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I **Lorrein Madhuku (R145866G)** do hereby declare that the work within this dissertation is my own work with only the exception of quotations and references that have been included and also attributed to their sources. I further declare that this work has never been previously submitted to any university and is being submitted in the partial fulfilment of the Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Politics and Public Management at Midlands State University.

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(Honours)

DISSERTATION TITLE : An assessment of the impacts of early marriages on
Societal development. The case of Manicaland from
2010- 2016.

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YEAR OF AWARD : 2018

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APPROVAL FORM

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The undersigned certify that they have read and recommend to the Midlands State University for acceptance of a dissertation entitled: The impacts of early marriages on societal development in Zimbabwe. The case of Manicaland from 2010- 2016.

SUBMITTED BY: LORREIN MADHUKU (R145866G) in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the BSc Honors Degree of Science in Politics and Public Management

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ABSTRACT

In a way to enhance the eradication of early marriages in Zimbabwe the research was conducted on the impacts of early marriages on societal development. The research was conducted in Manicaland Province. The research objectives was to explain the causes of early marriages, impacts of early marriages, challenges faced in trying to eradicate early marriages as well as the effectiveness of legislative frameworks put in place to solve the problem of early marriages in Zimbabwe. It goes on to look on the strategies that can be implemented to eradicate early marriages. The study used mixed methods to collect data that is in-depth interviews and questionnaires. Data was also analysed using content and thematic analysis as it was presented in themes, graphs and tables. The research was being guided by liberal feminist theory and gender and power theory as they explain how women are being exploited in the society, viewed as of no value, hence becoming a driver of early marriages. In a research, it has been revealed that poverty is the major cause of early marriages leading to school dropouts, hence young potentials are not being given opportunity to show their capacity to the development of the society. Lack of funds has been said to be the major challenge faced as well as the lack of sound policies and poor implementation of them as the research revealed that those frameworks which were put in place in trying to stop early marriages are not effective as they are failing to implement them. The research then recommended that there should be inclusion of early marriages funds in the state budget, empowerment of girls, strict measures on those who practise early marriages as well as awareness campaigns in order to stop early marriages.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to the Almighty God who gave me wisdom, strength and power throughout my dissertation.

To my parents Mr and Mrs Madhuku, my lovely sisters Moline and Rebecca Madhuku for their unconditional love and their generous support. May the dear Lord continue to do great things in your lives.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Firstly, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Mr A. Chilunjika for his love, patience, guidance and continuous support throughout this dissertation. Also, I want to extend my gratitude to all lecturers in the Department of Politics and Public Management for their guidance whenever I needed it. My special thanks is directed to my family members (**mom, dad and my sisters**) for being always by my side, praying for me, giving me strength, encouraging me to work hard, their support and love over the years made my work easier. Let me take this opportunity to thank my friends Idah Mashambanhaka, Emmaculate Ngwarura, Dorris Abraham, Cleopas Muchena, Benard Ngonyamo and Zvikomborero Kapuya for their prayers and assistance during the course of this dissertation. Let me pay my profound gratitude to my friends in Christ, members of AFM on Campus (AFMOC) for being there for me, helping me with prayers whenever things seem to be up-side down, I want to say, “Thank you for your friendship and constant support!” I also want to thank everyone who participate during my research, sometimes you sacrifice your work, and family matters just to respond to my questionnaires and interviews, your commitment made my work easier, thank you. A special acknowledgement to the Almighty God who gave me power and wisdom to do my project, sometimes it was difficult during the research but by his Grace, I say Ebenezer, thank you Lord.

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ABBREVIATIONS

| | | |
|---------|---|--|
| NGOs | - | Non-Governmental Organisations |
| AFMOC | - | Apostolic Faith Mission in Zimbabwe on Campus |
| CSOs | - | Civil Society Organisations |
| HIV | - | Human Immunodeficiency Virus |
| AIDS | - | Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome |
| STDs | - | Sexually Transmitted Diseases |
| VTCs | - | Vocational Training Centres |
| SADC PF | - | Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum |

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- Fig 1:** Response rate by age
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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The development of a country or rather a society in particular is enhanced by various factors that if they cannot be handled effectively, they can harm the development of the society. Hence, it is believed by many scholars that one of the factors that can hinder the development of a society is early marriage. Therefore, it is the work of this research to reveal if early marriage is an impediment to the societal development of Zimbabwe basing with the case of Manicaland from 2010 up to 2016. This chapter is comprise of background of the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, research questions, justification of the problem, delimitations as well as the limitations.

1.2 Background of the study

Early marriage is a major topical issue in African countries for the past years, mostly in developing countries. It is believed by many school of thought that early marriages especially in the rural areas evolve as a result of poverty. Malhotra (2010) is of the view that early marriages are most experienced in poorer nations and families. Johansson (2015), argued that poor households marry their daughters at an early age essentially as a way to overcome economic burden. According to the World Bank (2001), where there is poverty, families or even girls themselves view marriage as the best way to overcome economic burden and all other problems which they can encounter as a family. It is against this background of poverty that people think that marrying young girls can be a measure to escape economic hardships and poverty by marrying their daughter to a rich family. In Zimbabwe as poverty continues to exist, many families considered a girl child as a source of income. It is believed that early marriages started as a way to escape poverty but in reality these people were also creating poverty as stated by Betar (2012) that women who are forced to marry young often lose out on valuable educational opportunities and become trapped in a cycle of poverty.

Traditionally, in the African context, early marriages manifest in the form of different cultural norms. According to Goody (1990) there are several reasons which influences parents in the traditional society to consider young girls as their daughter in- laws, that is, they are full of respect and they are submissive as they can agree to everything said to them

by their in-laws. In South Africa, there is a cultural norm known as ukuthwala in which a girl is kidnapped by a man with the intention of compelling the girl's family to endorse marriage negotiations. This system is similar to that of *musengabere* in Zimbabwe in which a man just go and carry a girl he loves by force to make her his wife. Usually the man made use of those moments when a girl was alone maybe when she goes to fetch some firewood or water a distant away from home. Usually *musengabere* was practised by those man who does not have the confidence to approach a girl or sometimes it was practised as a result of lust.

Jabson (2015) identified three cultural practices in Zimbabwe in which early marriages manifested and these are credit marriage (*kuzvarira*), avenging spirit (*kuripira ngozi*) and replacement of a deceased wife (*chimutsamapfihwa*). History tells that marrying off of young girls was usually done in terms of crisis like drought. In these situations a girl from a poor family was being given to the rich man usually chiefs, farmers or hunters in exchange of grains, and this culture was known as credit marriage. It was difficult for a young girl to deny the orders of her parents since the family was going to suffer from hunger. The one who was supposed to make decisions was the man whether to take the girl as his wife or to give her to his son but in most cases the rich old man took the girl as his wife. These cases of parental influences can also be evidenced in modern day life where parents force their children into marriage to get groceries from cross borders or any other rich people.

Still on cultural norms, early marriage manifested in the form of cultural practice known as avenging spirit and replacement of a deceased wife. Avenging spirit (*Kuripira ngozi*) is appeasing the spirit of a dead person by giving off a girl to the deceased person's family hence leading the girl to drop out of school. Also, families back then they believed in replacement of a deceased wife (*chimutsamapfihwa*) culture which was defined by Connolly and Moris (2001) as the cultural practice in which the bereaved husband marries the young sister or cousin of the deceased so as to maintain the relationship with the son-in-law especially when he was rich. These cultural practices undermine the rights of these children as they do not have choices but rather do it to save their families from misfortunes which might came as a result of disobeying these cultural practices. For example, the avenging spirit system, if the girl refuse to get married to the family of the deceased, the family was going to suffer many consequences such as unnecessary death, sickness among others.

The issue of early marriage also developed in the form of religious beliefs. Girls were being married off in the name of religion and church practices. As people were trying to put aside

cultural practices, religion took over. In Zimbabwe, early marriages are more likely to happen in the apostolic sects like the Johanne Marange Apostolic Church. These sects have their doctrine in which young girls are being married in the name of a prophecy and according to the doctrine a child cannot deny the decision of her parents or church leaders since the bible itself emphasizes that children must honour their parents. According to Mbiti (1990) the religious practice is centred on the belief that marrying off a daughter who is a virgin bring honour, morality and respect to the family, so parents believe that if a girl is not married at an early stage, she can be exposed to many things and end up losing her virginity. These leaders just consider what makes them happy yet not considering how they undermine the girl's rights.

Early marriages also developed as a result of gender inequality. According to Koenig and Foo (1992) early marriages were common in patriarchal communities where status derives from social stratification which values men more than women. Prior to the 21st century girls were being taken as useless to the society as they were denied the right to education or health. Many parents in developing countries or poor families perceive educating their daughters as wasted investment because they would be married and leave home at any particular time. Kaler (2003) stated that it was the duty of mothers and aunts to teach their daughters and niece the duties of a wife as they were to tell them that marriage is their sole goal. This only hampers the development of the society as they grow up with that in their minds and they do not even try anything that can contribute to the development of the society. Under these circumstances, girls always think that boys are the best and view marriage as the solution yet there are so many girls who are more intelligent and have great potential to develop the society than boys. Yadav (2006) supported this idea saying that denying a girl child educational opportunity hampers development of their personality, autonomy and employment skills henceforth affecting the development of the whole society. According to Naveed (2015) the society believe in educating a boy child and as for the girl child they believe that if they get married young the family will gain financially.

