various ethnic groups which include; Jopadhola, Banyole, Iteso and Samias.

### 1.1.6 Health sector

HIV/AIDS is still prevalent in the district and the commonest mode of transmission is heterosexual relationship which accounts for 70%. It is now evident that the second commonest route of transmission is from an HIV infected mother to her unborn baby. However, this has been reduced by regular medical monitoring and sensitization given to these affected mothers; and as a result the percentage has reduced to 20%. Transmission through blood transfusion and infected unsterile materials is however not yet well documented but there is growing evidence that this could be happening in the formal health care set up.\(^{10}\)

Due to its geographical location, Tororo district exposes its population to risks where many commercial sex workers especially in Malaba border town, long distance truck drivers, cross border traders, factory workers and bar maids all mix up uncontrollably.

Since 2000, there has however, been a decline in the infection rate in the district following the adoption of the Multi-Sectoral Strategy to scale up the response to the epidemic. Infection rate was at 12.8% in 2002 dropping to 6.3% in 2003 MOH/ACP/STI Surveillance report 2003. Young women in the age group of 15 to 19 years are about 5 to 6 times more infected than their male counterparts. There has been no clear documentation on the infection rate among children

---

\(^{10}\) Ministry of health, Tororo health report 2013, pp.60-67
between 0 to 5 years. The rates are higher in urban set up than in rural set up with 4.2% of 8.3% in urban set up. MOH/ACP. The study was carried out to find out whether HIV/AIDS scourge could be one of the possible causes of female headed families in Tororo district.

1.1.7 Demography
Tororo district has a total population of 468,096 with a population growth rate of 2.4% per annum. 93% of the population lives in the rural areas whereas only 7% of the population lives in the urban areas.

The 2002 national census estimated the population of Tororo district at 398,600 with an annual population growth rate of approximately 2.7 per cent. It is estimated that the population of the district in 2010 was 493,300.

1.1.8 The phenomenon of female headed families
Female headed families are families formed either through separation or divorce or death of a husband thereby resulting in only the mother to take full responsibility of raising up the children. It is evident in most societies including Tororo district that the greatest change in life is the increase in the number of families headed by women. The reasons for these are blamed on both the men and women themselves.

---

11 Ministry of health, Tororo district health report 2013, pp.60-67

According to Renzetti and Curran, female headed family is an issue which is now being experienced globally. In the Western world such as America for instance, it is believed that over 13% of the women live singly. It is noted that female headed households has risen across all racial groups.\textsuperscript{13}

The researcher agrees with Renzetti and Curran, because when one comes to Uganda and Tororo in particular, female headed families are so wide spread that there is hardly any location where the problem has not reared its ugly head.

The necessity for a new vision in approaching the issue of female headed families and their management cannot therefore be over emphasized in this context. This is because from the recent experience, there is increasing evidence to suggest that even where the problem is thought to have been brought under control (in the church) it is equally importunate.

On the other hand, there are many Christian churches in the district which implied that, the Christians contribute to a large extent to the spiritual lives of the people in this region. The Catholics, Protestants, and Pentecostal churches which are the main concern in this study are the main religions in the district. Catholicism and Protestantism first came in the district in the early 1930s, and Pentecostalism came into existence later in the 1960s.

The study carried out have offered some evidence to confirm the causes, effects and implications to stability and development as well as the Christian response towards the problem.

It is generally believed by society that religious groups in Tororo district are to promote peace, faithfulness, love and unity among the families. Despite the fact that such religious groups especially Christians have existed in this area for a long time, the problem of female headed families seems to be on the increase. It is a cultural fact and a current reality that most women opted to on one hand; and on the other hand, forced to live singly.

1.2 The statement of the problem

One of the choices that adults are faced with in life is whether to get married or remarry if they ever tried or remain single. In the previous generations, adults had less choice. Society assumed that everyone who reached a certain age bracket would marry or get married and those who did not marry faced society disapproval.

Today, however, the number of females who are never married adults and divorced has increased dramatically reflecting the changed social conducts and attitudes. In Tororo district today, it has been clearly observed that new lifestyle has invaded our societies where most mothers have either chosen or have been forced to head their families. However, the bible do not recognize female headship in the family though it recognizes the presence of widows. This was revealed by Paul in his letter to the Ephesians that, the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church. And this was the reason why the researcher got interested to investigate the causes of the emergency of these kinds of families in Tororo district.
Christian churches however, have existed in Tororo district for quite a long time yet their opinion towards female headed families have been ignored. This is the reason why the study was carried out in these churches in order to come out with concrete information about female headed families in Tororo district.

1.3 Hypotheses of the study

1. The main cause of female headed families in Tororo district is divorce.

2. Economic problem is the major challenge of female headed families in Tororo district.

1.4. The scope of the study

The study was conducted in Tororo district in Uganda on the challenges of female headed families. Tororo is situated in the Eastern part of Uganda and it is neighboring Mbale, Busia, Bugiri and Butalaja districts. It is a plain land with a few rocks, the most notable one being Tororo rock.

In terms of content, the research studied the challenges of female headed families as a whole in Tororo district.

The study was carried out on female headed families not male headed because women are the most affected negatively in marriages. Besides, it is the female headed families which are on the increase not male headed families since for instance divorce may be caused because a man has married another woman, or is in the process of marrying another woman.
Tororo district was chosen and not a region to avoid generalization that would come with studying the problem in many districts. Besides, the area can easily be accessed by the researcher. The time for the study research is quite short to enable the researcher carry out study in more than one district.

The study covered the period between 1970 and 2014. This is the period in which female headed families have significantly increased in Tororo district. Secondly, this period also saw most women acquired formal education which opened their eyes to human rights advocacy; and lastly this period experienced the advent of advanced technology in the district too.

1.5 Objectives of the study
This section analyzed both the general and specific objectives of the study.

1.5.1 General objectives
The general aim of this study was to examine the challenges of female headed families and the contribution of the Christian churches (Catholic, Protestants and Pentecostals) toward the elimination of female headed families in Tororo district in Uganda.

1.5.2 Specific objectives
1. To establish the causes of the emergency of female headed families in Tororo district.

2. To examine the challenges of female headed families in Tororo district.

3. To find out the effects of female headed families in Tororo district
1.6 The significance of the study

The researcher is optimistic that after the study is completed, the people of Tororo, the whole nation and many other readers will benefit in the following ways:

- The finding of the study will enable both religious and community leaders to curb female headed families in Tororo district and other areas.
- The government policy maker will use the knowledge acquired from the study to formulate policies which can suggest a particular solution to female headed families in Tororo district and the whole Country.
- Educators will use the findings of the study to enlighten the masses in matters regarding family life.
- Christian churches shall benefit from the finding of the study so much that they will use the knowledge gained to promote peace and unity not only among the families in Tororo district but also in Uganda as a whole.
- The civil society shall benefit from the findings of the study. They will use the knowledge acquired to live happily with their families as they appreciate, respect and forgive one another.
- The finding of the study will benefit men and women of all categories, they shall use the knowledge gained to appreciate their responsibilities in the families in order to sustain a permanent marriage relationship where every member is at peace.
- The ministry of gender and woman affairs shall use the knowledge acquired from the study to sensitize woman on their roles in society.
- The findings of the study shall furnish other scholars with reliable information on female headed families and stable marriage relationship.
1.7 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATUREE

1.7.0 Introduction

This section contained review of the literature about the problem under investigation. Various literatures were reviewed in order to provide by in-depth information about aspects of female headed families ranging from causes, challenges, effects and even solutions. This section reviews causes, challenges, effects and the attempted effort to curb the problem in order to identify gaps that exists in the previous related studies.

1.7.1 Concept of female headed family.

According to Margret Anderson and Howard Taylor, one of the greatest changes in life has been the increase in the number of families headed by women. About 22% of children lived with one parent; of those living with one parent, most lived with their mothers only. Their estimation that half of all children can expect to live with only one parent at some point is quite unrealistic though the number of households headed by women has risen across all racial groups.\(^{14}\) The research was carried out to establish the percentage of children living with only one parent especially children living with their mothers in Tororo district.

The single parent unit has not become the fastest growing type of family as Palm Riker and Brisbane avidly contend. According to them, today one of every five children lives with just a mother or a father. They postulate that at least 70% of these single parent homes result from either divorce or separation. To them, in the remaining homes, the parents were never married or

are widowed. They further pointed out that, despite a growing number of single father homes, more than 90% of one parent homes are headed by women and most of these mothers hold full time jobs. They argue that, at least half of the unmarried mothers live at poverty level and as a result they receive less social acceptance than single mothers who have been married. The study however, was carried out to find out the socio-economic status of female households in Tororo district and also to find out the variation which exists among these women and their families due to their different levels of earnings.

Commenting on births to unmarried women which are no longer unusual, the U.S Bureaus of census correctly asserted that the birth rate among unmarried women rose almost at 60% in the 1990s with about a third of the unmarried women’s ages between 15 and 44 becoming mothers.

The report further accounts that over half of women have never married while teenage birth rates have declined to 18% since 1991 though the recent years (2000s), the experience show that teenage birth rate have actually increased. Yes, the overall number of births to unmarried women has risen by 3% to almost 1.3 million the highest number ever recorded. Most of the increase was linked to the rise in the number of unmarried women of child bearing age. However, this study was conducted to investigate female headed mothers in Uganda and specifically in Tororo district.

---


While Renzetti and Curran explicitly and correctly pointed out that the number of single parent family has increased dramatically over the last two decades, rising from 13% of families with dependent children in 1970s to 29% families with independent children in 1993. To them, part of the increase reflects the growing number of women who have children but remain unmarried. They correctly observed that, the issue of shared parenting is irrelevant in single parent families where only one parent is present to meet all the needs of the children. Although the percentage of dependent children living with only their fathers has more than doubled since 1970, 80% of children living in single parent families live with their mothers only.

They equally unveiled that some of these women are however educated, gainfully employed, financially secure, heterosexual or lesbian women. The study in Tororo was focused on finding out whether children in female headed households are only parented by their mothers or if the fathers provide any kind of support towards the parenting of their children.

1.7.2 The causes of female headed families
Andersen and Taylor strongly believed that there are three primary causes for the growing number of women heading their own households.

1.7.2.1 Pregnancy before marriage
Anderson and Taylor observed that, although the rate of pregnancy among the teens is lower today than it was in 1970s, the proportion of teen’s births that occur outside marriage has increased. They predicted that teen women who become pregnant are now less likely than in the

---

past to marry, so that the number of never married mothers is now higher.\textsuperscript{18} This study endeavored to establish whether teen pregnancy contributes to increasing number of female headed families in Tororo district.

1.7.2.2 Death of husbands
Anderson and Taylor further believed that, both men and women may become single parents by being widowed, although the percentage of single parent families in which the parent is widowed has increased across all racial groups as a result of HIV/AIDS. To them, the most common way women become single parent is through divorce. The study was to establish whether death of husbands has caused female headed families in Tororo district.

1.7.2.3 Divorce
Divorce the third reason for the increased number of female headed family according to Anderson and Taylor: holds that female headed families contributed to the growing rate of poverty among women. Most women in this case see a substantial decline in their income in the years following divorce.\textsuperscript{19} The researcher’s concern was to establish whether divorce has caused female headed families especially in Tororo district.

Factors triggering female headed households are numerous and dynamic as we are yet to establish from other scholars:


\textsuperscript{19} Ibid., pp386
Accounting to Degenora and Rice, Female headed households are caused by the following reasons;

1.7.2.4 Deliberate choice

Accounting to Degenora and Rice, deliberate choice is one of the causes of female headed house hold. The researcher espoused the notion of Degenora and Rice that some of the women who never married have deliberately chosen to stay and take care of the children they might have got. To them, a fifth of the women are unmarried by choice out of 3000 single women. For example, some perceived marriage as incompatible with their careers, a minority of them are lesbians who did not share in the legal right to marry and members of some religious orders who took vows of chastity.20 The researcher concurs with Degenora and Rice, and wanted to prove this claim in Tororo district.

1.7.2.5 Fear of marriage.

Degenora and Rice observed that fear of marriage among some women have promoted female headed families. The research revealed that some single mothers who are afraid of marriage were brought up in unhappy homes in which their parents fought all the time. Others have been disappointed in love and are afraid to try again, some have been married before and failed; they thus preferred not to remarry but remain single to take care of the children they got in such failed marriages.21 The researcher was interested to investigate if domestic violence and unfaithfulness are the main causes of female headed households in Tororo district.

21 Ibid., pp.530-532
1.7.2.6 Lack of opportunity.
Degenora and Rice further explicate that some prefer to marry but never had the chance. In particular, some women are caught up in the “marriage squeeze”, that is to say, they have difficulty finding eligible male partners. And for the reason that, the number of women outweigh the number of men affects women opportunity to select male partners.\textsuperscript{22} The researcher focused on analyzing and establishing how the male-female gap ratio is a possible cause of female headed families in Tororo district.

1.7.2.7 Circumstances.
Palm Ricker and Brisbane correctly observed that many people, remaining unmarried permanently is not necessarily a matter of deliberate choice but rather a result of certain unavoidable circumstances such as family situations, geography, social isolation or financial condition.\textsuperscript{23} The study was carried out to find out whether such conditions could be possible cause of this trend in Tororo district.

Ian Robertson on the other hand, believed that the female headed house holds have emerged as the most common alternative to the traditional nuclear unit and the main reason for this trend being increased rate of divorce. He however observed that, the female headed families is usually a temporary form since most of the women involved either marries or remarry during the period in which they are raising their children.\textsuperscript{24} The researcher was to find out whether some women

\textsuperscript{22} Ibid., pp. 531


\textsuperscript{24} Ian Robertson (2000) *Sociology*; 2\textsuperscript{nd} Edition. Worth publishers, pp.189-221
who opted for separation because of other reason except for domestic violence in Tororo district are willing to remarry.

1.7.2.8 The changing roles of women:
According to Tororo district development plan, in the past, the role of the wife in an African marriage was assumed to be that of a house keeper, child bearing and nutrient supporter of the husband who is active in the world beyond home. The report however, observed that most women are now reflecting on this role and in doing so are challenging the established structure of the nuclear family.

Besides, traditional norms made little provision for the women who wanted an independent career and even less for the family in which the wife earned more than the husband and became the primary bread winner. This economic independence of women made it much easier for them to divorce their mates and it challenged the whole relationship on which the nuclear family has been based.25 The researcher had the intention to establish whether economically stable women desired to live singly due to the confidence they have in their jobs for provision and support of their families.

1.7.2.9 Sexual Permissiveness
The report further holds that, majority of men today have engaged in pre– marital and extra marital sexual relationship as have most women. This experience according to the report, gave

---

partners a standard by which to measure the performance of their spouses and indeed may be found wanting. Changing the sexual norms in this case inevitably threatened a family system based on the assumption that the partners have an exclusive and mutually gratifying sexual relationship. However, in Mark 10: 11, Jesus made it clear that, whosoever shall put away his wife and marries another, commits adultery against her and the same applies to the woman. The researcher had the desire to investigate whether unfaithfulness in marriages could be a possible cause of female headed families in Tororo district.

Other factors that caused female headed families are:

1.7.2.10. The ratio of male to female seems to be big.
The report also suggested that, the number of women in Uganda in particular outweighs the number of men which automatically rendered the majority of women to remain single. The report gave the impression that most men indeed involved in extra marital relations, but such relations usually didn’t end to marriage. However, the researcher’s concern here was not the male – female ratio but to find out why female headed households are on the increase in Tororo district.

1.7.2.11 lack of sex education
The report also revealed that the rise of female headed households represented a weakening of social values. Most men and women did not receive pre-marriage education and so they entered marriage with little or no knowledge at all. Some entered marriage prematurely just because they

---

26 Ibid., pp.123
27 Ibid., pp.128

21
desired to try it. Actually the report observed that, the majority of men and women now looked at marriage as a contract that can expire any time. Such young men and women always found it very difficult to adjust in case of a challenge in marriage thus leading to separation or divorce. The study focused on establishing whether inadequate sex education could be a possible cause of female headed families.

1.7.2.12 Women activist
These groups of women do good to advocate for their rights as women but most of them have used the wrong means to do it. Some of them believed that, by having a right meant being equal to their partners which are absolutely wrong. Because of such perception, many women especially the highly educated and those with high paying jobs have mistakenly believed that they do not need to live together with husbands who may even be earning less than them. This is ignorance to the rule of marriage. The bible clearly declared that, the man is the head of the family whether poor or rich, educated or not. It made no difference; he remained the authority in the home. However, the study was to establish whether women’s rights promotion could be a possible cause of female headed families in Tororo district.

1.7.3 The challenges of Female Headed Families
Sociologist Weiss identified three problems though there are many (other factors) common in female headed families which he derived from stress and strain and they include:

---

28 Ibid., pp. 144
1.7.3.1 Responsibility overload;
Weiss correctly observed that in two parent’s house holds both parents shared responsibility of making plans and decisions. In single parent family on the other hand, one made the plans and decisions alone. They are also alone in ensuring the care and well-being of their families which is actually a burden.\(^{30}\) The study was intended to investigate and find out how single mothers managed their family responsibilities especially in cases where their partners completely failed to corporate.

1.7.3.2 Task overload:
Weiss rightly unveiled that single parents must handle the entire task usually distributed between the two people. Single mothers must maintain their homes, care for their children and perform satisfactorily in their jobs. They too spent much of their time handling the task that must be completed on a daily basis that often they have little or no time for themselves.\(^{31}\) The study was to find out whether task overload was a challenge to female headed mothers in the district.

1.7.3.3 Emotional overload;
That single mothers often must cope with the emotional needs of the family (both children and themselves); copying with their children’s emotional needs in addition to maintaining a home and holding the job, very often this meant that emotional needs and wants of single mothers must

\(^{30}\) Weiss (2002). *Sociology and Family* ; 3rd Edition, pp 298-300

\(^{31}\) Ibid., pp.299
go unfulfilled.\textsuperscript{32} The researcher’s focus was to find out how female headed families coped with the emotional demands of their families and how they related with their children.

Claire and Curran contend cogently that a more pressing problem single mother’s face is the problem of finance resulting into such families living in poverty. To them, about 38\% of female headed families now live below the poverty line and this figure is expected to increase.\textsuperscript{33} The study in Tororo district was to establish how female headed families plan, manage and finance the needs of their families especially those with no paying jobs.

Accordingly, inadequate child support laws and lack of enforcement of these laws also contributed to poverty in the female headed families. Child support payments usually did little to offset the financial decline that women and children experience after divorce. Only a few divorced mothers are awarded child support by courts.\textsuperscript{34} The researcher’s intention was to investigate and find out whether divorced women tried to approach the legal authorities for child support from their partners in Tororo district and men’s attitude towards their children’s support.

Sociologists Richard, Robert and others have traditionally equated female headed households in general and minority female headed families in particular with pathology. The female headed families have been seen as a cause of not only poverty but also a variety of other social problems.

\begin{itemize}
\item[\textsuperscript{32}] Ibid., pp.300
\item[\textsuperscript{33}] Ibid., pp. 308
\item[\textsuperscript{34}] Ibid., pp. 309
\end{itemize}
including Juvenile delinquency, drug abuse and alcoholism. The study was to find out the social problems female headed households are faced with in their families in Tororo district.

They further observed that men are not usually affected emotionally or psychologically because of the high remarriage rate of divorced men compared with that of divorced women. Although women’s best chances of improving their financial status after divorce is to remarry, they are always more reluctant to do so than divorced men are. To them, some men remarry quickly after they divorced; indeed a relationship with another woman may have been the reason for divorce. The study was carried out to prove this claim among female headed families in Tororo district.

1.7.4 The impact of female headed families.
A report given by Brydak and Soroka concerning effects of female headed families' reckons that divorce did not only affect the men and women who terminated their marriages, but hundreds of thousands of children as well. Although to them divorce is typically a traumatic, painful experience, there is conflicting evidence on both its short and long term consequences on their emotional well-being and behavior. They pointed out that some children adjusted to the divorce and a family within two years of the break up, whereas others indicated negative effects of

---


36 Ibid., pp. 398-399
divorce; which can last well into adulthood. However, the study was to find out the effects of female headed families on women who are involved in it.

However, Wallenstein and Kelly contended that there are both positive and negative effects of divorce on children. To them, the boys are more opposed to divorce and are pre-occupied with fantasies of reconciling the family, and are generally more depressed. Girls on the other hand, are happier and more likely to see their present circumstances as an improvement over pre-divorced days. Nevertheless, among the factors to be considered are the circumstances surrounding the divorce, the degree of hostility between parents, the ages of the children, the emotional attachment of parents and children, custody arrangements and families financial status after the divorce. The study was to found out the effects of divorce on the children involved in female headed families.

Sociologists Richard and Robert however, have not found the absence of men to be the basis for such problems. Instead economic pressure faced by female headed households compared with male headed families, puts female headed households under great strain: the threat of poverty being by far the greatest problem they faced. The study in this case was to investigate both the positive and negative effects of divorce on men, women and children from such families.


Regardless of race, teen mothers are among the disadvantaged group in society. They found it difficult to get jobs, their schooling is often disrupted (if not discontinued) and they are likely not to receive child support from their male partners. Therefore, the researcher’s intention was to find out the response of male partners towards the support of their children after divorce and to what extent single mothers are at a disadvantage in Tororo district.

1.8. Research Methodology

1.8.1 Introduction
This section discusses the methodology or plans that were used to carry out the study. The section presents the locale of the study, population, sample size and sampling procedures, research design, the research instruments, procedures of data collection and data analysis.

1.8.2 Research design
The study was mainly descriptive in nature and the researcher employed both qualitative and quantitative methods. Descriptive design enabled the researcher to describe the nature of the problem under study, that is, the challenges of female headed families in Tororo district.

Working with such information, demanded the use of both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Qualitative approach allowed the researcher to get closer to the subject for a detailed inquiry into the phenomena under investigation, that is, causes, challenges and effects of female headed families and the church contribution towards it.

Quantitative research on the other hand, involved the collection of numerical data in order to explain, predict and analyze the phenomena under study. Besides, quantitative research was applied in order to give the accurate statistics of the current conditions of single mothers in Tororo district and in finding out the efforts the church has employed towards the alleviation of such women.
1.8.3 Area of study
The research was carried out in Tororo district in Uganda. Tororo district is one of the oldest among the now many districts of Uganda. It is located in the Eastern part of Uganda. Tororo district has a moderate climate and it is a plain land with a few rocks and the most notable is the Tororo rock. The district shares common borders with Malaba in the East, Busia in the South, Mbale in the North, Butaleja in the West and Bugiri in the South West.

1.8.4 Study population
The study targeted the Christian churches in Tororo district. The total population of Christian churches in Tororo district is over 7,000 church members with around 30 pastors, 2 bishops and a number of reverends and priests. However, the sample size in this study was 162.

The researcher has chosen the Christian church because; these are the most competent and have rich information required in this study. Secondly, time and resources cannot allow her to survey all the churches. Thirdly, being a member in this church, she can easily reach these Christians and solicit information needed in meeting the objectives from them. The study investigated district pastors, Bishops and other church leaders because these are the people with rich information regarding the study. The researcher also investigated some government officials for the purpose of augmenting the study, moreover, some of the single mothers were subjected to study because these are the people directly affected and hence understands the cause-effect of female headed families.
### 1.8.5 Sample Size

The subjects that participated in the study were selected as shown below:

#### Sample Respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tools</th>
<th>Categories of subject</th>
<th>Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Interview schedule</td>
<td>CATHOLICS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bishop</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Priests</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Single mothers</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PROTESTANT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bishop</td>
<td>01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Priests</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Single mothers</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PENTACOSTALS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>District pastors</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lay leaders</td>
<td>08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>single mothers</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Questionnaires</td>
<td>CATHOLICS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Priests</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lay leaders</td>
<td>07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Single mothers</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PROTESTANTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Priests</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deacons</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deaconess</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lay leaders</td>
<td>09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Single mothers</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PENTECOSTALS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deacons</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Deaconess</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lay leaders</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>District civil leaders</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Single mothers</td>
<td>04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>162</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.8.6 Sampling Procedure
The study employed purposeful sampling. Purposeful sampling enabled the researcher to select the key subjects who have rich information needed for the study. This also enabled the researcher to reach the subjects who are educated and who can easily fill in the questionnaires. Besides, purposeful sampling enabled the researcher to choose key leaders that is; Pastors, Bishops, church elders and single mothers. These respondents were interviewed and they know much about the progress of the church and the communities. Besides, these informants have much experience of how the church has been running hence easy to single them out using purposeful sampling.

1.8.7 Research Instruments for Data Collection
1.8.7.1 Introduction
In pursuance of the study objectives, the researcher adopted a combination of instruments of data collection. Because of the large number of participants and the in-depth information the study required, the researcher used questionnaire, interview schedule, observation, focus group discussions and document sources. The researcher carried out a pilot study to pretest her tools especially the questionnaires and interview guide to perfect them to accuracy, reliability and validity.

1.8.7.2 Questionnaire
The major data gathering tool was questionnaire. The first part of the questionnaire required relevant personal particulars (biographical data) of the respondent and the second part of the
questionnaire incorporated questions about the research topic covering all the objectives. The questionnaire was self-administered and the nature of question was open and close ended.

1.8.7.3 Interview Schedule
The second tool used in data collection was interview schedule. Interview allowed the researcher to solicit appropriate information from the subjects and it gave them room to express their feelings freely. Interview schedule was flexible and the researcher was able to readjust questions where need arose in order to obtain the relevant needed data. The interview comprised of only open ended questions.

1.8.7.4. Observation
The researcher also used observation as another tool of data collection. The use observation increased validity of information already obtained and as such this acted as check on the data collected through interviews and questionnaires.