Coming to the 21st century, as gender inequality and sexual harassment continue to exist in many parts of the world, many girls found it necessary to escape these difficulties by engaging themselves into marriage. In this era most early marriages are not as a result of traditional practices though some are still observing these cultures, but young girls themselves find it necessary to get married especially the uneducated. They believed that if they got married they can be free from physical and emotional abuse they encounter as girls

since they will be able to decide what they want in their own houses not realising that they are not yet mature enough to have those qualities to make decisions. Mostly some young uneducated girls are being married due to peer pressure and since they do not have certain goals to attain in their lives, they just think that if they get married, they had achieve a great goal. These girls sometimes force their boyfriends to marry them before they are mature enough to do so. If their boyfriends do not agree with the idea they could end up having affairs with old people, get pregnancy for them and they end up getting married at an early age and sometimes to a married man.

It was against this background that prompt the researcher to assess the impact of early marriages on societal development in Zimbabwe taking Manicaland as a case study. These negative attitudes towards girl child where there is no tradition of educating them, allowing them to decide on their future, limit them to think that they can contribute to the family and society resources. According to Hasan (2014) families are not interested in their daughters' well-being as they sell them into a life of sexual exploitation, labour, domestic violence in the name of marriage. According to Gillard and Blanchett (2014) when you educate a man, you educate one person but if you educate a woman you educate a nation. If the society continue to believe in traditional practices, religious beliefs and in not educating the girl child, chances are high that they are also creating room for the girls to think that they are of no value to the society, hence losing confidence in themselves that they can make it to the society.

1.3 Statement of the problem

Marriage is something that every person wish for in life. According to the Zimbabwean culture as well as the legal perspective, every Zimbabwean citizen is supposed to get married after reaching the age of 18. At this age it is believed that a person can be able to make decisions without the influence of other people and at least she might be able to reach a certain level of education, hence bring upon societal development. According to Altonji and Pierret (2001) a more educative society may translate into higher rates of innovation, higher overall productivity and faster introduction of technology. Thus, the development of a society can be determined by the level of education of the people within that society. However, in modern day life many people do not value the education of a girl child or even her rights as a citizen of the country but rather took marriage as the first priority. If a person is married at an early age she cannot be able to finish school and the potential in her is being destroyed. If a young girl drop out of school and get married, obviously she will get pregnant and her duties will be that of taking care of the family, no school for her, no new better ideas to develop

herself, hence, no development to the society. She cannot have the chance to attend different social events where other young girls participate showing their talents and the potential in them. Marrying a young girl increases the rate of divorce cases since the girl is not mature enough to make best decisions of her life and the rate of domestic violence increases. Instead of giving young girls chances and opportunities to bring something positive to the society, they are being exposed to material things which lead them to a marriage at an early age. It has come to the attention of the researcher that, development can never be achieved in a society where the rights of young girls are being violated and the practice of early marriage continue to exist.

It is argued by many scholars that early marriages do have negative impact on societal development. However, a handful of other scholars disagree with this hypothesis. Hence, it is the work of this research to focus on the relationship between societal development and early marriages looking on the impacts of these early marriages on societal development in Zimbabwe using the case study of Manicaland on a given period of time.

1.4 Research Objectives

The study seeks to satisfy the following objectives;

1. To explain the causes of early marriages in Zimbabwe.
2. To analyse the impact of early marriages on societal development in Zimbabwe.
3. To assess the challenges faced in addressing early marriages in Zimbabwe.
4. To examine the legislative frameworks for addressing child marriages in Zimbabwe.
5. To proffer recommendations on how to eradicate early marriages in Zimbabwe.

1.5 Research Questions

The study seeks to answer the following questions;

1. What are the causes of early marriages in Zimbabwe?
2. What are the impacts of early marriages on societal development in Zimbabwe?
3. What are the challenges faced in trying to address early marriages in Zimbabwe?
4. How does the legislative frameworks try to address early marriages in Zimbabwe?
5. What strategies can be adopted to eradicate early marriages in Zimbabwe?

1.6 Justification of the study

Many researches have been undertaken on the issue of early marriage and the researchers came up with different views on whether early marriage affects societal development or not. Thus, this research was carried out to fill literature gaps on the previous researches that has been undertaken to give a detailed information on the actual implications of these early marriages on the societal development as well as providing recommendations on how to end early marriages. It is also important to note that, the research was carried out to add knowledge to the existing stock of knowledge pertaining early marriages and their impact on societal development.

Furthermore, the research was carried out to add value to the policy making machinery of the country. So many recommendations has been given in trying to eliminate early marriages, but however, it seems like early marriages remain a challenge to the country. Thus, the researcher believed that through the recommendations given in this research, it will help the law makers to make sound policies which will help to eradicate early marriages in the country hence leading to the development of the country.

1.7 Delimitations

Delimitations as defined by Leedy and Ormrod (2010) are those characteristics that limit the scope and define the boundaries of a study. These can come in form of geography that is the intended physical area of the study, time frame and also the area of the study. According to Smeeton and Goda (2003) unlike limitations, which flow from implicit characteristics of method design, delimitations result from specific choices by the researcher.

Time is one of the delimitations in this research. Although early marriages have been practised in the early 17th, 18th as well as 19th centuries, this research focused on the period 2010 up to 2016. Also, geographical area in which the study was being undertaken was a delimitation to the study. Early marriages are being practised in almost every country in the world and some researches have been conducted looking at Africa as a whole or Zimbabwe as a country. However, the researcher chose to use Manicaland province in Zimbabwe as a case study though some of the examples were drawn from other countries and also from other parts of Zimbabwe. Furthermore, the area of the study was a delimitation to this research. The impact of early marriages to the societal development was the core centre of the research. The researcher wanted to understand how these early marriages affect the development of a particular society in Zimbabwe.

1.8 Limitations

According to Simon (2011) limitations are potential flaws or gaps in one's research and they cannot be controlled. Price and Murnan (2004) define limitations of the study as characteristics of design or methodology that impacted or influenced the interpretation of the findings from a research. These characteristics set limits on the application or interpretation of the results of the study. Limitations can be viewed as constraints on generalizability and utility of findings.

The researcher faced difficulties in accessing information and securing appointments, with the interviewees as some recipients were always busy. Another limitation faced by the researcher is cultural practices. There are some areas the researcher failed to get access to information on the impact of early marriages because they still value their culture of marrying young girls so the chiefs did not allow the researcher to do interviews in those areas. Again the researcher faced a challenge in communication. The researcher failed to understand some of the words and sometimes, lost the meaning of the whole sentence.

1.9 Structure of the Organisation

1.9.1 Chapter one: Introduction

The first chapter of the dissertation is the introduction which comprises of the background of the study, statement the problem, justification of the problem, research objectives, research questions, delimitations as well as limitations of the study. In this chapter the researcher introduced the topic giving the picture on the background of the problem, what exactly push the researcher to study on such particular topic. It explain how the study is going to be conducted specifying the objectives and the importance of the study.

1.9.2 Chapter Two: Literature Review

Second Chapter of the study is literature review in which the researcher investigated and examine the researches that have been conducted by other scholars on the same study of early marriages. The researcher came up with the theories which supports the issue of early marriages and development. The researcher looked on the documents which explained the causes of early marriages, challenges faced when addressing early marriages, and the impacts of early marriages on societal development. The chapter also analysed the writings on the legislative frameworks that were put in place by different governments and organisations in a way to reduce the practice of early marriages and promoting societal development. This

chapter also considered other countries where early marriages has been a challenge. The chapter ends with a chapter summary.

1.9.3 Chapter Three: Methodology

Third Chapter explains to the reader the methods that were used by the researcher to collect and analyse data from the respondents. The chapter consists of the introduction, data collection, sampling methods, data analysis, ethical considerations and chapter summary.

1.9.4 Chapter Four: Presentation and analysis of findings

Fourth chapter of the dissertation is the presentation and analysis of findings in which the researcher layout the information obtained from the field of research. It contains the introduction, research findings, analysis part as well as the chapter summary.

1.9.5 Chapter Five: Conclusion and Recommendations

The fifth chapter which is the last chapter is the Conclusion and Recommendation. This chapter provides the summaries and conclusions on the research findings. The chapter goes on to give recommendations to the problem, how the problem on ground can be solved. Above all the conclusion on the problem is being provided in this chapter.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This research incorporated different literatures which try to explain the issue of early marriages and their impacts on societal development. The researcher started by reviewing literatures which explained the causes of early marriages as well as their impacts to the society, economy, the family and to the individuals who experience early marriages. The researcher goes on to look on legislative frameworks that were put in place in trying to deal with early marriages. However, authorities, individuals and certain organisations in trying to come up with measures on how to eradicate early marriages, they always face challenges as some people are even ignorant to the extent that they do not respect the law. Therefore, the researcher looked on these challenges in trying to understand the reason why the issue of early marriages remain at constant stage or even getting worse. The researcher took a further step to consider the countries which experienced early marriages looking on what were the causes, implications and how did they deal with the problem. Also, the researcher included theoretical framework in this chapter, thus a part which introduces and describes theories which explains why the research problem under study exist.