Observation was imperative in this study because it provided relevant information about effects of female headed families, especially in assessing their socio-economic status. As the researcher observes, she took notes of the prevailing conditions in Tororo district regarding female headed families but within the frame work of the research objectives. This also enabled the researcher to interact with the respondents, creating rapport which made the informants to express themselves and explain issues dearly.
To make data collected more viable, the researcher observed conditions as a new learner willing to learn. This was enhanced by creating rapport first with the people and winning their acceptance. She then described places, objects, events, activities and conversations; this also enhanced successful interviewing.

Observation also provided the researcher with the opportunity to move beyond the selective perception of others and permit her to draw on personal knowledge during interpersonal stage of analysis. Direct observation enabled the researcher to obtain information that some interviewees were unwilling to give during interview. This is because the researcher had opportunity to see things that may routinely escape awareness among the people in the setting. In spite of allowing the researcher to have an experience of the effects of female headed families, it above all provided opportunity to learn about the life -- world of the people of Tororo district.

1.8.7.5 Focus group discussion

A focus group is described as an organized informal group discussion among selected individuals about a specific topic relevant to the situation at hand. The goal of focus group interview is to create a candid, normal conversation that addresses a selected topic in-depth. Focus group discussion was chosen to help the researcher have face to face interaction with the women especially those heading their families in Tororo district. This facilitated communication in a relaxed group setting where the participants openly expressed their opinion and experiences.
1.8.7.6 Document sources
Additionally, the researcher had to assess some documents both in the church and in the local government offices. This enabled the researcher to gather information such as, the number of female headed families and their challenges among others. The researcher also visited offices, libraries, internet, churches and local leaders' offices in Tororo district to assess the already compiled document about female headed families and this have enabled her to have an in-depth knowledge into the phenomena.

1.8.8 Procedure of Data collection
The researcher got an introductory letter from the department of religious studies Kyambogo University. With this letter, the researcher proceeded to the field (Tororo district) to collect data.

1.8.9. Data processing and Analysis
The instrument for data collection were checked by the supervisor to ascertain their validity and thereafter pre-tested to ensure validity. This means the researcher engaged in pilot study for accuracy and reliability. Then data was collected and processed. This involved organizing the data into manageable units, categorizing it according to the objectives, comparing, coding and tabulating it for easy analysis. Data for each objective was analyzed separately using descriptive statistics. Data collected was validated, edited and then coded. Analyzing of data was simplified by the use of Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS) and the result will be presented in chapter two, three and four.
1.8.10. Ethical considerations

The researcher was openly and honestly explained the purpose and aim of the study to her respondents. The information given by respondents to facilitate the collection of data was seriously taken into consideration.

The researcher never discriminated any person on the basis of gender, marital status, age, religion, economic status, educational status or even ethnicity. All respondents willingly accepted to participate in the study by responding to the questionnaires and interviews; no one was forced to take part in this exercise.

The researcher respected the confidentiality and anonymity of all participants who requested for it.

The researcher compiled with the rules and regulations set by Scientific Research Standards. In this case, the researcher recognized all the sources of information cited by acknowledging the various authors and their information as she carried out the study.

The researcher used decent language to solicit information without hurting the feeling of a person, group of persons or any organization when addressing the problem of female headed families in Tororo district.

The researcher got legal permission from the University of Kyambogo.

1.9 Research constraints

The researcher encountered the following limitations:
Firstly, Tororo district has a problem of transport. It became hard to access some parts of the district because of poor roads. The researcher however used the available transport means such as motorcycles, bicycle (boda boda) in order to reach all parts of the district.

Secondly, there was a financial challenge. Research is a very expensive engagement that needs a lot of money for its accomplishment. The researcher solicited for funds from well-wishers and donors which curbed this challenge.

The third challenge is that, there was a possibility of respondents misinterpreting the questionnaire. In this case the researcher engaged in pilot study which solved this problem.

Time is a big challenge given the fact that the researcher is at the same time employed. She however, asked for annual leave in order to concentrate on the research to save time.

The literature on my topic of research is still scarce in Kyambogo University. In this regard the researcher visited many universities and libraries especially those with strong religious backgrounds like Uganda Christian University Mukono. Journals, newspapers internet and encyclopedia that may offer relevant literature will be utilized.

Some of the single mothers who were selected as subjects for interviewing were reluctant to talk about some of their challenges. The researcher however endeavored to convince and assure such interviewees of the confidentiality and security with which the data will be handled.
Some of the respondents are very busy and difficult to get. This caused delays in filling the questionnaires. To overcome this, the researcher incurred quiet a lot on air time so as to make appointments with subjects and constantly but carefully reminded the subjects about the questionnaires.

1.10 Operational Definition of Terms.

Female headed families: Is the type of family formed through separation or divorce or death of husband or adoption by unmarried individuals resulting in mothers taking full responsibility of raising up the children.

A family: Is any group of persons united by the ties of marriage, blood or adaptation.

Divorce: is the legal termination of marriage

Response: reaction, an act produced in answer to stimulus.

Church: Is a community of believers. It is also used to refer to a building for Christians to worship in.

Pentecostal churches: The name is derived from the day of Pentecost. This was the fiftieth day after the Passover when the Holy Spirit came upon the disciples as recorded in Acts chapter 2. Pentecostal churches therefore, are Christian churches that believe that the out pouring of the Holy Spirit recorded in Acts chapter 2 of the New Testament has been repeated in the churches. This is accompanied with speaking in tongues, prophecy, healing the sick, visions and where need be, a reconciliatory ministry between races and classes.

Challenges: these are difficulties, problems or demanding situations that need attention, thought provoking and possibly mind boggling. It is something that must be dealt with.
CHAPTER TWO
THE CAUSES AND CHALLENGES OF FEMALE HEADED
FAMILIES IN TORORO DISTRICT

2.1 Introduction
In this chapter, the findings of the study on the causes and challenges of female headed families
are presented; based on the demographic characteristics of the respondents and the research
questions earlier on formulated. The study particularly was aimed at investigating the challenges
of female headed families in Tororo district.

Table 1: showing the number of respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S/no</th>
<th>Respondents</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Age bracket</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Catholics</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>30 to 55</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Protestants</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>28 to 60</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Pentecostals</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>25 to 50</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>District civil leaders</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>30 to 35</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Female headed mothers</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25 to 45</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>25 to 60</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the table, it is indicated clearly that, there are 162 respondents divided into five groups: the
Catholics, Protestants, Pentecostals, district civil leaders and female headed mothers. The table
also showed that the age bracket of the respondents lied between twenty five (25) and sixty (60)
years. While all the female headed mothers involved in the study are between the ages of twenty five (25) and forty five (45) years.

According to the research findings, in Tororo, female headed family is the type of family formed by separation or divorce between the husband and wife; or by the death of a husband thus giving full responsibility to the mother over the child or children. In conformity to the researcher’s definition David and Caroline, defined female headed family as the type of family in which the mother typically has primary custody of the child or children but the father living out of the house is still a part of the child’s family.¹

The study revealed that women of the current generation, in contrast to the previous, differed in life pattern most especially in:

Marriage; when a lady reached a certain age bracket she was expected to get married

Motherhood; every married woman was expected to produce children and take care of the family.

Widowhood; that at certain time, it was invertible for any woman to become a widow following the death of the husband. That is, female headed families existed in the past, but they were formed by widowhood rather than divorce or births to unmarried women; significant numbers were headed by men.

But today, a new marriage and family pattern has taken root where divorce rate has gone high and its greatest impact has been on women and their children. The life pattern many married women today experience is:

- Marriage
- Motherhood
- Divorce
- Single parenting
- Remarriage
- Widowhood

Female headed families according to findings in Tororo district shared a number of characteristics including the following:

- This kind of family is mainly created by divorce and domestic violence which was discussed in detail later in this chapter.

- Most of these families lived in poverty. Such women usually experienced a sharp drop in their income when they divorced their husbands.

- They are under constant economic stress in trying to make ends meet.

- A number of them work for low wages.

- They are unable to plan for development because of their constant financial uncertainty.

- They moved more frequently than two parent families as economic and living situations changed, uprooting themselves and their children.
• They accepted material support from kin but often at the price of receiving unsolicited free advice especially from their mothers.

• Female headed families are usually a transitional state. They have strong motivation to marry, remarry or reconciled with their husbands because of cultural expectations, economic stress, role overload and a need for emotional security and intimacy.

However, the study in Tororo district revealed that female headed families truly exist but are not the fastest growing type of family although there is a possibility that it may increase especially in the urban centres. Although Bryan, Christine and Barbara, contended that throughout the world, female headed families are increasing in number. To them, in the United States, they are the fastest growing family form; no other family type has increased in number as rapidly. They found out that between 1970 and 1995 the percentage of children living in female headed families nearly doubled, increasing from 13 to 22 percent (U.S Bureau of the census 1996).²

2.2 CAUSES OF FEMALE HEADED FAMILIES IN TORORO DISTRICT
Research findings on the causes of female headed families in Tororo district was discussed according to the different categories of divorce, domestic violence, death of husbands and irresponsible husbands.

Table 2 showing the causes of female headed families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Divorce or separation</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domestic violence</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death of husbands</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irresponsible husbands</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>162</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The study discovered that the greatest percentage of the respondents 60 (37.0%), said that female headed families is majorly caused by domestic violence. This is because many women prefer to live singly than living in relationships which threatened their lives and the lives of their children. According to them, domestic violence was on the increase in almost every society and this was mainly as a result of social characteristics, low self esteem among some men, alcoholism and male dominance. As a matter of facts, some women have even lost their dear lives and others horribly injured as a result of gender based violence in families. This finding agreed with John’s report that domestic violence was on the increase. He pointed out that at least 600,000 women are victims of family violence each year though most of the cases often go unreported to police. However, God in Malachi 2:16 said that, He hates a man covering himself

---

with violence. This means that God expect every man to love and take care of his wife rather causing pain in her.

From the table above also, 40 (24.7%) of the respondents affirmed that female headed families is caused by divorce or separation. Divorce according to respondents is the legal ending of a valid marriage arrangement. To them, this has been as a result of many factors such as extra marital sexual relations, changing gender roles, education and increasing income in the hands of many women; race and ethnicity, and equality promotion. Nijole’s findings concurred with the findings in Tororo. According to her, the greater acceptance of divorce today has created change in family structures. Indeed to her, separation or divorce is now seen to have become ‘an intrinsic feature of modern family life than a temporary aberration’. The researcher observed that, many men and women who are in marriage; and those preparing to join the system have developed negative attitudes towards the concept of marriage. Actually both men and women have not showed honour for the institution although Hebrews 13:4 admonishes all people who are involved in marriage to honor it. The result is, the many female headed families flooding our societies today.

Furthermore from the table, 32 (19.8%) of the respondents said that death of husbands have also caused the rise of female headed families. According to them, the cause of death includes HIV/AIDS scourge, accidents and witchcrafts.

---

The rest of the respondents 30 (18.5%) observed that there was increasing neglect of responsibility among many men today. To them, most men have developed the 'I don’t care attitude' which has left most mothers helpless as they are left to struggle in the upbringing of children. They sadly said that, most men are taken with the spirit of individualism which mainly comes as a result of greed. It is unfortunate that such men always abandoned the large family for a small one, they expressed.

2.2.1 Divorce
Divorce is the legal ending of a valid marriage arrangement. The reasons for divorce have generated thousands of books and articles. Researchers have collected an overwhelming amount of data suggesting that divorce itself as well as the rise in divorce rates can be explained on three major levels: macro or societal; demographic and interpersonal. However, the researcher was more concerned with the socio economic, cultural and religious causes which in turn have led to the rise of female headed families in Tororo district.

2.2.1.1 Socio economic cause
These factors emanate from social economic perspective. They are mainly concerned with the relationship between the husband and wife in a family, which usually if not managed rightly may lead to divorce thus increasing the number of female headship among women.

---

Table 3 showing the causes of divorce which has resulted in the rise of female headship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Factors</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Individualism</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender roles</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extra marital relationships</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Socio economic status</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education and income</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at marriage and level of education</td>
<td>09</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race and ethnicity</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>7.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equality promotion</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious factor</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>162</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The survey carried out from Tororo revealed that 40 (24.7%) of the respondents agreed that today’s family members spent less time together. They correctly observed that family members are more individualistic and are more concerned with personal happiness than with the well being of their families. Besides individualism, the respondents further revealed that divorce came as a result of specific behaviors of spouses that they found increasingly intolerable such as not being respectful, or supportive, spending too many evenings out with friends, watching football (world cup) which keeps them to the owe hours of the night, and generally not being
committed to the family life. All these have increased the number of divorce and thus increasing
the number of female headed families.

Pastor Joshua equally stressed that, most men and women have embraced western culture in
favour of the biblical teachings. But unfortunately this western culture puts emphasis only on
romantic relationship as opposed to companionship. For this reason many families have been
torn apart in the name of westernization.  

Nijole’s findings agreed with the survey done by the researcher. She observed that certain
intolerable behavior from spouses such as extra marital affairs, substance abuse, arguments about
money, lack of communication and disagreement on how to discipline children may cause
divorce.