2.2 Definition of Key Terms

2.2.1 Marriage

Marriage as defined by Westermarck (1922) is a relation of one or more men to one or more women which is recognised custom or law and involves certain rights and duties both in the case of the parties entering the union and in the case of the children born of it.

2.2.2 Early marriage

Early marriage, also known as child marriage defined by Dahl (2010) is a marriage that occurs before a person reach the age of consent.

2.2.3 Societal development

According to Societal Development Report (2016) societal development refers to the relational capacities of an individual and of a community as a whole, which is capacity for plurality, acceptance and affirmation of the value of otherness. This report explains that the

development is not defined by its economic and social conditions but equally by its societal achievements.

2.2.4 Age of consent

Age of consent according to Sagade (2005) is the age at which young people in this case young girls are considered legally competent to consent to sexual activities. Age of consent can also referred to as legally define age at which a person is no longer required to obtain parental consent to get married (USLegal.com). According to the Constitution of Zimbabwe (2013) chapter 4 section 78 the age of consent is 18 years. It is important to note that age of consent differs from country to country.

2.3 Causes of early marriages

In the whole world early marriages has become the talk of the day. Cases of early marriages are increasing day by day due to different factors. The causes of early marriages vary from social, economic as well as traditional factors and they differ from country to country. These factors include poverty, traditional and cultural studies as well as women's status in the society.

2.3.1 Poverty

One of the factors that can cause early marriages is poverty. Poverty is viewed by many school of thought as the main factor which contribute to the existence of early marriages in many countries. According to Dzimiri et al (2017) child marriage is most common in the world's poorest countries and in most cases those from poor families in these developing countries are the ones who get married at an early age. In many countries, poverty is viewed as the main driver of early marriages since the poor families think that marrying their daughter would help them to survive in their time of crisis. Masinire (2015) argued that parents encourage marrying out their daughters while they are still children in hope that the marriage will benefit them both economically and socially, while also relieving financial burdens on the family. It is believed that poverty drives families to give their daughters in marriage in the hope that this will alleviate the family's poverty and secure the families honour when it is at stack.

2.3.2 Religious beliefs

Religious beliefs also can be viewed as a factor which lead to early marriages. Some of the religious beliefs states that girls should get married once they reach the stage of puberty. According to Mbiti (2015) the religious practice is centred on the belief that marrying off a daughter who is a virgin bring honour, morality and respect to the family. The rationale being that once a girl child is grown up the chances of committing adultery are very high. Thus, the only solution to keep the children from having sex before marriage is to marry them early and help them to live according to the will of God.

2.3.3 Traditional Practices

There are traditional practices and customs which also promote marriage of young girls. These practices include the credit marriage, ukuthwala in South Africa, avenging spirits among others. In places where traditions are followed, if a girl reaches her 15 year birthday without marriage, may considered past the marriageable age. The traditional aspects suppress the rights of young girls since they do not have the voice to deny what the parents told them to do. For example the traditional practice of *kuzvarira*, the girl is only to be told that she is going to be married to a certain old man because he helped the family in times of hunger or he is the person who paid the brother's school fees when the parents failed. In that situation, a girl has no option but rather just marry the person. There are practices such as *kuripa ngozi*, in which some avenging spirits want to be paid by a young lady in the family to be called the wife of the spirit. In order to save the family from misfortunes, the girl choose to be married to the spirit hence promoting early marriages since these spirits usually choose young girls.

2.3.4 Women status in the society

In many societies women are being viewed as useless people with no production or positive results to the society. Nawal (2006) argued that low status of girls in society is caused by gender inequality where male child is being given first preference in every aspect of life leading to poor treatment of girls in the society. The fact that a girl will be married to other family gives parents the preference to educate boys and marry off girls at a young age. According to Naveed (2015) the society value the education of a male child and as for the girl they believe that if she get married early, the family will be gaining financially. Parents

especially mothers, they tell their daughters that their only sole goal in life is marriage hence the girl child could always think that to be married is the greatest achievement.

2.4 Impacts of early marriages

2.4.1 Termination of education

Parsons et al (2015) argued that, when girls are married early, their educational trajectory is altered as formal schooling and education often cease, which means they stop acquiring knowledge and skills that would carry them throughout their lives. It is important to note that education is a key driver for social change, yet majority of girls drop out of school due to early marriage. According to Field and Ambrus (2008) the earlier the girl marries, the more likely it is that she will have a low level of schooling. Khanna and Weiss (2013) supported with the view that, depriving a girl of the opportunity to learn limits her prospects for employment and her ability to gain useful skills inevitably impacting her lifelong earning potential. Lack of formal education also has intergenerational effects, impacting her children's education attainment as well as physical health. According to the UNICEF (2014) girls who are married early are often removed from supportive social networks which allows them to be engaged in community affairs and activities, thus lessens girl's ability to engage in community and national level discussions and debates or engage in the political processes. Kamal and Hassan (2013) is of the notion that early marriages hold back young girls from continuing their education even basic primary education and are bound to early marriages thereby impeding the achievement of millennium developmental goals of universal access to education and women empowerment.

2.4.2 Poor decision making capacities

According to Klugman et al (2014) a girl has voice and agency when she can make decisions about her life and act on those decisions without fear of retribution or violence. Young girls are being alienated from participation and decision making about issues in their own lives as well as those facing a household, family or community. Since they are young, often poor and uneducated, they experience overlapping vulnerabilities. Malhotra et al (2011) supported this view saying that, young married girls are typically out of school and most have little to say in decisions about their lives. Duflo (2011) is of the view that, those who do not work rarely have control over their earnings. Isolation from school, friends and the workplace hampers

their success to social capital and networks that can increase their earning potential and productive use of earnings (Walby: 1990).

2.4.3 Domestic violence

Yemen (2008) is of the view that education and early marriages are strongly linked at both the individual and societal level. He argued that, those who marry at a young age likely will find motherhood the sole focus of their lives at the expense of development in other areas such as formal education and training for employment, work experience and personal growth. Marriage at an early age is associated in the long term with higher probability of divorce and separation. As a result, marriage dissolution bring about challenges be it social or economic for women who, as single mothers, they have to take full responsibility of the family.

2.4.4 Lack of Independence

According to Jones et al (2014) after they marry, young girls find very limited possibilities for an independent life. Evidence shows that in Ethiopia, many young married girls report that they were unable to continue their education without the support of their husbands, which they received relatively rarely. Jones et al (2014) community consensus regarding what makes 'a good wife' is defined almost exclusively in terms of the work she does for her husband, children and home. In most cases a women should bear more children and above all they should be boys so that she can be glorified by her in-laws for the good works. According to Erulkar (2013) early marriages limits young girls autonomy, knowledge, resources and decision making power.

2.4.5 Health problems

Married at an early age can bring negative impacts in terms of health. Chandra (1998) is of the view that, the inability of young brides to negotiate family planning methods has got negative impacts on their health status. Some of these young girls though they know about contraceptives methods, they are not able to use them leading them to experience high rates of abortions, miscarriages as well as maternal and infant mortality. According to USAID (2012) young brides are under great pressure to prove their fertility and this often results in pregnancies when their bodies are not yet ready for childbirth. Since they give birth at an

early age they face many complications when giving birth and some may die while giving birth. Early marriages make the girls more vulnerable to some of the diseases like HIV and AIDS and other STIs since they may not have the power to deny unprotected sex with their husbands even they really know that the husband is infected.

2.5 Legislative Frameworks

In trying to deal with the issue of early marriages, individuals, organisations as well as different countries came up with different legislative frameworks. These legislative frameworks includes constitutions, Acts, Bill of rights among others. The researcher incorporated different legislations from different countries and organisations around the world.

Different legislatures explain different issues. Article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) stipulates that marriage cannot be entered without the full consent of the intending spouse. The Convention of Consent to Marriage and Minimum Age for Marriage also prohibits marriages that are not entered into with the full consent of both parties. In addition, the Convention obliges States Parties to take legislative action to specify a minimum age for marriage. For example, the Constitution of Zimbabwe in chapter 4 section 78(1) indicates that, every person who has attained the age of 18 years has the right to find a family. It also made it clear in section 81 subsection 1(b) that, children (below the age of 18) has the right to be protected from economic and sexual exploitation or any form of abuse. Thus, protecting children from any harm, in this case, parents should protect their children from being married at an early age as it is another form of abuse as it affect their health due to early pregnancies. Also in South Africa the law also state that the age of consent for girls is 18 years. From the research conducted it shows that in many countries, the age of consent is 18 and 16 for some few countries.

The African Charter explicitly prohibits the marriage of persons under the age of 18 years. The Charter allows no exception for local religious or other cultural practices, nor does it allow for exceptions based upon consent of a local authority or the parent but rather everyone must be under the law. This law is against those cultural and religious practices where young children are being forced into marriage. In support of this, Article 34 (4) of the Ethiopian constitution enacted in 1994, state that, the state has the duty to guarantee the right of women

to be free from the influence of harmful customary practices. In this regard all forms of customs and traditions which sound to be oppressive to women or otherwise affect their well-being are prohibited.

Furthermore, the Members of the SADC Parliamentary Forum came up with the SADC model law on eradicating child marriage and protecting children already in marriage. Under the SADC model law, regional and international treaties require countries to set the minimum age of marriage at 18, register all marriages and take effective action, including legislation to eradicate child marriages. According to the SADC model law, the Ministry and every appropriate authority shall ensure that its relevant departments design programmes that take into consideration cultural, religious, age and gender specificities in dealing with child marriage prevention and protection.

There are other pieces of legislations that have been put in place by law makers that promote equality between a girl child and a boy child in every aspect of life. In Malawi in the area of Women's Human Rights, they adopted Gender Equality Act of 2013 which meant to promote gender equality in every aspect of life for example, education and health. In Zimbabwe also there is Zimbabwe Gender Commission Act which was put in place to make sure men and women are at par. Thus different legislative frameworks were enforced in trying to eradicate early marriages, however, their efforts are proved useless as the rate of early marriages is increasing despite the fact that laws are being adopted every time.

2.6 Challenges faced in addressing early marriages

2.6.1 Poor implementation of laws

In a way to eliminate early marriages, people are facing difficulties and this only becomes a barrier to the economic, social and political development of a country due to the negative impacts brought by early marriages that has been discussed before. Poor implementation of laws is a challenge in addressing early marriages. After adopting the law, the authorities are failing to take into action what they wrote on paper, hence it become more of theory than practical. Melton (1994) argued that low public awareness of the illegal nature of early marriage and of the consequences of child marriage is a challenge in trying to solve early marriages problem. In most cases the public awareness are being conducted in urban areas

yet the high rate of early marriage are being experienced in rural areas. It is in rural areas where chiefs and other old people still believe in traditional customs and values. Even their laws stipulates that it is a crime to marry someone who is under age (before 18 years), if that happened, they do not take measures. Therefore, it is difficult to eliminate early marriages when the law enforced is just on paper and not in practice.

2.6.2 Lack of knowledge

Also, lack of knowledge together with ignorance towards the law is a challenge in addressing early marriage. According to the World Health Organisation (2012) adolescent girls need to be empowered and equipped with knowledge and skills to make responsible choices about their social lives. Many people do not know the law especially those in rural areas. Sometimes they marry young girls not knowing that they are violating the rights of a child and the law as well since the marriage is viewed as a benefit to the family. However, some people really knows about the law and the consequences of conducting early marriages but still they continue doing it as a result of ignorance. They think that the law was made for some people not them but all these are happening because no one is willing to uphold the law.

2.6.3 Poverty

The fact that people are living in poverty is a major challenge faced in trying to address the issue of early marriages. As organisations try to fight early marriages in many countries, results shows that many people who are being married at an early age are from poor households. Betar (2012) argued that women who are forced to marry young they lose out on educational opportunities and become trapped in a cycle of poverty. Therefore, their children are being born in poverty leading to the continuity of early marriages as they will also try to escape poverty from their poor families. Young girls in trying to escape poverty, they will fall in love with old married people end up being impregnated and get married at an early age. Even if people try to stop them, unless they give them money to cover their needs, they will not stop. Parents from these families, they just believe in marrying off their young daughters as a way to escape poverty, therefore, poverty is a hindrance to the eradication of early marriages.

2.6.4 Lack of adequate financial resources

To stop early marriages, there is a lot of things that need to be addressed and to be done. Most of these activities requires money for instance awareness campaigns, scholarship programmes to educate young girls among others. However, all these activities are not being conducted due to lack of funds. Therefore, the processes and measures to eliminate early marriages is becoming a challenge as there are no funds to cater for the activities.

2.7 Theoretical frameworks

The researcher took into consideration theories which explains the existence of early marriages as well as those which describes how societal development can be attained. The researcher considered two theories to support the research, that is, social theory of gender and power and the liberal feminist theory. Gender and power theory explains the differences between men and women in the society. Also the feminist theory explain the issue of early marriages as well as development. According to Evance (1995) feminist or feminism theory is support of equality for women and men. There are various ways to approach this theory including liberal, socialist and radical feminism. There are some principles which feminist agreed on though they may differ in other views. They agreed that they should work towards gender equality, expanding human choice in which they believe that both men and women should have freedom to develop their human interests and talents, even if those interests and talents conflict with the status quo. All feminists wants to eliminate gender stratification, which is they oppose laws and cultural limit educational and job opportunity to women.

2.7.1 Gender and Power Theory

The social theory of gender and power which was propounded by Connell in 1987, was developed as a counteroffensive against patriarchal structures. According to Wingood and DiClemente (2000), the theory is based off of philosophical writings that explore the depths of sexual inequality as well as gender and power imbalance. Gender and power theory is suitable to this research due to the inequalities between men and women which may lead to early marriages. The theory is composed of three social structures, that is, sexual division of labour, sexual division of power and the structure of cathexis. According to Connell (1987) these three structures are distinct but are overlapping and work together to define and explain the heterosexual relationship between men and women.

The sexual division of labour according to Connell (1987) refers to the different social structures conditioning the relations between men and women, such as the division of labour, the organization of housework and childcare, the creation of men's and women's job discrimination in training and promotion. At societal level, it divides women and men into gender specific occupation where women are assigned to unequal, lower paying positions. At the institutional level, women are often assigned to do women's work, uncompensated responsibilities such as childrearing and housework. The uncompensated nature of work assigned to women, favours given to men, all these have implications on women's well-being. Women who are disadvantaged socio-economically such as minority and younger women are most likely to face those high risk factors especially those who are living in poverty, have less than a high school education.

The sexual division of power focuses on authority, control and coercion in relation to gender in hierarchies of the society. According to Connell (1987) women are virtually viewed through the conceptual lens of society's configuration of social structures. There seems to be a complex set of sub-texts of power in institutional cultures that excludes women from certain positions. The structure of cathexis in Connell's terms, refers to the constraints in people's emotional attachments to each other. At institutional level social norms and affective attachments are maintained by social mechanisms such as the biases. According to Wingood and DiClemente (2000) the structure of cathexis is also referred as the structure of social norms and effective attachment. Connell developed this structure of cathexis to address the effective nature of relationships. At the societal level, this structure characterises the sexual attachment that women have towards men and this dictates appropriate sexual behaviour from women. Women are adversely affected by this structure since they may have limited knowledge and they may not perceive themselves as having power to make decisions.

2.7.2 Liberal feminist theory

Liberal feminism is rooted in classic liberal thought and believes that individuals should be free to develop their talents and pursue their own interests. This approach sees gender inequalities as rooted in the attitudes of social and cultural institutions. Liberal feminism tends to rely on the state and political rights to gain equality, they see the state as the protector of individual rights. John Stuart Mill is one of the liberal feminists. Mill (1984) argues that the progress of society requires that all people, men and women, not be imprisoned in the "fixed social position" in which they are born but instead be given

opportunities to develop their talents and to pursue their desires as long as they pose no threat to the rights of others.

Mill's criticism of the social status of women is based on his analysis of the social injustice excluding women from public and civil life, from politics and decision making. Mill (1969) stresses that this kind of social injustice is one of the main barriers to human progress and moral improvement of human kind, consequently, the subjection of women negatively affects the whole society. As a liberal thinker, Mill expresses his strong conviction that the subordination of women, which deprives them of freedom is an unjust violation of the principle of liberty. Thus liberal feminists, do not see women's equality as requiring a reorganization of society, but they do seek to expand the rights and opportunities of women.

One of the reason why early marriages are being practised is unequal treatment between girls and boys in the society, where there is no gender balance. Boys are being given the opportunity to explore many things in life as compared to girls. Girls are being viewed as of less value as explained by the gender and power theory that women are being tasked to uncompensated responsibility such as childbearing and housekeeping. In many societies girls are only viewed as good wives, no one see them in another point of view where they can become great people who can bring development to the family and the society as a whole. This is how the world operates, driving young girls to be married early. Thus, young girls need to be liberated from this bondage of being viewed as useless to the society. They need to be given opportunity to express their talents and potentials in them not only to be taken as child bearers. This is what the liberal feminist theory explains that people should not live as per fixed structures of the society but rather create a society which gives freedom to everyone so that they pursue their dreams, hence societal development.

The researcher considered the gender and power theory as well as the feminist theory into this research because it explains how women and girls are being exploited and the need for them to be liberated. These theories clearly show the way girls were viewed as useless in the society and this is the reason why they end up being married at a young age. Boys as they viewed as important to the society, being given opportunities to fulfil their ambitions and dreams, it is very rare for them to marry early because they know that they have to make something in life. Hence, the researcher found it necessary to incorporate these theories since they are explaining some of the key drivers of early marriages.

2.8 Country Experience

2.8.1 Early marriages in Malawi

Early marriages happen everywhere in the world though the difference depend on the level of development of that country. In the African continent Malawi is one of the countries with highest rate of early marriages. In Malawi poverty is one of the factors which contribute to the practice of early marriages. According to the Human Rights Watch (2014) many of Malawian communities view early marriage as an important way to improve their economic status sometimes through the payment of dowry by the groom to the bride's family or through continued support by their daughter's husband. Early marriages in Malawi deeply entrenched in their traditions and patriarchal cultures which value male child at the expense of a girl hence encourage subordination of women in the society. This causes young girls to drop out of school rushing into a marriage which may bring problems in future lives. In a way to reduce the rate of early marriages in Malawi, they came up with different legal frameworks and policies. These include Gender equality Act of 2013 which promotes gender equality in different areas such as education and reproductive health. They also came up with the Penal Code Act in 2011 which was meant to raise the age of sexual consent from 13 to 16 years as well as the Education Bill of 2013 which makes education universal and compulsory. Despite all these laws put in place by the government, early marriages in Malawi remain at its highest level.