From the table above also, 20 (12.3%) of the respondents suggested that changing gender roles,
especially employed women’s growing independence could be associated with an increase in
divorce rates. According to respondents, women are becoming more assertive of their needs and
rights and so they expect their spouses to communicate with them and to share domestic tasks.
They emphasized that if women are employed, they are more likely to leave unhappy marriages
when these expectations are not met. They further contended that women’s increasing
participation in the labour force has reduced some wives financial dependence on husbands, thus
such women found it easier to leave unhappy marriages they are entangled in. The respondents

---

6 Joshua Higenyi, 42years. Pastor Glory Life Church, Tororo municipality, Tororo district. Interviewed on
Wednesday 7th August, 2013.
7 Ibid., pp. 403-408
especially women further confessed that it was difficult to continue with stress in some marriages; more so in situations where a woman is economically sufficient, thus they opted for divorce thus resulting in female headed families as children preferred to live with mothers. Though some researchers suggests (would think) however, that a woman’s employment could have a stabilizing effect on a marriage, on the contrary women employment did not mean stability in marriages. To such researchers, a wife’s income would increase the family’s financial security which made marriage a more attractive alternative for both partners than becoming single again.  

According to Robert and Baur’s findings in the US, it revealed that comparative ease of obtaining no fault divorces is one of the factors responsible for the divorce rates in the US. To them, since the liberalization of divorce laws in the 1970s, obtaining divorce has become a simple, less expensive legal process. They further revealed that, the reduction in the social stigma attached to divorce also increased the divorce rates in the US. To them, divorce has become legally easier to obtain because the stigma attached to it has lessened; and yet more children have been raised by divorced mothers.  

However, in Uganda, the divorce bill which was recently passed in 2011 cannot be a serious factor for the rise of divorce rate in Tororo district or in Uganda as a whole. In this bill, if married partners opted for divorce, then both parties are to agree to share the assets they could have attained while in marriage. Most people are opposed to this bill, which made it to be the least factor for female headed families as a whole. However, all these are men’s ideas which can never change the word of God on divorce.

---

8 Ibid., pp. 409

He (God) said that, for that reason a man was to leave his father and mother; and then he was to be joined together with his and the two where to become one. This meant that marriage was to be permanent without divorce.

Furthermore, the table showed that, 30 (18.5%) of the respondents, suggested that extra marital relationship is the least factor in causing divorce in the district thus female headed families. This was because most men still observed their cultural values where one is free to have as many relationships as possible. Actually, almost all the respondents agreed that extra marital relationship existed in most marriages and more especially among the men which society perceived as a normal occurrence. They pointed out that, if extramarital was to be a serious factor in causing divorce, then we would have more female headed families in Tororo district than two parent families. But this factor seemed not to raise alarm due to traditional stereotype that male extra involvement is an acceptable phenomenon.

Though John’s findings in the US, offered contrary ideas about divorce; because he suggested that, their culture bases marriage on romantic love. And as a result, relationships failed when sexual passion fades away. He further observed that many people especially husbands ended marriages in favor of a new relationship that renews excitement and romance.  

10 This was not so in Tororo district and Uganda as a whole.

In addition, 16 (9.9%) of the respondents revealed that, separation and divorce rates are high among the couples with high socio economic status than those with lower socio economic status resulting in increased female headed families. A number of respondents agreed and pointed out

that in such families, majority of women have not understood the concept of women’s right. They perceived it as equality to men’s status, and as a result they tend to have high expectations from their husbands. Many of them believed that having a highly placed position say in politics or army or civil service automatically puts them above their spouses. To the researcher, this is a false imagination. And on the other hand, men in such families who were unable to bow down to women’s demands and expectations have no option but to end the marriage.

Constance’s findings in the US however, showed that marital instability (separation and divorce) is more frequent among people in the lower socio economic status of society than people with higher educational levels. higher incomes and higher status occupations have lower marital dissolution (separation and divorce) rates. Likewise, poor families were twice as likely to break up as non poor families. In the same way according to her, lower status married couples have higher divorce rates because they faced more crisis and disruptions in their lives, such as unemployment and uncertain jobs.11 This was contrary to the researcher’s survey in Tororo district, since high socio economic status of these women propelled them to female headships.

The report also revealed that, 11(6.8%) of men who married early before attaining their higher educational levels, tended to divorce the women they got before attaining high education level in favor of those who have attained educational level like them. While on the other hand, most women who have attained high educational level, tended to increase the possibility of divorce hence increased female headed families. This was because most men felt insured with women

---

who attained higher education level than them and it was worse if they earned more than them; and yet such women had higher expectations from their husbands. They expected to be comforted, to be told that they are loved or to be shown in other ways that they are appreciated and valued for their contributions in the family; or they compared themselves with unrealistic models as portrayed in films or on television. When such expectations are not met, it led them to live on their own.

In conformity to findings in Tororo district, Nijole revealed that in general low educational attainment and low income increase possibility of divorce. According to her findings, the more education a man had, the less likely he was to divorce. The effect of educational attainment on women’s likelihood of divorce is more complex. To her, even though a wife’s higher education decreases the probability of divorce early in a marriage, it increased her risk of divorce later in the marriage. This finding reflected changes over the life course, including a wife’s employment, her rising income, her increased dissatisfaction if her husband did not share domestic and child rearing tasks, and her greater freedom from household responsibilities after children left the home.  

The research findings also pointed out that, 9 (5.6%) of the people in Tororo district who get married at early age have increased the chance of divorce thus increasing the number of female headed families. Actually, according to respondents, couples who married under the age of 18 were especially prone to divorce. To them, this was because, when young couples experienced

---

12 Ibid., pp. 409-410
problems in marriage, parents and relatives disapproved of the marriage thus encouraging divorce which also resulted in such young women to opt to live on their own with the children got in such marriages. In most cases they pointed out that, young couples are poorly prepared for marital responsibilities than the older spouses. They are unhappy than older spouses about their partners in terms of love, affection, sex, wage earnings, companionship and faithfulness.

In conformity to research findings in Tororo district, Research according Robert and Baur revealed that people who married in their teen years are more likely to divorce than those who married in their 20s. To them, individuals who married after the age of 30 have even lower divorce rates. They further found out that, there appeared to be an inverse relationship between level of education and divorce rates; that is, the lower the educational level, the higher the divorce rate and the higher the educational level, the lower the divorce rate. However, to them, the one exception is a disproportionately high divorce rates among women who have achieved high education level; perhaps the increased economic and social independence of professional women with advanced degrees contributed to this exception in divorce rate pattern. 13

The research findings further revealed that couples with different ethnicities, cultural customs or beliefs were more likely to divorce than couples with the same ethnicity, cultural customs or beliefs thus increasing the number of female headed families. 12 (7.4%) of the respondents observed that, women who got married to men from different tribes from them, were physically and psychologically tortured by their husbands and the in-laws just because they were not from that particular tribe. The study in Tororo also revealed that, there was more divorce rates among the Iteso than the Jopadhola who lived in Tororo. This many respondents confirmed, it was


51
because of the high level of alcoholism among the Iteso than any other tribe in Tororo district. The respondents’ view was further supported by Akoth Gladys a Jopadhola who revealed that, she was tormented by the husband and the in laws just because she was not an Iteso. As a result, she was forced to divorce and now single handedly taking care of the children she got in that marriage.  

The study in Tororo agreed with Constance’s study which showed that, African Americans have higher rates of divorce than whites. That those African Americans were also much more likely than the white Americans to remain in separated status. These differences in marital stability are relatively recent. However, she contended that the deteriorating economic status of African Americans who lived in urban areas and their greater likelihood of being unemployed and living in poverty contributed to higher rates on marital disruption.  

The findings accordingly showed that, 11 (6.8%) of women who have attained high educational levels and who are economically sound were aware of their rights in marriages and that was why in Tororo, the respondents confirmed that, the increased economic independence of women increased the importance of relationship satisfaction over financial dependence in women’s decisions to divorce; leading many of them to live singly thus increasing the number of female heads in Tororo. On the other hand, women with low educational level were ignorant about their rights coupled with low socio economic status and sometimes are forced to endure even abusive marriages.

14 Gladys Akoth 28 yrs, Nurse, Agururu zone Tororo municipality, Interviewed on 17th July 2013.

Whereas Nijole observed that, the women’s movement during the late 1970s challenged the traditional beliefs that women should stay in unhappy or abusive marriage. Throughout the 1990s and 1980s many therapists and attorneys not only sent massages that “divorce is okay” but flooded the market with self-help books on how to get a divorce and how to cope with loneliness and how to deal with child custody disputes and legal issues which promoted divorce. This survey in relation to the researcher’s study did not apply to her study area. This was because most women are illiterates who did not know how to read and write, and in addition, such women’s movements do not exist in Tororo district to incite the women there in.

The research conducted in Tororo revealed that religion played a mix role in divorce rates which automatically leads to female headship. 13 (8.0%) of the respondents on the one hand observed that, people who claimed that religion is very important in their lives are much less likely to divorce regardless of their specific religious denominations. The research also found out that having the same religion is also highly associated with marital stability. In fact, according to respondents, spouses who followed the same religion or who converted to spouse’s religion at marriage were more likely to reconcile after separation. They pointed out that similarity was important in marital stability because it increased the commonality between partner’s traditions, values and sense of community. This argument was supported by Beatrice Athieno a mother heading her family. She revealed that, she failed in her marriage because of the differences in their religions. Beatrice who is a born again Christian was married to a Muslim. ‘We failed to come to a common stand in our marriage because everything about our religions were

---

completely parallel’, she lamented. To her, it became so difficult for both of them to live happily in that marriage hence resulted into divorce.17 The above findings concurred with a survey conducted in 1999 by Constance showing that religion is related to separation and divorce. The reason for this unexpected relationship was that, the lower socio economic statuses of members of these denominations led to higher divorce rates.18

From the above analysis, it was clear that individualism 40 (24.7%) among spouses especially husbands have increased the number of divorce which automatically results in the rise in female headed families. The communal type of life which existed in African traditional society have faded away, so much that people are only concerned with their lives at the expense of even their own biological children.

2.2.2 Death of husband

This section analyzed the number of female headed families who were widowed and those who are not to ascertain the exact trend.

Table 4 showing female headed families caused by death of husbands

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>41.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non widowed</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>58.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17 Beatrice Athieno 33 years, Nurse, water village Tororo municipality. Interviewed on 21st July 2013.

18 Ibid., pp. 416
In Tororo district, not all female headed families are caused by divorce and separation but others are formed as a result of the death of a husband.

Out of the 24 female headed families the researcher interviewed, only 10 (41.7%) are widows while the greatest percentage 14 (58.3%) are none widowed. In Tororo, the death of husbands is believed to be caused by a number of factors including; HIV/AIDS scourge, natural deaths, witchcrafts and accidents among others.

Accordingly, their case was quite different from the other group of female headed families created as result of either separation or divorce or domestic violence. This was because they were more accepted in society and the community was more willing to support them than the other group. These groups of women are mostly found in protestant and catholic churches but so rare in the Pentecostal churches.

Respondents suggested that, female headed families caused by divorce are mostly found in Pentecostal churches. This was because most women after divorce and separation looked for places where they can get emotional and psychological healing; and most people believed that Pentecostal churches are always more welcoming and willing to give that type of service.

The above discussion meant that death of husbands 10 (41.7%) did not pose serious threat to the development of female headed families notwithstanding the fact that they exist in Tororo district.
But other factors such as divorce, domestic violence, and religious factors are the major causes of female headed families.

2.2.3 Domestic Violence

According to Laverne, violence is any act of gender based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual and psychological harm or suffering on women, including threats of such acts, coercion and arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in public or private life. These include: physical acts like battering, rape, child sexual abuse, stalking and inappropriate touching in the case of sexual harassment in the work place. It include verbal and physical violence against intimate partners like yelling, intimidation or humiliation, inappropriate personal remarks made to co workers or students and offensive sexist ‘jokes’. It also includes ‘forced isolation, denial of support or threats of violence, or injury or murder to women in the family’. 19

From this definition therefore, and from the study conducted in Tororo district, showed that domestic violence became the most extreme cause currently of the rising number of female headed families. This involved wife battering, stabbing, murder and other forms of domestic violence were ugly reality of family life in Tororo today. In a sense, domestic violence began even before marriage in the form of violence behavior within dating and courtship relationships. Actually, violence against women was not limited to Tororo district but it is a national phenomenon evident in all ethnicities. The daily monitor of Thursday July 16, 2015 confirmed

that, domestic violence was evident in Uganda as a whole. In Futu Luangwa Marimba sub-county in Kabarole district, the monitor reported that residents woke up to the shocking sight of a woman cut to pieces by her husband. Such stories showed that domestic violence is real and that the statistics indicated that, it is a common place in Uganda. The same paper established that according to a study of Uganda Bureau of Statistics, close to 70% of married women aged 15 to 49 had experienced some form of violence at the hands of their partners. While the police revealed that a total of 3,426 cases of domestic violence were investigated compared to 2,793 cases in 2012, indicating an increase of 18.4%.  

---

Table 5 showing the Data from the survey concerning violence by husbands towards their wives, which has led to increased female headship in Tororo district is displayed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violent acts</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage engaged</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kicked or Beaten up</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threaten with sharp objects</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stabbed with sharp objects</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murdered</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>162</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

20 Beatrice Nakibuka, Daily Monitor, gender based violence, Thursday, July 16, 2015, pp. 36

57
The table above showed that women in Tororo went through different violent acts from their spouses. It is true that in Tororo district we have no accurate statistics on domestic violence against women but a report from ‘MIFUM’, an organization which handled domestic violence against women in Tororo estimated that at least 40 to 70 women were victims of domestic violence each year.

The table also showed that, women 60 (37.0%) are either beaten or tortured by their spouses in their families. 40 (24.7%) of women were threatened with sharp objects like knives, pangas or guns or chemicals. 34 (21.0%) of women were stabbed or injured with chemicals like acid. Such violent acts have caused untold pains in the lives of such victims. And 28 (17.3%) of women, in the course of such abuses have lost their dear lives.

On a sad note observed the respondents, was that in reality family brutality often went unreported to police and if it was done then it was reluctantly handled which has resulted in continued brutality of women. Many men have successfully walked away with it since there is no serious penalty in place to deter others from repeating the same crime. In the study conducted in the US, John correctly showed that, family brutality often went unreported to the police but the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (1997) estimated that at least 600,000 women were victims of domestic violence each year. That almost 30% of women (but only 3% of men) who were victims of homicide were killed by spouses or more often ex spouses. 21

---
21 ibid., pp. 340
2.2.3.1 The causes of domestic violence.
Apart from assessing the violent acts of husbands towards their wives which has incidentally led to increase in the female headship in Tororo, the study sought out to find out the causes of these violent acts of men towards women.

Table 6 showing the causes of domestic violence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Causes</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Social characteristics</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>19.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low self-esteem</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male dominance</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>27.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The study findings suggested that, family violence cut across societies. 32 (19.8%) of the respondents observed that although the rate of abusive husband to wife violence occurred in families at all income levels, economic stress increased the likelihood of wife battering. Spouse abuse was more likely in low income families and unemployed men were twice as likely to batter their wives as employed men were.

This observation was in line with that of David and John who said that, marital violence has been found to be more among couples with low occupational status, low income and job dissatisfaction; and among couples who were socially isolated, who have a greater number of dependent children in the home, and who experienced violence in their family of origin. 22

---
The study pointed out that, 20 (12.3%) of the respondents revealed that, low self-esteem was a factor in domestic violence. That, the abusive husbands, felt inadequate and used violence to gain control. The abusive spouses passively accepted the violence feeling that she deserved nothing better. They correctly pointed out that, this was more common to men whose economic status was lower than for their wives.

However, David and John believed that violence in families was associated with poor conflict resolution and communication skills; and unequal decision making responsibilities, which was held solely by the husbands. The researcher believed that violence against women ought to be viewed as a human rights issue, especially considering the profound impact of such abuses on physical and emotional wellbeing of women who were attacked.

From the table above, 65 (40.1%) of respondents suggested that, alcohol is related to domestic violence incidents. According to them, many men who assaulted their wives were found to have been drinking. Respondents’ observations argued that alcohol facilitated violence by helping to break down the abuser’s inhibitions.

David and John’s findings concurred with this study findings. They contended that alcohol and family violence are statistically related. The higher the alcohol consumption level, the higher the domestic violence; and the lower the level of consumption, the lower the level of domestic violence. To them, the national sample of more than 2000 couples found out that, the more often

\[^{23}\text{Ibid., pp. 406}\]
a spouse was drunk; the greater likelihood there was physical violence in the marital relationship.²⁴

From the table also, 45 (27.8%) of the respondents noted that, many people in both Jopadhola and Iteso cultures believed that males have the right to control or try to control their partners. Men have also been socialized to believe that aggression is an acceptable, normal response to stress and anger. A patriarchal family system influenced males to assume the head of the household role and women to accept subordinate status. To them, egalitarian decision making was associated with non violence in families. This research also showed that, a level of wife beating and husband beating is higher among husband dominant couples than among democratic couples.

In conformity to this study, David and John said that, uncontrolled competitiveness and win at any cost attitudes can lead to brutality in the home. They observed that, today boys are being raised in a culture that discouraged nurturing behavior and this led many to grow up to be men who denigrates and beat women. To them, we live in a society with a high tolerance for overt coercion and the use of physical force to gain control over others.²⁵

²⁴ ibid., pp.407
²⁵ ibid., pp. 408
2.2.4 Irresponsible husbands

The study found out that, in Tororo, some women head their families more over in the presence of their husbands. Therefore, this area discussed the number of women abandoned from within their husband’s homes and the reasons for this trend.

**Table 7 showing the number of women abandoned or neglected**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No/women</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abandoned</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neglected</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>43.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cared for</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>26.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>162</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Irresponsibility on husband’s sides accounted for female headed families in Tororo district. Research findings in Tororo showed that, most men have not only abandoned their families, but they have also neglected their God given responsibilities of heading them. The researcher actually found out that, female headed families were not only found without the men’s environment or vicinity, but also in some of the men’s own compounds.

From the table above, 50 (30.9%) of respondents, showed that these women were abandoned by their husbands for another smaller family. They believed that, such men were now common in most societies. This was because the young boys growing up to become husbands were being raised up in a culture that promoted irresponsibility. Our societies seemed to go through a vicious circle of responsibilities; since irresponsible father cannot raise up a responsible son.
While 70 (43.2%) of respondents pointed out that, some women were generally neglected with very minimal help. They revealed that, such men were taken up by greed so much that they ate from hotels and then went home to sleep. Such men hid under the cover of socialization. They believed that, they have to hang out with friends up to late and went home when everyone had gone to bed. Such men actually left home very early in the morning and returned home very late to avoid being asked for family welfare.

And only 42 (26.0) of women were being taken care of by their husbands. According to respondents, what was amazing was that, even if they lived in the same compound with these women, they did not support them. Researcher’s interview with Margret Abbo from sub-county, she revealed that, she had lived in the same condition moreover in the same environment with her partner for now 5 years; and more striking was that, the man watched and knew the struggle Margret under went through with his own children, but the man was untouched about the whole situation. In this, it is clear that most men have become irresponsible and this has been caused by the spirit of individualism and greed which is on the increase among men today. Another mother, Awori immaculate from petta said that, her husband abandoned her with children but in his own home and went and married another woman from a nearby trading centre. Immaculate was still shocked that the husband did not either reach home nor sent her any support for the children and she is now fully struggling to make ends meet in that family. This sounds strange but it is true and not only in Tororo district but also in other districts too in Uganda.

---

26 Margret Abbo 26yrs, peasant, Paya sub county. Interviewed on Friday August 9, 2013

27 Immaculate Awori 32 yrs, Peasant, Petta Sub County. Interviewed on Saturday August 10, 2013
From the discussion above, on the causes of female headed families in Tororo district, it showed clearly that, domestic violence is the major cause of these families. This is because most women have developed fear for their lives and the lives of their children more especially where domestic violence involved serious injury or death. Most women now think, it is better to live on their own but where their lives and their children are secured.

2.2.3 Challenges of female headed families in Tororo district:
In this section, the findings are discussed according to the categories of challenges female headed families are faced with in Tororo district.

Table 8 showing the challenges of female headed families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Responsibility overload</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>24.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional and disciplinary needs</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial challenge</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>40.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult sexual need</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of respect</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research findings point out that 40 (24.7%) of the respondents explained that whereas in two parent households both parents shared responsibility of making plans and decisions concerning the finance use, children’s wellbeing and their personal wellbeing; in a single parenthood on the other hand, made their plans and decisions alone. They are equally alone in ensuring the care and well being of their families. This finding was in line with Ian’s findings. He observed that, female heads must have to handle all of the tasks usually distributed between the two people
such as maintaining their homes, caring for their children and performing satisfactorily in their jobs. They too spent much of the time handling the tasks that must be completed on a daily basis, that often, they have little or no time for themselves.28

Perhaps the greatest challenge of female headed families was to satisfy the emotional needs of their children alone. These families reported that, children demanded a lot from them; children needed love which they expected their mothers to express in numerous ways, from hugs to helping with home work. Some mothers revealed that, sometimes they returned from work tired to carry out any activity at home again. This showed clearly that female headed families must often cope up with the emotional needs of their children by themselves: in addition to maintaining a home and holding a job. This also meant that very often these women’s emotional needs and wants must go unfulfilled as they have nobody mature around them to share with their experiences in life.

On the discipline of children in female headed family, 20 (12.3%) of respondents suggested that, because most of these women were loaded with responsibilities, it became very difficult to effectively monitor their children’s discipline; and as result most children in these families at a certain age became so unruly. However, most of these mothers revealed that, some children from their families have indeed portrayed a high level of indiscipline: more especially when they entered adolescent stage. They openly confessed that at this stage, these children experienced a lot of changes in their lives which at times caused them to behave and act so wickedly. They

---

however correctly observed that, it was not only children from their families were indiscipline but even in two parent families. This finding concurred with lan who pointed out that female heads have more limited help in monitoring their children and disciplining them. Indiscipline according to the researcher cuts across. This is because whether two parent families or single parent home, the story is the same. Most children today read, listen and watch rotten movies and materials which have escalated moral decay in their lives. This is the reason why we hear of many strikes in schools and institutions.

Although indiscipline can be found in both types of families, lack of fatherly figure in a family can worsen the situation. Therefore, female headed families manifested more indiscipline cases than in two parent families where the father is an authority.

A more pressing problem particularly among female headed families concerned money. Out of the 24 female headed families the researcher managed to visit; only 9 were economically stable. Approximately 65 (40.1%) of these families lived in poverty and this figure is expected to increase. Through observation the researcher made in some of these homes showed that, these families were at a serious financial disadvantage. Many, who did not work while their children were young upon divorce, found that they must take up low paying jobs or start any business that would earn them some money to support their families. Most of them confessed that, they were unable to provide all the necessities of their children especially school fees and clothing which are not a serious priority as food.

This study equally found out that, female headed families were subjected to an ongoing stress because of low incomes and low levels of, less than half of the fathers who were ordered by the courts to make child support payment actually did so. Most of these women revealed that, the fathers of their children were opposed to making child support to them with a claim that, they used their money to influence new relationships; meaning that their money was used on other men and thus their children did not benefit from it. Aketch Filder from Amagoro confirmed this. She revealed that after divorce, the husband (an army officer) reported her to child protection unit in the district; of taking with her young children. As a result, they were both summoned and the man was ordered to give a monthly support to his children. To this day, this man has never given her any kind of support to help take care of their children.  

Clair and Curran’s findings confirmed this. They observed that, female heads faced the problem of finance resulting into such families living in poverty. According to them, this was compounded by laxity in custody support laws. Although the law expected the men to give financial support to these women for the wellbeing of their children; most men were always reluctant to give child support. As a result, the children suffered economic consequences with their mothers who are looked at as appropriate custodians of children.  

30 Filder Aketch 37 years, Teacher, Amagoro Tororo Municipality. Focus group discussion held on Saturday 16th November 2013.
31 Ibid., pp.385
From the table also, 15 (9.3%) of the respondents observed that, most of these women were still sexually active and as a result they regarded their parental roles as interfering with their sexual relationships. They further showed that, most often these women were concerned that their children may find out if they have a sexual encounter at home or they may be frustrated if they have to go away from home to enjoy a sexual relationship. Though the majority of female headed mothers declined to give information about this subject, a few who preferred a state of anonymous revealed that, satisfaction of their sexual needs was quite challenging. This was because it became more difficult to make choices that would suit the situation; and at the end of the day, they had to ask questions such as: ‘do I wait until my children are asleep and then ask my lover to leave before morning’?, or ‘do I openly acknowledge my lover’s presence in my life to my children and ask them not tell anybody’?, or what will I do if my children got attached to my lover who may not be a permanent part of our lives’?. They said that even if they were the very people responsible to answer such questions, there were always conflicting resolutions that, that needs patience. Research findings in Tororo was in line with David and Caroline who observed that, some of these female headed families have emotional needs of their own that children were often incapable of satisfying; and for that reason some of them regarded their parental role as interfering with their sexual relationships.32

It is also pointed out in the table that, 22 (13.6%) of the respondents especially female heads the researcher interviewed, revealed that, they were undermined or under looked in their communities. They confessed openly that, the stigma attached to female headship is a tormenting

experience which sometimes was had to cope with. To them, they were branded all sorts of 
abusive names and generally had low esteem in their societies or among other women who are 
marrried.

However, Robert and Baus believed, the reduction in the social stigma attached to divorce also 
increased the divorce rate in the US. To them, because divorce has become legally easier to 
obtain and because the stigma attached to it has lessened, most mothers no longer saw it as a 
shame to raise their children on their own after divorce.33

The analysis above showed that, the most pressing problem of female heads in Tororo district is 
financing the needs of their families. All the respondents 65 (40.1%) agreed that, most of these 
women lived in absolute poverty; in which they are unable to provide the basic necessities of life 
such as food, clothing, education and health. This has highly affected their wellbeing.