2.8.2 Early marriages in Chad

Chad has the third highest level of early marriages in the world. It is believed that about 68% of girls are married as children and early marriages are being practised both in wealthy and less wealthy households (Girls not brides, online). The drivers of early marriages in this country are the volatile socio-economic situations which include malnutrition, high food prices and droughts. The Ford Foundation Report (2013) pointed out that cultural tradition, conflicts and a failing economy are the factors which makes the practice to persist in Chad. All these situation makes young girls more vulnerable to marriage at an early age. Young girls are being married off at an early age as parents think that this can ease their financial burdens yet putting the lives of their daughters at risk as they are not ready for childbirth. Dreams and ambitions of young girls in Chad are being shattered when they are being married off at or before the age of 12, no education for them or even exposure to the world of work, all what they can get is husbands to get married to.

In trying to lower the level of early marriages in Chad in 2013 the Parliament approved the ordinance which was meant to prohibit and increase the age of consent from 15 to 18 years. Measures were also put in place that every person found being married to someone who is less 15 years should be imprisoned for about five to ten years or paying a fine. Awareness campaigns has been done in Chad for example the roadmap to ending child marriage in 2016. Also the President of Chad in 2015 launched African Union Campaign, all as a way to end early marriages.

2.8.3 Early marriages in India

Early marriages also happen in Asian countries. India is one of the countries in Asia where young girls are being married off either by their parents and guardians or by themselves. According to Basu (2010) India has the highest total number of child brides. In patriarchal societies of India, girls are seen as economic burden hence married off early so that they become a burden to their new families. The other factor which lead to the marriage of young girls in India is lack of educational opportunities especially in rural areas and this increases the vulnerability of a girl child. Evidence shows that in India a girl's right is regarded as a secondary priority as compared to her labour in the household. These girls end up suffering health wise, there is high rates of maternal mortality and infant mortality rates since the bodies of these young girls is not yet ready for child birth.

India adopted different legal frameworks and measures as a way to eliminate early marriages in the country. These laws include the Child Marriage Restrain Act (1978) meant to change the minimum age of marriage from 14 to 18 years, the prohibition of Child marriage act, 2006 among others. The government of India also state that every male adult who found marrying a young girl should be severely punished. All these measures were put in place so that they can reduce the rate of early marriages as data reveals that 50% of women aged 20-24 in India were married children (Goli:2010).

2.9 Chapter summary

This research was conducted in such a way to fill the gaps left by these different scholars and explain the theories, relating them to the research problem. Most of the research that have been undertaken concentrate on what causes early marriages and left loopholes on how these early marriages impact the societal development. As advocated for by Connell in his gender and power theory as well as the feminists, that there should be equality between men and women, girls need to be recognised, their voices amplified and their needs met. Once this is

done the level of early marriages will decrease and this can develop confidence within girls. Due to the rise of feminism, this is where the organisation such as Katswe sisterhood, Girl Child Network and others arose as well as programmes like Girl child network to empower girls so that they will not be vulnerable to early marriages.

CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

Blanco (2003) defines methodology as the general research strategy that outlines the way in which research is to be undertaken and, among other things, identifies the methods to be used in it. This chapter comprises of the research design, sampling techniques, methods of data collection, data analysis as well as the ethical considerations. This chapter gives the light on how the researcher collect data on the impact of early marriages on societal development.

3.2 Research design

Parahoo (1997) defines research design as a plan that describes, how, when and where data are to be collected and analysed. According to Burns and Grove (2003) it is a blueprint for conducting a study with maximum control over factors that may interfere with the validity of the findings. According to Neuman (2000) a research design will typically include how data is to be collected, what instruments will be employed, how the instruments will be used and the intended means for analysing data collected. Research design can be conducted via qualitative and quantitative methods. Also one can use mixed methods that is both qualitative and quantitative methods in the same research.

The researcher used a case study approach that is both qualitative and quantitative in nature known as mixed methods. Yin (1984) defines case study as an empirical inquiry that investigates a contemporary phenomenon within its real life context, when the boundaries between phenomenon and context are clearly not evident, and in which multiple sources of evidence are used. Mixed approach is defined by Brewer and Hunter (1989) as the collection of and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data in a single study in which data are collected either concurrently or sequentially giving a priority and involve the integration of the data at one or more stages in the process of research. Cross et al (2011) define it as a methodology for conducting research that involves collecting, analysing and integrating qualitative and quantitative research in a single study.

The researcher used mixed methods due to its advantages. According to Teddlie and Tashakkori (2003) by using mixed methods, one is able to conduct in-depth research and it provides for a meaningful interpretation of data and phenomenon being examined. In this case the researcher wanted to come up with accurate information on the impact of early marriages on societal development. Also, mixed methods allows the researcher have the ability to use the strength of one method of research to counter the weaknesses in another

method. Therefore by using the strength of one research method to counter the weaknesses of the other, the researcher managed to provide a strong evidence on how the early marriages affect the societal development. At the end, the researcher managed to come up with strong evidence in the conclusion on the impacts of early marriages on societal development in Zimbabwe through collaboration and convergence of findings.

3.3 Targeted Population

Targeted population according to Polit and Hungler (1995) is the aggregate of the cases that the researcher would like to investigate. In this research, the targeted population were young girls mostly since they are the most affected group on early marriages. Also the researcher targeted everyone in Manicaland Province to give their views on the nexus between early marriages and societal development. The researcher also targeted different NGOs and CSOs to have their responses on the measures that have been taken to minimise or totally eliminate early marriages in Zimbabwe.

3.4 Sampling

A sample according to Frey et al (2000) is a subgroup of a population. Berinstein (2003) describe it as a representative taste of a group. Burns and Grove (2003) defines sampling as a process of selecting a group of people, events or behaviour with which to conduct a study. There are two broad types of sampling that is, probability and non-probability sampling and this research used both probability and non-probability sampling. Non-probability sampling as defined by Cozby (2009) is a sampling technique which defines a population but expends little energy to ensure the sample accurately represent the population. According to Cochran (1953) Method probability sampling is any method of sampling that utilises some form of random selection. The researcher used purposive and convenience sampling.

3.4.1 Convenience Sampling

The researcher also used convenience sampling. Frey et al (2000) argued that convenience sampling includes participants who are readily available and agreed to participate in a study. Barbbie (1990) argued that, survey researchers need to find ways of procuring a sample that will represent the population they are interested in learning. This method is the most common in academic research because of the need to reach many respondents in a short space of time (Lohr: 1999). In this research, the researcher, persuaded young girls to take part since they are the ones who are being affected by the results and implications. The researcher went to

places like growth points and town centres where most of young girls are getting exposed to many things.

3.4.2 Purposive Sampling

Barbbie (1990) describe purposive sampling as a way of selecting a sample on the basis of the researcher's knowledge on the population and the nature of the research aims. It is also known as judgemental sampling as it relies on the judgement of the researcher when it comes to the selection of the sample. Under purposive sampling individuals are being selected to answer certain questions basing on their knowledge or rather experience on the issue. In some of the districts the researcher selected people who experienced early marriages to answer to answer the questions since they have more information on the causes and impacts of early marriages. This was done to have a clear picture on how these people feel about being married off at an early age, the effects and the benefits of early marriages, if they experience any.

3.5 Data Collection

Data collection according to Cooper and Schindler (2011) is the process of gathering and measuring information on targeted variables in an established systematic fashion, which then enables one to answer relevant questions and evaluate outcome. The choice of the method to be used when collecting data is influenced by the accuracy required as well as the skill of the environment. In this research, the researcher used document analysis, in-depth interviews and surveys to gather information from the respondents on the impact of early marriages on societal development.

3.5.1 Document analysis

Bowen (2009) describes documentary analysis as an orderly method for checking on or assessing archives - both printed and electronic material which can be personal or public documents. Like other systematic techniques in qualitative research, documentary analysis requires that information be inspected and deciphered keeping in mind the end goal to inspire significance, increase understanding, and create observational learning (Dennis and Nanus: 1985).

Therefore, the researcher used documentary reviews as a means for data collection. The research used documents like books, journals, newspapers, government legislative laws as well as government publications. Some of the documents used include the constitution of Zimbabwe, the SADC model law on eradicating early marriages, Malhotra (2010) on

solutions to early marriages. The researcher combined these materials in data collection so as to have a clear picture or answer to the research question. Document reviews as a means of data collection was selected due to its broad advantages than other qualitative data collection means. The researcher used document analysis as a method for data collection because they are always available whether electronic copies or even hard copy can be obtained from the library. Also, documents point to the questions that need to be addressed and to areas which might need to be observed, hence making the use of document analysis effective and efficient.