2.4 conclusions
In conclusion, the researcher found out the, female headed families are on the increase. This was 
not only attributed to men, but women too have played a part in this trend. Although for long 
time tradition had confined the woman in the backyard where major decisions were taken by 
men, today however, inter community interaction have impacted culture. Values have 
consequently also changed with equal opportunities for both sexes at education, business and job 
market among others. All these have exposed especially the woman to rightfully demand to be 


69
heard. However, this demand seemed to have been abused by some women on one hand, and on the other hand, it has been misinterpreted by some men thus resulting in female headed families.

The researcher also found out that, though this trend is evidently increasing, the society continued to disapprove of it. There is a general outcry that the causes of these types of families are dealt with. The researcher further discovered that, domestic violence ranked highest in the causes of female headed families. This was because many cases of domestic violent acts went unreported, even with the presence of laws such as the domestic violence Act 2010 that criminalized domestic violence; cases of violence meted out against women by their partners are on the increase.

The researcher further learnt that, most men and women have embraced western culture in favour of their traditional cultures. But this western culture emphasized only on romantic relationship as opposed to companionship. As a result many families have been torn apart in the name of westernization.

On the challenges of female headed families, the researcher found out that some women after divorce developed unacceptable behaviors towards their ex-partners. Some became so abusive: others denied their spouses the right to visit their children and others involved in other relationships to block their spouses access to their children. For that reason, such men are forced not only to keep away from their children but also ignored the issue of child support thus compounding the financial problems in such families.
CHAPTER THREE

THE EFFECTS OF FEMALE HEADED FAMILIES.

Introduction

In this section, the researcher discussed the impacts of female headed families. The discussion of the findings was based on the objectives of the study.

From the focus group discussion (interviews), undertaken in Tororo district among the different groups, including the religious leaders, and the women heading their families; the interview was conducted in an open ended manner allowing people to raise the issues they considered important. An effort was made to include roughly equal numbers of men and women, and a range of different ages and ethnic groups.

Table 9 showing the existence of female headed families in Tororo district are rated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Female heads</th>
<th>Existence</th>
<th>Highly increasing</th>
<th>Increasing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>50 (30.9%)</td>
<td>20 (12.3%)</td>
<td>60 (49.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>40 (24.7%)</td>
<td>10 (6.2%)</td>
<td>60 (49.4%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious leaders</td>
<td>45 (27.8%)</td>
<td>15 (9.3%)</td>
<td>55 (34%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female headed families</td>
<td>27 (16.7%)</td>
<td>117 (72.2%)</td>
<td>7 (4.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N 162</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The table above showed that, female headed families truly exist in the district. 50 (30.9%) of the women respondents observed that female headed families exist in almost all societies, although it is not increasing very fast in the district.

While majority of women respondents 60 (49.4%) observed that, female headed families is on the increase. This increase, they pointed out was as a result of gender based violence which was also on the increase in families. The researcher too observed that, there are gross violations of human rights in families; and both men and women have been victims of these abuses. Just like some women have been injured and murdered by their partners, some men too have gone through untold abuses such as the one reported daily monitor of Thursday, July 16th, 2015. In that report, a woman beheaded her husband and after which she even had the audacity to report the matter to police. It is equally true that some men are battered by their wives but they never reported these offences. However, the total number of female headed families the researcher recorded in the district was 120 and this is expected to increase.

The table above also indicated that, 40 (24.7%) of the male respondents agreed that, these families exist and it is most likely to increase. They anticipated that, as long as women continued to over emphasize on the issue of women’s rights in which they advocated for equality with men: which should not apply to marriages, then most men are likely to abandon such women for those who are ignorant of such rights. The researcher also found out that, the real issue is not about women’s emphasis on their rights, but the whole issue is on the biased attitude towards the

---

changes that have taken place in our cultures as far as a woman’s life is concerned. While for a long time, tradition confirmed the woman to the backyard; where she worked the fields, cooked food and produced children, today however, many changes have taken place due to inter community interactions. These have impacted a lot in our cultural values. Today, we have equal opportunities for both sexes at education, business and at job markets among others. These have increased the women’s exposure and awareness; and as a result what was once thought to be a normal treatment for women has been recognized as a crime against them.

Also from the table, 45 (27.8%) of the respondents especially religious leaders, agreed that though this type of family is not biblical, yet it is evident that they exist and are increasing in number and in all societies. Most of them, 55 (34%) focused on the assumed sexual promiscuity of female headed household’s increase. Philip a priest from sacred heart Tororo, whom the researcher engaged in an interview, blamed the loose morals of young women for female headed households; tending to associate this with teenage pregnancies. He observed that, the young women lacked knowledge about most men, since they exposed themselves to be used by these men. To him, most men told lies and after wards left these young women with untold sufferings. He advised that, women should learn to avoid relations with men before marriage or they will always be ‘paid back’ by ending up as singly mothers, often forced to enter prostitution to fend for their children.²

However, many female headed families in this research are at peace. 27 (16.7%) said that, they felt better off without a male partner. This was particularly true for those who were physically or sexually abused. Although both men and women with or little personal experience of female headed families assumed that, women were household heads because men had failed to, some women heads involved in the research findings had made a choice to divorce these men. In fact 117 (72.2%) of these women were convinced that female headed families are increasing faster than expected. According to them, most men have become so abusive to be tolerated; some have lost direction and whether educated or not, makes no difference. This was the case for Amonding a 28 year old iteso mother, who separated from her partner and now takes care of the 4 children singly handedly. During a focus group discussion, another Iteso woman described how her husband had beaten her since they first got married at the age of 17. She finally deserted the man when she found out that, her husband had a relationship with another women and had 2 children in that relationship.\(^3\) They also stressed that, in few years to come, this kind of family will become a normal occurrence in all communities. To them, this is because the shame attached to it which used to be a terrorization to most women is slowly being ignored.

According to Anderson and Taylor whose findings concurred with the report from this study, said that, female headed family is one of the greatest changes most societies are facing currently. To them, 22% of all children lived with their mothers and they correctly observed that, female headship has risen across all racial groups. Riker and Brisbane confirmed this by pointing out

\(^3\) Juliet Amonding 28 yrs, peasant, Kwapa Sub county, Tororo district. Focus group discussion held on Sunday 22\(^{nd}\) September, 2013.
that, female headed families have become the fastest growing families in the United State of America.¹

The effects of female headed families therefore have been discussed to include the women, the children and the society who are directly affected by this form of family.

3.1.1 Effects on the women

Table 10 showing the effects of female headed families (negative)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effects</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Inadequate funding</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>29.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immoral life style</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of fatherly love, care and guidance</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Perverse socialization of children.</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discrimination</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In this research study, strong views on the phenomenon of female headship emerged from members of the religious communities as well as female heads themselves. The domestic violence in combination with the other reasons for the formation of female headed households.


mentioned earlier, have resulted in widespread social censure of both rural and urban women heads.

The table above indicated that most of the respondents 48 (29.6%) agreed that, most female headed families were affected negatively in terms of funds. To them, majority of women were faced with the tension of inadequate funding in as far as basic necessities were concerned; and as a result they affected the communities negatively with their burdens. The researcher observed that, some of these women were ignorant of the problems they are faced with. For example, some who were widowed, inherited enormous wealth at the death of their partners but within a period of only 2 or 3 years, everything was wasted in the name of men, wine and romance. This meant that, at the end of the day, the society had to bore the consequence.

This finding was in line with Laverne who said that, these families are faced with economic pressure which often put them under great strain. To him, one third of them lived under poverty line because most men paid very little support or failed to give completely.\textsuperscript{5}

Perceptions of women heads by members of the wider community were overwhelmingly negative; 31(19.1%) of the respondents of both women and men saw these women to be immoral and unable to care for children. According to them, these women lived recklessly and as a result they have become agents of the spread of Hiv/Aids scourge in their communities; more

especially those who lost their husbands as a result of the scourge. They observed that, these women were not only responsible for the spread of Aids but also promotion of prostitution in society; since most of them saw it as the way to sustain their families or a source of livelihood. Female leadership is generally thought to be the cause of high levels of crime and violence and the perverse socialization of children.

The table above showed that, 55 (34.0%) of the respondents revealed that, children in female headed families lacked fatherly love, care and guidance. They said that, this affected children's growth and development negatively. They pointed out that, as a result of absentee father in the family, some of these children ended up developing queer behavior which negatively affected the children themselves, their mothers and the community at large. The researcher in her study discovered that, no amount of accusations these partners tried to point at one another; won't be able to plug the gap created by broken families and absent fathers. Every child needs a father for a complete life. The researcher besides, believed that, positive family friendly policies influenced peace, security and can bring wide ranging benefits to children and society at large.

The findings in this study concurred with Anderson and Taylor's findings. They pointed out that, female headed families or father absent families were so linked to problems such as delinquency, high school dropout rate, poor self-image and other social problems. They also revealed that,
broken families were nearly four times more dangerous to children than guns; and that the problem of America "was not the gun culture, it was the broken family culture".  

From the table also, 21 (8.2%) of the respondents observed that, these women's management were ineffective and as a result it has led to perverse socialization of the children. To them, because these women are loaded with responsibilities, the children were left at the mercy of the society without any proper guidance. The researcher also found out that, perverse socialization of children was not only limited to female headed families but also in two parent families. It is true that the rate of marital breakups are high but the incidence of absentee parents who are too busy with work, women and wine to mind their own children was staggering in all types of families. The children therefore, literally grew up alone; and were vulnerable to all kinds of negative influences.

The table further showed that, 15 (9.2%) of the respondents especially female heads themselves revealed that, they faced discrimination from their societies and places of work. They pointed out that, they were branded all kinds of names and worst of all; they were expected to keep low profile even when people stepped on them for fear of insults.

---

This finding concurred with Laverne's finding who revealed that, regardless of race, female headed families were the most disadvantaged group in the society. To him, they found it difficult to get jobs because of discrimination and they were likely not to receive child support.  

Women heads themselves were slightly more positive about women heading households, and emphasized the hardships rather than the advantages. Most urban female headed families reported how they faced discrimination due to prejudice against women which was rooted in male dominance. Angela from Nagongera revealed that, she faced discrimination from her male work mates who continually insulted and undermined her just because she was a single mother. She further said that, a slight mistake from her earned her comments like 'do not bring your family problems in our staffroom'. She noted how she experienced hardships both economically and emotionally, she never had any money and always felt sad and lonely.  

Although most studies emphasized the stress of female headed households, a study in Tororo district on 24 female headed households identified family strengths associated with successful female headed families as examined below.

---


8. Angela Nyaketcho 34yrs, Teacher Nagongera Sub County. Interviewed on Tuesday 8th October, 2013.
Table 11 showing strength of female headed families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effects</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Easy planning</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental skills</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental growth</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>20.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family management</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial support</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

From the table 11 above, 5 (20.8%) of the respondents revealed that, planning in their families was easy as there was no body to consult or to oppose whatever idea they came up with. To them, implementation of their plans was always fast and effective.

From the table also, 4 (16.7%) of the respondents suggested that, some of these women have developed the ability to assume some of the roles and attributes of the ability to take on both expressive and instrumental roles and traits. Abbo a Jopadhola shared her experience with the researcher through the interview held with her; she revealed that her parental responsibility had changed positively over the years. She said that, she was able to impart knowledge in her children that has made them distinct from other children who are coming from even two parent homes. They carried out house hold repairs without any resistance showing how disciplined they were.  

---

9 Abbo Janet 36 yrs, Tailor, Nawire parish, Paya Sub County. Focus group discussion held on Sunday 20th October, 2013.
This finding concurred with Christine and Barbara who said that, these women saw themselves as primarily responsible for their families; and so were determined to do their best under varying circumstances to get on with their lives.\textsuperscript{10}

The same table showed that, 5 (20.8\%) of the respondents pointed out that, some of these women especially those women in the age bracket 33 to 38 have developed a positive attitude towards the changes that had taken place in their lives. This, to some female headships helped them to have a feeling of success and pride in overcoming obstacles. The research findings also suggested that, a number of these women through good communication have developed trust and a sense of honesty with their children as well as the ability to convey their ideas and feelings clearly to their children and friends.

Christine and Barbara also observed in conformity to the study findings that, these women put emphasis on open communication. To them, they valued and encouraged expression of their children's feelings and ideas alongside theirs.\textsuperscript{11}

The greatest number 6 (25\%) of the women interviewed in the research carried out involving 24 female headed households, revealed that, some of these women especially those with full time


\textsuperscript{11} Ibid., pp. 528-529
jobs, have developed the ability to coordinate family, school and work activities; and to schedule meals, appointments, family time and alone time.

Research according to Christine and Barbara agreed with the study findings in Tororo. They correctly observed that, these women took parenting as first priority, where in balancing family and work roles; their parenting role ranked highest. Romantic relationships were balanced with family needs.\textsuperscript{12}

The table further indicated that, 4 (16.7\%) of the respondents observed that, although it is true that the majority of these women were faced with financial challenge, research findings also suggested that most of these women in the long run have developed the ability to become financially self-supporting and independent as the majority saw the need to engage in small scale businesses to solve their financial problems.