3.5.2 In-depth Interviews

In-depth interviewing is a qualitative research technique that involves conducting intensive individual interviews with a small number of respondents to explore their perspective on a particular idea (Boyce 2006). The researcher used in-depth interviews since some individuals might not be comfortable to talk openly in a group, in most cases, those who already experience the effects of early marriages. The advantage of using in-depth interviews when collecting data is that the respondents feel comfortable to have a conversation with the researcher about the topic on ground and in this case, the issue of early marriages, how they impact the development of a society. Also the researcher was able to have an opportunity to ask follow questions, probe for additional clarification in order to generate a rich understanding of attitudes of different people in the society on the issue of early marriages.

3.5.3 Questionnaires

According to Bell (1999) questionnaires is generally a series of written questions for which the respondents has to provide the answers. In general they refers to a list of questions laid out in a standard and logical form of record individual respondent attitudes and behaviour. The researcher used open-ended questions which provide a wide range of responses and this helps the flavour of people's answers on the topic on the ground in this case, the impacts of early marriages on societal development. Also, close ended questions were used though they end the dialogue as they only provide specific response the researcher want to hear. The researcher made sure that the wording, structure and layout of all questionnaires must lead to valid and reliable results. Also the researcher constructed the questions which were easy to understand.

The researcher chose to use questionnaires as they give room for the researcher to get more information from respondents at a low cost as articulated by McLeod (2014). Also questionnaire was the best method to collect data as the researcher targeted a large population

so questionnaires as different districts were to be reached. Fowler (2002) argued that questionnaires are the best when the researcher want to cover a group of people who are widely scattered in order to cut the costs. The researcher distributed questionnaires to the Civil Society Organisations, chiefs, nurses, counsellors, but more of them was distributed to the teenagers both married and unmarried who were available.

3.6 Data Analysis

Marshall and Rossman (1999) describes data analysis as a process of bringing order, structure and meaning to the mass collected data. Polit et al (2001) data analysis means to organise, provide structure and elicit meaning. When doing data analysis, data is organised, data are summarised and patterns and themes in data are identified and linked. In this study the researcher used content analysis and thematic analysis.

3.6.1 Content Analysis

Content analysis has been defined as a methodical, replicable method for reducing many words of text into fewer content groupings based on unambiguous rules of coding (Bryman: 1990). Joffe and Yardley (2004) offers a comprehensive meaning of content analysis as, "any method for making extrapolations by accurately and methodically identifying definite characteristics of messages." Content analysis is used to summarise any form of content by counting various aspects of the content that is its properties such as frequencies of the most used key words. The researcher used this form of data analysis so as to discover and describe the individual and group attention towards early marriages and their impacts on societal development in Zimbabwe, hence be in a position to answer the research question.

3.6.2 Thematic Analysis

The researcher used thematic analysis to analyse data. Thematic analysis according to Morgan (1997) is a type of qualitative analysis used to analyse themes that relate to the data collected. Lapadat (2010) defines thematic analysis as a systematic approach to the analysis of qualitative data that involves identifying themes or patterns of cultural meaning, coding and classifying data usually textual, according to themes and interpreting the results. It elucidates data in great detail and deals with diverse subjects. The researcher use codes and categories to formulate themes explained by Polit and Hungler (1995) as the stage of data analysis where data is reduced to smaller and manageable units. The researcher formulate themes from the data collected relating to the research questions which were guiding the researcher during data collection process.

These themes include causes of early marriages, impacts of early marriages, challenges faced in trying to solve early marriages, legislative frameworks as well as strategies to be implemented to reduce the rate of early marriages in Zimbabwe. The researcher used codes as they give room to the researcher of reviewing the whole data by identifying its most significant meaning (Miles and Huberman: 1994). Thematic analysis has been selected in this research since it allows the researcher to come up with accurate information on the impacts of early marriages on societal development in Zimbabwe as it gives an opportunity to understand the issues more widely.

3.7 Ethical Considerations

According to Barsky (2010) ethics is a systematic approach to understanding, analysing and distinguishing matters of right and wrong, good and bad, admirable and deplorable as they relate to the well-being of the relationships among sentient beings. Ethical consideration refers to moral standards that the researcher should consider in all research methods in all stages of research design. Munhall (1988) argued that the reason why ethics should be considered is that they help the researcher not to fabricate or falsify the data, therefore promoting the pursuit of knowledge and truth which is the primary goal of research. Ethical considerations serve as a corner stone for conducting research activities as they ensure that no-one is harmed or suffers consequences from research activities. The following ethical consideration has been considered by the researcher, informed consent, confidentiality and anonymity.

3.7.1 Informed Consent

According to Berry (2005) informed consent is the process where a participant is informed about all aspects of the trial, which are important for the participant to make a decision and after studying all aspects of the trial the participant voluntarily confirms his or her willingness to participate in a particular research. According to Denzin and Yvonna (2000) one of the most important ethical rules governing qualitative research is that individuals must voluntarily give their informed consent before participating as it involves informing the subject about his or her rights, the purpose of the study, procedures to be undertaken, potential risks as well as benefits of participation.

3.7.2 Privacy

Privacy as defined by Bhutta (2004) refers to the individual's control over the extent, timing, and circumstances of sharing herself or himself, physically, behaviourally or intellectually

with others. Researchers must not breach a respondent's privacy but rather they should protect it. The researcher also looked at confidentiality as it is also important when conducting a research as argued by Wiles et al (2006) that it pertains to the treatment of information that an individual has disclosed in a relationship of trust and with the expectation that it will not be divulged to others without permission in ways that are inconsistent with the understanding of the original disclosure. Privacy pertains to people whereas confidentiality pertains to data.

3.7.3 Anonymity

Grinyer (2001), when researchers consider the issue of anonymity of research participants, concern may be most likely to focus on how it can be maintained, particularly when under pressure from authorities to divulge identities. When data is collected and held anonymously, it indicates that there are no identifying values that can link information to the participant, not even the researcher could identify a specific participant.

3.8 CONCLUSION

The chapter gives a greater details on the methods used by the researcher in designing, sampling, data collection and data analysis so as to answer the research questions. The research used mixed methods as a research design. In sampling, the research used both probability and non-probability samples namely; purposive sampling and convenience sampling. The researcher used in-depth interviews, documents and questionnaires as methods of data collection. In data analysis, the researcher employed content and thematic analysis. The researcher considered informed consent, privacy, confidentiality as well as anonymity as ethical considerations of this research.

CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

Data analysis according to Marshall and Rossman (1990) is the process of bringing order, structure, and meaning to the mass of collected data. Data can be presented in form of graphs, tables or pie charts. This chapter provides a presentation and analysis of the data collected through the methods indicated in chapter 3 (methodology) in order to understand the impact of early marriages on societal development. Data was presented in form of tables, graphs, pie charts as well as in themes formed from the research questions on the study.

4.2 Research Findings

According to Annesley (2010) research findings refers to the principal outcomes of a project, what the project revealed and usually the totality of outcomes rather than the conclusions or recommendations drawn from them. Out of 7 districts in Manicaland Province, the researcher collected data from 5 Districts that is Mutare, Buhera, Mutasa, Makoni, and Chimanimani. However, the researcher failed to reach other parts of Manicaland as chiefs and headman in those area did not permit the researcher to conduct the research due to their own reasons.

Table 1: Response Rate from the Questionnaires

| Respondents | Issued out | Returned | Returned % | Not Returned | Not Returned % |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| CSOs | 3 | 2 | 6.66 | 1 | 3.33 |
| Chiefs | 3 | 2 | 6.66 | 1 | 3.33 |
| Counsellors | 4 | 3 | 10 | 1 | 3.33 |
| Teenagers | 10 | 9 | 30 | 1 | 3.33 |
| Nurses | 4 | 4 | 13.33 | 0 | 0 |
| Married | 6 | 5 | 16.66 | 1 | 3.33 |
| Total | 30 | 25 | 83 | 5 | 16.67 |

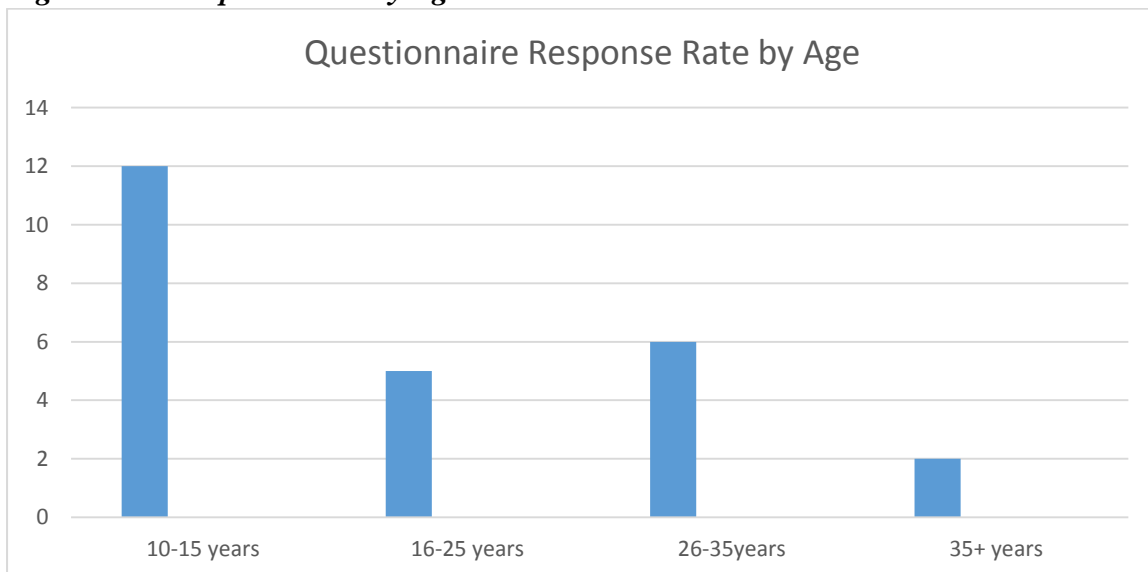
Table 1 above shows how the questionnaires were distributed and the response rate from the targeted population. Out of 30 questionnaire distributed, 25 respondents managed to complete and return the questionnaires and only 5 did not return. These 25 respondents were both males and females, 8 and 17 respectively. As for their age groups, it was ranging from 10 up to 35+ years of age. The total percentage on the response rate was 83% which was good for the researcher to have accurate information and non-response rate, constitute only 17%.