On the whole, the study in Tororo district among female headed households revealed that, a significant number of female headed families have successfully solved many extra ordinary problems in the face of formidable obstacles. Rose a teacher by profession from Tororo town confirms this. Rose described how her husband abandoned her with 4 children for close to 10 years. She explained that though her salary was merger, she managed to provide all the family necessities of her children and above all was able to upgrade and today she is a graduate and holding a good paying job. In summary, Rose pointed out that being a single mother had not only

\textsuperscript{12} Ibid., pp. 530
helped her but even other mothers like her that she interacted with. Thus, her experience gave her
the opportunity to become wiser in the face of challenges resulting in freedom from any stress.13

Female headed families according to these women have encouraged them to grow personally. They believed that their experiences have always propelled them to make major changes in their roles in life and in their self-presentation. To some, they have made progress in their lives and as a result they have become contributors to their communities; and their children are often a source of strength rather than difficulty. The researcher was compelled to say that, some of these women challenged her. She discovered that, these categories of women whom she was convicted to call "good organizers", women and half are far better than some two parent families in Tororo district. Some have acquired plots of land and have built commercial houses in them; some have been able to educate their children up to the universities and others have really made their homes a suitable environment for their children. This does not mean that the researcher encourages this type of family to grow in our societies, but where conditions forced them to head their families; I advise them to buy these women's mindset of progress, increase and prosperity in husband absent families.

3.1.2 Effects on the children

Table 12 showing effects of female headed families on the children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Effect</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Perverse socialization</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of fatherly love and support</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>43.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative life style</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall study findings indicated that, majority of the respondents 55 (34%) suggested that, female headed families are associated with the perverse socialization of children. To most of them, the issue of female headed families and women’s perceived lack of legitimacy as leaders of their households was frequently cited as a serious reason for the children’s anti social behavior. These types of families was also said to reflect family disintegration which was also a major problem within the communities. Female headed families were central to explanations of this, together with intra family violence. It was repeatedly suggested that, when female headed families went for their work or businesses, children were left alone to fend for themselves, often turning to delinquency, drug abuse and gang activity. In the words of Atim Josephine (a respondent) a staff in Mifumi, a non governmental organization handling domestic violence observed that, children left alone by their mothers got up to no good; they ended up joining gangs in an attempt to find a guide not provided by their mothers. Intra-family violence within
the home was blamed for leading to family breakdown. She pointed out that, the children literally grew up alone and lonely exposed to all kinds of negative influences.\textsuperscript{14}

The highest number 70 (43.2\%) of the respondents also revealed that, female headed families always resulted into negative life outcomes for the children. To them, even if it could be possible that children reared in female headed families were just as off in some families as those reared by two parents, but generally children of female families were twice as likely to drop out of school early, got pregnant before marriage, had drinking problems and experienced most of other difficulties (including getting divorced themselves) as were children reared by two married parents.

Riker and Brisbane's findings concurred with findings from this study. They pointed out that, female headed families or father absent families were so linked to problems such as delinquency, the school dropout rate, poor self-image and other social problems.\textsuperscript{15}

From the table above also, the study indicated that, 37 (22.8\%) of the respondents revealed that, children in female headed families often did not have the opportunity to develop an emotionally supportive relationship with their father. It is true that in most cases, it was the mothers who had custody and fathers who got visitation rights. In Tororo district, the respondents implied that, more than 60\% of the fathers neither did visit their children nor had telephone contact with them.

\textsuperscript{14} Josephine Atim 40yrs, a staff Mifumi, Tororo Municipality. Focus group discussion held on Saturday 16\textsuperscript{th} November, 2013.

\textsuperscript{15} Audrey Palm Ricker and Holly E Brisbane (2004). \textit{Married and single life}; 2\textsuperscript{nd} Edition Worth publishers, pp. 315 – 318 and 326 – 327.
over a period of one year. Some female headed families revealed that, even when fathers did see their children, they typically slacked off or stopped visiting after about two years. The research further found out that, even where the parents were separated but not yet divorced, the average child had seen their fathers only 6 to 8 times during the preceding months. In this case, non-resident mothers were more likely than non-resident fathers to maintain contact with their children by letters, telephone calls and extended visitations.

Christine and Barbara also revealed similar findings when they stated that children in female headed families performed poorly academically as those from two parents; they equally had fewer years of education and were more likely to dropout of high school. They had lower earnings and were more likely to be poor. They were also more likely to initiate sex earlier, became pregnant in their teens and cohabited but not marry early and were more likely to divorce.\(^\text{16}\)

The question asked then was, why did many fathers fail to take visitation rights seriously? According to the respondents and especially men, for one thing; traditional or cultural expectations about child rearing and nurturing still emphasized the importance of mothers not fathers. Some felt the child support they made was enough to prove that they were part of the children, therefore no need for visitation.

\(^{16}\) Ibid., pp.531
Also when ex-spouses were engaged in continuing battles, fathers tried to avoid further conflicts by not seeing their children. It is true that some mothers after divorce became bitter and abusive. Some continued to abuse their ex-husbands on phones or even when they met in public. With such experiences, some of them (men) developed fear of being embarrassed before the public and as a result kept distance.

Another reason, according to some fathers was that, visitation was emotionally difficult for them or seemed artificial. However, the researcher in her interaction with some fathers discovered that, generally men are proud due to their male dominance in society. For that reason, majority of them wouldn't afford to bow down even when they were on the wrong. Some feared that, this so called visitation could expose them to the possibility of finding their ex-spouses with other men; hence tried as much as possible to avoid such scenario.

However, most female headed families revealed that, men are generally proud and they thought that would be termed as bowing to such women. They added that, when men formed new relationships or remarried, they felt less committed to their children from earlier marriages.

Female headed families in Tororo district pointed out that, it is very important for non-custodial fathers to seriously get involved in their children’s wellbeing. This is because when fathers provided support to their children, it benefited the child’s educational achievements. They also observed that, regular payments increased children’s academic wellbeing because mothers felt more financially secured, were able to deal better with school related problems. They further said
that, when child support payments are voluntary, fathers had good relationship with their
cchildren and ex-spouses. The lack of parental conflicts which is ordinarily distressing and
disturbing may help children focus on academic pursuits.

3.1.3 Effects on the society

Table 13 showing the effects of female headed families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Society view</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>irresponsible</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>24.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>burden</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threat to</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>37.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>other women</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spread of</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>14.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV/AIDS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most women respondents 50 (30.9%) in this study, focused most attention on the inability of
female headed families to perform their duties as mothers. A focus group discussion involving
10 Jopadhola women aged between 35 and 40 described female headed families as socially
irresponsible. One stated that, when their husbands abandoned them for others, usually because
they failed to look after them properly, some instead robbed others their husbands and others
turned to prostitution which was a serious challenge to the communities.

From the table above, 60 (37.0%) of the respondents especially religious leaders in this study
pointed out that, though the numbers of female headed families seemed to be growing in most
societies, these families remained an undesirable anomaly in many communities. To them, these
families are often subjected to disapproval. They said that, these forms of families are unbiblical and its existence is a manifestation of loose morals in our societies. One reverend focused his attention in Paul’s letter to Ephesians, in which God emphatically said that, the man is the head of the family, only giving the woman a responsibility to submit to the man’s headship in marriage. One priest said that, he was disturbed with what was going on in our societies where people created problems which they are unable to provide solutions for. ‘Our societies have lost direction; women are as immoral as men’. 17 He lamented.

Perhaps surprisingly, the high incidence of female headed families did not reflect greater social acceptance of this family form. In Tororo district, a common perception was that women’s greater influence as heads of families accounted for the ‘break down of society’ evidenced by the rising criminality and youth alcohol abuse. This perception was particularly widespread among elderly religious leaders who are significant, given that they remained leaders and regulators of societal norms.

On the whole, the respondents 52 (32.1%) agreed that, these families were a burden to the society especially for those with low economic status since they had to seek assistance from members of the communities. However, they said that, a number of them had been educated and encouraged to start small businesses to raise some little money to help them take care of their children.

17 Gideon Mutegule Nabulika 54 yrs, Reverend, Bukedi Diocese, Tororo Municipality, Interviewed on Saturday 9th November, 2013.
3.2 Conclusions

In summary, the researcher found out that, though these kinds of families were evidently increasing, the society disapproved of it because of the negative strings attached to it.

Besides, the researcher also observed that, in few years to come, this type of family will be a normal occurrence in our societies. This is because the stigma attached to it, which used to be an intimidation to most women, is slowly reducing; and most women seemed to suggest that, it is better off living without a male partner in a home than living with one but full of stress. In fact some looked at husbands as a burden to their lives.

The researcher further found out that children raised up in female headed families grew up with anti-social behaviors; as they were denied parental guidance, training and counsel. However, there are escalating moral decay in our children whether from two parent family or not. These are exaggerated by parents who claimed to be too occupied with work at the expense of their own children’s wellbeing. The children are thus literally left to grow up alone and as a result they are exposed to all kinds of negative influences.
CHAPTER FOUR
GENERAL CONCLUSION

4.0 Introduction
In this chapter, the summary of major findings, conclusions are presented.

4.1 Summary of findings
This summary was based on the findings; and discussion was on the causes, challenges and effects of female headed families in Tororo district.

4.1.2 The causes of female headed families.
In the discussion on the causes of female headed families, the majority of the respondents 60 (37.0%) said that, female headed families was mainly caused by domestic violence. This domestic violence according to them was on the increase in most societies and they were caused by alcoholism, social characteristics, low self esteem and male dominance. The study further established that, some women have lost their dear lives and others horribly injured as a result of gender based violence in families. As a result, most women now opted to live on their own where their lives and their children were secured.

Among other factors also included; divorce or separation which the informants believed was due to extra marital relations, individualism, education and increasing economic status of employed women and equality promotion among others.
Other respondents 32 (19.8%) talked of death of husbands caused by HIV/AIDS, witchcraft and accidents.

And the remaining respondents 30 (18.5%) said that, most men have become irresponsible where they abandoned their families possibly because of greed in favour of smaller families.

From the presentation and discussion above, it proved that female headed families exists in the district and are most likely to increase as a result of the factors mentioned above. However, the causes are attributed to both men and women in families. Other factors included polygamy and promotion of western culture in our societies; though gender based violence ranked highest in the cause of female headed families in the district.

4.1.3 The challenges faced by female headed families
This study finding revealed that, these women under went through several challenges. The first and more pressing challenge these women faced was financial problem. The respondents 65 (40.1%) pointed out that, these women found it very difficult to support their families adequately in terms of basic necessities leading to poor standard of living.

This study also indicated that, 40 (24.7%) of the respondents, strongly believed that these women are loaded with responsibilities. These ranged from planning, making decisions to ensuring the care and wellbeing of their families.
This study further revealed that, 15 (9.3%) of the respondents said that, these women are faced with a problem of satisfying their adult sexual needs. To them, most of these women were still sexually active and as a result, they regarded their parental roles as interfering with their sexual relationships.

And the rest of the respondents 20 (12.3%) observed that, most of these women found it so challenging to satisfy the emotional and disciplinary needs of their children. To them, most of these women are loaded with responsibilities which made it very difficult to effectively monitor their children’s discipline and as a result most of their children when they reached a certain age, became very unruly.

From the presentation and discussion above also, it showed that most of these women faced unpleasant challenges in their families. The main challenge being financial difficulty; which denied them access to obtain the basic necessities. This was compounded by lack of child support from their spouses. Actually, most of these men are negative about this issue of making child support to their ex-wives. This in turn caused majority of these women to find other means to provide for their families; such as prostitution and adultery among others.

4.1.4 Impacts of female headed families
Regarding female headed families, it was found out that, female headed families had both positive and negative effects. Negatively, 47 (29.0%) of the respondents agreed that, most female headed families faced the tension of inadequate funding in as far as basic necessities were
concerned. It is also true that, some of these women hardly afforded to provide for all the necessities of their families; such as descent housing, paying their children in good schools and appropriate medical services leading to poor standard of living.

Besides, 30 (18.5%) of the respondents observed that, some of these women led immoral lifestyle which was a problem to the society. That some of these women lived recklessly and as a result, they have become agents of the spread of HIV/AIDS more especially those who lost their husbands through Aids scourge.

Also, 54 (33.3%) of the respondents said that, children in female headed families lacked fatherly love, care and guidance. This according to them, affected children’s growth and development since every child needed a father.

Furthermore, 14 (8.6%) of the respondents especially female headed mothers said that, they were discriminated against in their societies and in their work places. This showed that these women lived under psychological stress which at times led to their isolation from their societies and work places.

Positively, female headed families 5 (20.8%) said that, they found it easy to plan and make decisions on their family affairs. This was because they didn’t need anybody to consult on any matter that concerned their families and nobody was in place to oppose what they wanted to do. Thus they enjoyed enough freedom as opposed to married women. This implied that they were
able to make changes in their plans and decisions without any interference; in case they found it
unsuitable.

Also, 6 (25%) of female headed families strongly believe that, they had developed various skills
and abilities as a result of their experiences. For example; parental skills, parental growth, family
management and financial support. They revealed that because of the skills and abilities that they
had developed in the long run, family crisis was no longer a pressing issue. This meant that
women have the potential to manage families which they needed to exploit.