Table 2. Response Rate from Interviews

| Districts | Targeted population | Available Population | Percentage Rate % |
|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mutare | 5 | 5 | 100 |
| Buhera | 5 | 4 | 80 |
| Makoni | 5 | 4 | 80 |
| Chipinge | 5 | 3 | 60 |
| Chimanimani | 5 | 4 | 80 |
| Total | 25 | 20 | 80 |

The researcher targeted to conduct interviews with 25 people, 5 from each of 5 selected districts in Manicaland province and managed to conduct interviews with 20 people adding up to the total percentage of 80%. The other 5 people were not available due to their own reasons such as tight work schedules and they constitute a percentage rate of 16%.

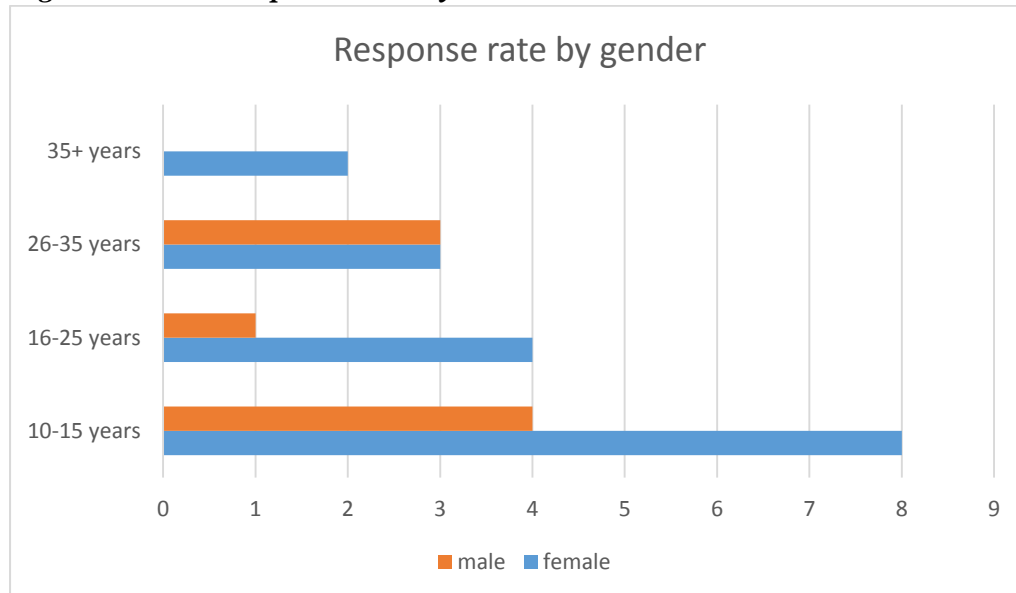
Fig 1 shows Response Rate by Age



Out of the 25 returned questionnaires, different age groups were being represented. The highest response rate came from the young age group of 10-15 years, 12 of the respondents came from this age group which constitute about 48%. This is because they are the most affected group and the researcher targeted this age group. Five people were representing the age group 16-25 years, 6 people were from 26-35 years. The response of these two age groups should have been higher than that since they are most active people but due to their occupations and some other commitments they only constitutes 20% and 24% respectively.

The least response came from age group 35 years and above. Only 3 participants were from this age group to make up only 8% of the whole population. Their response was low since they are old they no longer have interest in participating in such discussions.

Fig 2 shows the Response Rate by Gender

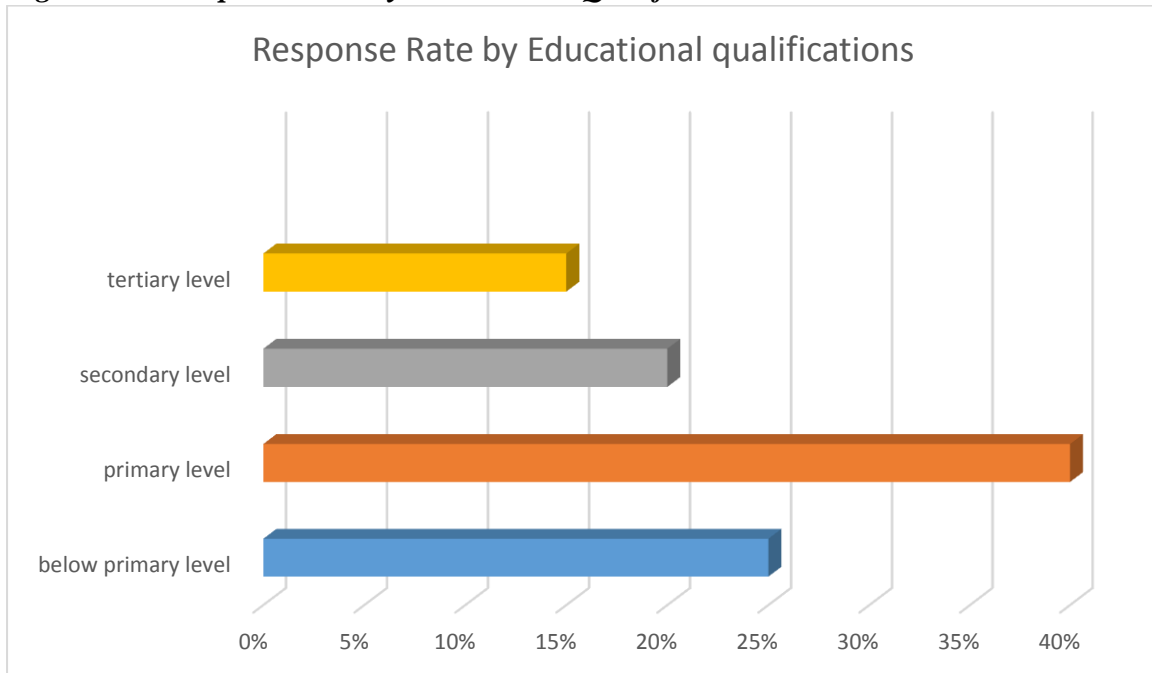


The graph above interprets the findings on the responses from the questionnaires showing the responses by gender. The graph shows that females were much active in the research to give their views since the research was targeted the girl child. As mothers, they feel that if they express their thoughts maybe one of day young girls will be valued in the society. Age group 10-15 has 8 females compared to 4 boys, 16-25 years constitutes of 4 females and 1 male, 26-35 years the responses was equal and finally the age group of 35+ years only females took part.

During the research, it has been revealed that the level of education on those who are being married at an early age is being affected. This was shown from the responses the researcher got from those who were married at an early age. Fig 3 below shows percentage rate on the respondents' educational qualifications. Results shows that about 25% of the girls or women who married before the age of consent did not even attain a primary level certificate (grade 7). 40% of these women only obtain a primary level and that was all for them, what was important to them and their parents was for them to be able to read and write so that they can be able to write letters to their husbands. 20% of the married people managed to reach secondary level but a few managed to obtain the ordinary level certificate. Out of all these people, only 15% attained tertiary level certificates but most of them their school fees were being paid by their husbands. This shows that there are a few people who are able to continue

with their education after being married at an early age but rather focus on households activities.

Fig 3 shows Response Rate by Educational Qualifications



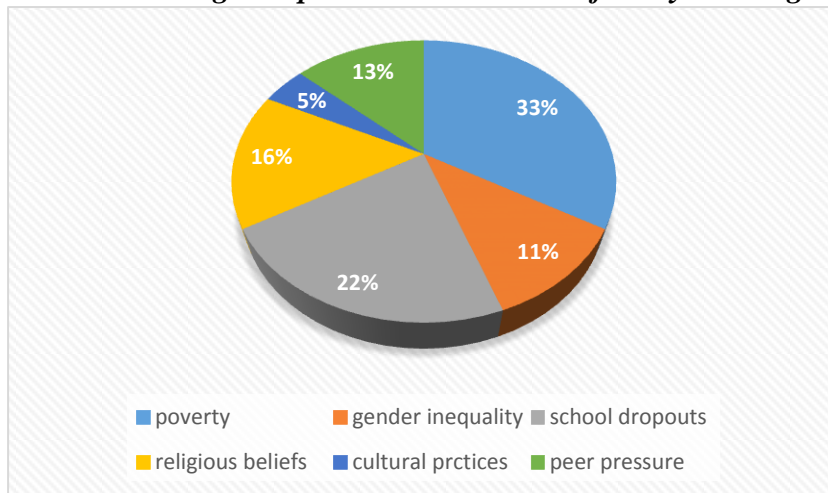
4.2.1 Causes of early marriages

In a research conducted, responses clearly shows that causes of early marriages in Zimbabwe are diverse. Different responses came out of the targeted audiences. Out of the whole population took part during the process through interviews and those who answered the questionnaires, 33.33% agreed on the fact that poverty is the major cause of early marriages, 22.22% pointed out the issue of school dropouts, 15.55% stated that religious practices is the main factor which contribute to early marriages. Factors like cultural practises, gender inequality and peer pressure were raised by 4.44%, 11.11% and 13.33% respondents respectively.