In summary, from the presentation and discussion in chapter three above, it showed that, there
are undesirable negative effects of female headed families on the lives of these individual
women, children and the society at large. It is worth noting that due to these negative strings
attached to these families; the society strongly disapproved of it.

4.4 Conclusions
This finding revealed that, the problem of female headed families is not only a one district
(Tororo) issue but a country (Uganda) as a whole. This is because there is hardly any place in
this nation where the problem has not reared its ugly head.

In the study however, the findings indicated that, the two hypotheses tested were true. The
hypothesis showed that the main cause of female headed families in Tororo district is divorce.
The study established that domestic violence contributed to divorce which in turn led to female
headed families. This was due to the threats it imposed on the lives of these women and their children. The study also discovered that there are gross violations of women's rights not only in Tororo district but in the country as a whole. These abuses included domestic violence, sexual abuse, physical abuse, psychological torture, polygamy and economic injustices. Besides, there are general outrages that the government deals with this problem urgently without compromise.

This study further revealed that the second hypothesis was also true. The hypothesis indicated that the most pressing challenge female headed families are faced with is economic difficulty. In the study, it was found out that, these women were at a serious financial disadvantage due to lack of good paying jobs, small businesses which are inadequate to sustain them; and this was compounded by laxity of men to provide child support to these women for the wellbeing of their children. This therefore, proved that there are unfavorable challenges female headed families faced in their families.

4.5 Recommendations
According to church leaders, though it may take long to curb female headed families in the district, but with combined efforts, the problem can come to an end; and the following recommendations are to uplift the standard of living and also curb female headed families in Tororo district and Uganda as a whole.
Female headed families should be trained on income generating activities in order to uplift their standard of living. For instance; tailoring, salon work, kneading and art and crafts. All these will empower these women to better their lives and the lives of their children.

The church should continue to preach the gospel of love, forgiveness and reconciliation to these women and their husbands. The spouses need to learn to bear with one another's weaknesses; accept and appreciate their personalities as they are, since it is always difficult to change someone. This to a large extent will reduce on the number of female headed families; in case most women reconciled back to their husbands. This therefore, calls for all the church leaders in their different churches to organize women and men conventions regularly. This will enable them to teach and show these men and women the scriptures which talk about their relationships in marriage.

Increase community training on gender relations in order for men to appreciate the role of women and see them as partners rather than threats to their masculinity. In this case women should be sensitized on the true meaning of equality; which is all about giving respect to one another regardless of the many difference that may be evident. They should be given awareness that, it is not about looking a partner who is of the same status or lower status than them but it is about honoring the purpose of God for marriage. This can be done by the government empowering the community leaders to organize family meetings in parishes or at sub-county levels to educate men and women on their roles in families.
The government should come in to fight domestic violence, which seems to be the major cause of this situation. If it is not dealt with, there is possibility that female headed families will continue to increase as most women continue to hold fear for their precious lives. This can be achieved by the government establishing strict laws against those men who abuse women in families. These laws if implemented appropriately could act as a deterrent to those who could be planning to commit the same crime.

Besides, the government should enforce the various gender related laws to promote equality and protect women as weaker sexes from injustices, such as domestic violence and sexual abuses. This needs urgent intervention. The government also needs to focus its attention more on the family as an institution because it is the labour ward for human rights violation: so that the institution offers favorable conditions for a new generation that respects human rights.

Seminars and workshops need to be encouraged to the men, women and the youths. To them, this will create awareness to all these categories of people who are already in marriages and those yet hoping to join. This equally will help them to value the marriage institution which is God ordained and thus will come to appreciate their responsibilities in family life.

The Church needs to teach and sensitize both men and women of the importance of living in a family that animate in love, peace and harmony. Husbands need to know that, they have obligation to love their wives as they love themselves and wives too, have an obligation to submit to their husbands. It is unfortunate that most men and women are trying to copy western
life style which is unsuitable to African families. On the same note, the issue of equality should be addressed and understood by women lest it increases crisis in families. The church should endeavor to visit and offer counseling services to these women who seem to embrace equality promotion in marriages.

The church alone cannot fight this situation which seems to be on the increase; so there is need for the government to work together with the church to help curb this situation. The government needs to fight all forms of domestic violence which is actually on the increase. If the government delays to take tough measures against the practice, most women are likely to develop fear after witnessing or hearing how some women have even lost their lives as a result of domestic violence. Equally all generations should be taught that marriage is a serious undertaking initiated by God Himself and needs to be honored by all. It should not be taken for granted as most people think today about it. The government needs to empower all stake holders including: the church, community leaders and the police to exercise seriously their roles in respective areas in order to deal with this challenge.

RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER STUDY
Because of the inadequate time and resources, this research was carried out in only one district and yet this challenge is a national issue. Therefore, the researcher suggests that further study be carried out in other districts of this nation.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Andrey Palm Riker and Holly E Brisbane (2004), Sociology the Essential. 2nd Edition;

Baryak J George and Soroka P Michael (1992), Sociology. Cultural Diversity in a changing world. University of San Diego, printed in USA.


**ARTICLES**


# LIST OF INFORMANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAMES</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>OCCUPATION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abbo Janet</td>
<td>36 years</td>
<td>Tailor - Nawire Parish Paya Sub county</td>
<td>20\textsuperscript{th} October 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abbo Margret</td>
<td>26 years</td>
<td>Peasant - Paya Sub County</td>
<td>9\textsuperscript{th} August 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aketch Flider</td>
<td>37 years</td>
<td>Teacher - Amagoro Tororo Municipality</td>
<td>16\textsuperscript{th} November 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Akoth Gladys</td>
<td>28 years</td>
<td>Nurse - Agaruru Zone Tororo Municipality</td>
<td>17\textsuperscript{th} July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amoding Juliet</td>
<td>28 years</td>
<td>Peasant - Kwapa sub county Tororo District</td>
<td>22\textsuperscript{nd} September 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athieno Beatrice</td>
<td>33 years</td>
<td>Nurse - Water Village Tororo Municipality</td>
<td>21\textsuperscript{st} July 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atim Josephine</td>
<td>40 years</td>
<td>Mufumi Tororo Municipality</td>
<td>16\textsuperscript{th} November 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Awori Immaculate</td>
<td>32 years</td>
<td>Peasant - Petta Parish Paya Sub- County</td>
<td>10\textsuperscript{th} August 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Edongiti Rose</td>
<td>38 years</td>
<td>Tororo Municipality</td>
<td>4\textsuperscript{th} November 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higenyi Joshua</td>
<td>42 years</td>
<td>Pastor Glory Life Church Tororo Municipality</td>
<td>7\textsuperscript{th} August 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Christine Oryema</td>
<td>45 years</td>
<td>A staff in Mufumi Tororo Municipality</td>
<td>8\textsuperscript{th} August 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Phiona Higenyi</td>
<td>39 years</td>
<td>Assistant pastor Glory Life Church</td>
<td>3\textsuperscript{rd} September 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muteugule Gideon</td>
<td>54 years</td>
<td>Reverend Bukedi Diocese Tororo Municipality</td>
<td>9\textsuperscript{th} November 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nabulika</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nyaketcho Angela</td>
<td>34 years</td>
<td>Teacher - Nagongera Sub-county</td>
<td>8\textsuperscript{th} October 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Okoth Philip</td>
<td>56 years</td>
<td>Priest - Sacred Catholic Church - Tororo Municipality</td>
<td>16\textsuperscript{th} September 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olowo Joshua</td>
<td>40 years</td>
<td>Reverend Bukedi Diocese</td>
<td>6\textsuperscript{th} October 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE

I am a student from Kyambogo University, Uganda. I am carrying out a survey to assess the contribution of the Christian church towards female headed families in Tororo District – Uganda. This is done with an aim of unearthing out the real cause, challenges and effects of female headed families in a bid to suggest appropriate recommendations based on the finding of the study that may help to curb the problem of female headed families.

This is a voluntary survey and therefore you are kindly requested and encouraged to participate in the study by filling in the sections of the questionnaire.

Be assured that all information obtained from you will be used purely for academic purposes and maximum respect and confidentiality will be accorded to you as a respondent.

Instructions

Please answer all the questions

Please return this questionnaire to the owner after you have completed filling it.

Thank you for your valuable time and input.

SECTION A. A DEMOGRAPHIC DATA.

Name.............................................................................................................

Phone number.............................................................................................

Church ...........................................................................................................

103
Age ......................................................................................................................

Gender................................................................................................................

Highest education attainment ..............................................................................

Occupation ...........................................................................................................

Church responsibility ...........................................................................................

Years you have stayed in Tororo District ................................................................

SECTION B: SOCIO - ECONOMIC DATA

Please tick or write your responses in the space provided:

10. How long have you been a member of your church?

11. What do you understand by female headed family? ........................................

12. Have ever been in touch with a female headed family? Yes □ No □

13. If yes what is their experience like .................................................................

14. As a church leader or community leader is it appropriate for female headed families to be in existence in our societies? Yes □ No □

15. If No, why is it inappropriate? ........................................................................

104
16. Is it true that female headed families is on the increase in Tororo district?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

17. If yes, what factors have led to increasing number of female headed families in Tororo district?


18. If not, what are the possible causes of this situation?


19. Is it true that divorce is the main cause of the increasing number of female headed families in Tororo district? Yes [ ] No [ ]

20. If yes, what are the causes of divorce among families?


21. If no what are other possible causes of female headed families?


105
22. What are the challenges of female headed families?

Social ...........................................................................................................................................

Economic ........................................................................................................................................

Religious ........................................................................................................................................

22. How do the female headed families affect

a) A woman ....................................................................................................................................

b) The church .................................................................................................................................

c) The society ...............................................................................................................................
d) The children

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

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

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

........................................................................................................................................
APPENDIX II: QUESTIONNAIRES FOR CHURCH LEADERS

Instructions

Please answer all questions

Please return this questionnaire to the owner after you have completed filling it

Thank you for your valuable time and input

SECTION A. A DEMOGRAPHIC DATA.

Name

Phone number

Church

Age

Gender

Position in church
Church responsibility

Years you have been in that church position

SECTION B. SOCIO, RELIGIOUS AND ECONOMIC DATA

Please tick or write your responses in the space provided:

9. How long have you been a member of your church?

10. What do you understand by the word female headed family?

11. Do you have single mothers in your church? Yes .............. or no ..............

12. If yes, what is their experience like?
13. As a church leader, is it appropriate for this concept of single mothers to exist in our societies? Yes……………… Or no………………

14. If no, why then is it becoming a popular concept in our societies?

15. Is it true that female headed families is on the increase in Tororo District?
Yes…………………or no…………………

16. If yes, what factors have led to increasing number of female headed families in Tororo District?

17. Is it true that the increasing number of female headed families in Tororo District is caused by divorce? Yes…………………or no………………

18. If yes, what are the causes of divorce among families?

..........................................................
19. If no, what are the other possible causes of female headed families in Tororo District?

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

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

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

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

20. It is claimed that female headed families are faced with numerous challenges in their families? True.................. Or false................

21. If true, what are these challenges?

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

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

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

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

22. As a church, what contributions have you made towards this situation?

Economic.....................................................................................................................

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

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

............................................................................................................................
23. What is the church’s position on female headed families?

24. Is it possible to curb this situation out of Tororo District?

Yes.............or no.............
25. If yes, suggest the possible means which can help curb this problem from Tororo District?
APPENDIX III
INTERVIEW GUIDED FOR SINGLE MOTHERS

Answer as appropriate.

- What is your name?.................................................................

- How old are you?.................................................................

- What is your religion?............................................................

- What is the level of your education?........................................

- What is your occupation?......................................................

- Do you have children? Yes......... no........

- If yes how many are they?......................................................

- How long have you lived as a single mother................................

- What caused you to decide to live as a single mother?..................

- Is the father of your children alive? Yes ......................no........

- If yes, does he support you financially? Yes......................no........

- If no, what do you want to do about it? As a single mother what challenges do you face in your family?

- Is it true that you single mothers are at advantage than married mothers?

True.................false..............................

114
• If true what are those advantages?

• If false, what are those disadvantages?

16. Do you have any plan to remarry or marry in the near future?

   Yes .......................... No.............

17. If no, why are you not willing?

18. As a single mother, what advise can you give to young women who are opting to become single mothers?
APPENDIX IV: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR CHURCH LEADERS

Answer as appropriate

- What is your name?
- How old are you?
- What is your religion?
- What is your position in your church?
- Do you have single mothers in your church?
- If yes, what is their experience like?
- As a church leader, what is your position on female headed families?
- Is it appropriate to have single mothers in our societies?
- If yes, are there scriptures which support this?
- If no, why then do we have them in existence in our societies?
- Does the have any concrete position on female headed families?
- If yes, what is that position?
- If no, why has it kept silent about it?
- Have you tried in any way to support single mothers in your church?
- If yes, in what ways have you done it?
- Are female headed families a problem to our societies?
- If yes, what has the church done to curb this problem in Tororo District?
- What other possible ways can the church use to solve this problem?