Table 3 shows Responses on the Causes of Early Marriages

| Causes | Responses from questionnaires | Responses from interviews | Percentage rate |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| poverty | 9 | 6 | 33.33% |
| Gender imbalances | 3 | 2 | 11.11% |
| Cultural practices | 1 | 1 | 4.44% |
| Religious beliefs | 3 | 4 | 15.55% |
| Peer pressure | 4 | 2 | 13.33% |
| School dropouts | 5 | 5 | 22.22% |
| Total | 25 | 20 | 100 |

Fig 4 shows the Percentage Response on the Causes of Early Marriages in Zimbabwe



Out of 20 people interviewed, 6 of them agreed that poverty is the major cause of early marriages in Zimbabwe taking example of their area of Manicaland. This was in support of the responses obtained from 9 of the returned questionnaires. Respondent A argued that;

“The reason why our young children rush into marriage is because of poverty.

Poverty!! Poverty!! Is very dangerous. You find out that many children who grow up in poor households have high chances of being married at an early age. Very few girls from these families can reach the age of 18 while single, they get married at an early age, 13,14 years she is gone. Sometimes they force their boyfriends from rich

families to have sex with them so that they get pregnant and get married to that family in trying to escape poverty.”

Other responses shows that gender imbalance is another cause of early marriages in Zimbabwe. In an interview with respondent B, she responded that early marriages are a results of unequal treatment between boys and girls in their families as well as the community as a whole. Her response tally up with what the researcher got from the questionnaires and other respondents. She asserted that;

“I think early marriage come as a result of unequal treatment between a girl and a boy child. Boys in many cases got full attention as compared to girls. Also boys are valued more than girls, they get enough education whereas a girl child sometimes only attend school up to the stage where she can be able to read and write and that’s enough for her. I myself I was married when I was 14 years after my parents ordered me to stop attending school because they no longer have enough money for our school fees but my twin brother continue with his education. So I left with one option that is to get married”

Peer pressure raised as a factor which contributes to early marriages practices. In an interview with respondent C, she emphasised on the point that early marriage is a result of peer pressure. She argued that most of the girls are married at an early age due to peer pressure, they want to copy the life style of their peers not knowing the results yet some will end up regretting.

Respondent C argued that;

“The truth is we as young girls we are being pressurised by what we see and what we are exposed to. Here in rural areas if you get a \$1, it is like you have a thousand because we have nowhere to get it. Then it happens that we have our own friends who are rich, wear different types of fashion and live a luxurious life, so we try to copy their life style end up being impregnated by those rich people worse they are old, married people with their families at home. So after I get pregnant the only way for me not to be mocked by the community I just go and get married to that rich person. So the issue of peer pressure I was talking about if one of my friends see me in that family living a higher life she will find ways to being in one of the rich families not thinking of the age or even of the future”

Respondent D supported that peer pressure is a driver of early marriages in Zimbabwe. He explained how these young girls are being attracted by the life of their fellow girls who come from better families. Respondent D articulated that;

“vasikana vechidiki ava vanoda kaupenyu kepamusoro zvinova zvinozokonzera kuti vakaona vamwe vavo vanobva kudzimba dzakasimukira voti dai tafananawo navo. Vana vedu vechidiki ava vanoda mari that’s why makaona nguva yechiyadzwa iya vana vakapera kuroorwa nekuti anenge angotorwa moyo nemari yawanikwa mukukorokoza asingatarisi ramangwana kuti mari iyi ikapera zvichazovei. Vakangoona aroorwawo nemudhara wake akaita kunge agarika vakutoti nesuwo dai tadaro.” (Young girls want to live a higher life full of everything so if they see girls of their age from rich families, they want to be like them. they are being affected by their love of money this is why during the Chiadzwa period many young girls got married just because they wanted to enjoy money of those artisan miners yet not considering life after. If they see someone of their age married to an old person look like she is enjoying the marriage, they want to be like her not knowing that their cases might be different.)

Other respondents articulate that religious beliefs are the real causes of early marriages in Zimbabwe. These responses most came from participants in Marange area, Mutare districts where the Johane Marange church is dominant. One of the respondents said

“In this area of Marange what we can view as the cause of these early marriages is religious beliefs and doctrines. We have the Johanne Marange church where the parents marry their children at an early age which is so bad. Instead of educating their children, they are busy searching for rich, old man to marry their children. Where are we going with such people with backward minds?”

Another part of the respondents mentioned school dropouts as the reason why early marriages exists in Zimbabwe. The idea was, once girls drop out of school, they think that marriage is the only option left for them to survive. They think marriage is the best achievement they can have. According to respondent G, he argued that;

“looking at most women who got married at an early age, the reason was that they left school at an early age and what came into their mind first is that if they get married they can make a great achievement. Especially those girls in rural areas they

do not have anything to do in terms of entertainment so this love game is the only thing they can do ending up being pregnant, hence get married at an early age.”

Few of the respondents then raised the issue of cultural practices as the cause of early marriages in Zimbabwe. From the responses it shows that cultural practices in modern day life are not really much followed. There are few areas where cultural practices like kuripa ngozi, kuzvarira, musengabere among others are still practised. One of the respondent reiterated that;

“Early marriages can be caused by our cultural practices which manipulate the right of our young girls. Cultural practises like kuripa ngozi where a girl is married to a certain spirit of which she did not know how it happened and now she is called mukadzi wengozi (wife of an avenging spirit). Also there are practices like kuzvarira, where parents give their girl child to a rich person so that they can survive especially in times of hunger.”

Out of the responses the researcher obtained from the study on the causes of early marriages in Zimbabwe, it clearly shows that early marriages are there and they are real in Zimbabwe. The causes of early marriages are diverse, some argued that gender inequality is a factor that cause early marriages in Zimbabwe and this was in line with what Koenig and Foo (1992) who asserted that early marriages were common in patriarchal communities where status derives from social stratification which values man more than woman. Respondents raised different causes but poverty seem to be the major cause of early marriage looking at the responses given by the participants. This response was in support of what argued by Parsons et al (2015) who argued that child marriage is most common in the world’s poorest countries and is often concentrated among the poorest households within those countries. Looking at the economy of Zimbabwe without jobs and life is so hard to those in rural areas, girls are being married at an early age to escape poverty. Also it is important to note that few early marriages are as a result of cultural practices since many people in modern day life no longer believe in such cultures instead, most people are now Christians.

4.2.3 Impacts of early marriages on societal development in Zimbabwe

Early marriages can affect the happiness and freedom of a child since they have to take the responsibility of the family. Their minds are being occupied by many thoughts of their duties as compared to those who are in school. Those who are still in school, they are being taken care of by their parents so they have nothing to think about, hence they always live a happy

life. A girl who enters into marriage at an early age, do not have that happiness on their faces as they have many things in their minds on how to make their families survive.

During the research, respondents were asked to give their opinions on the impacts of early marriages in Zimbabwe and different responses came out. About 25% of the responses shows that early marriages contributes to school dropouts of young girls, hence contributing to underdevelopment of the society. In an interview with respondent X, she articulated that;

“Early marriages is a major obstacle to the development of our society as formal education of these young girls will be terminated. There are small cases in which a girl continue to attend school after being married. So these early marriages have negative impacts on the development of our societies as the society is being robbed of unearthed potentials in the name of marriage. We have doctors, lawyers, leaders of tomorrow among these children but if she gets married maybe at grade 7, how can we be able to see the greatness in her, hence our societal development is being hindered.”

Among the responses received, about 5% of the respondents argued that early marriages has negative effects on the development of the society as they cause breakdown the social fabric. Respondents X, Y and Z agreed on the notion that the society lacks coherence and solidarity if important values which forms what we call society are being eroded by the practices of early marriages that is respect, unity, dignity among others. In an interview respondent X asserted that;

“Early marriages are lethal as they break down the social fabric in most instances. Take it from the perspective that it happens that my daughter is pregnant for an old man in the same village and is staying with him without proper marriage, no lobola no anything it means already we are at logger heads with that man’s family as they have violated what constitutes Ubuntu philosophy by virtue of disrespecting the girl’s family. Therefore, there is no way a society can develop when the members are not in unity and there is no respect for each other.”

15% of the responses was emphasising on the increase in the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) through the practice of early marriages is another negative effect raised by respondents during the research. Facts were raised that if a person get married at an early age, she does not have full knowledge on how to use contraceptive methods and they become more vulnerable to STDs. Sometimes because of age, the husband

even if he knows that he is HIV positive can force the wife not use protection during sex, hence spreading of STDs. The girl in order to keep the marriage will do whatever pleases her husband hence affecting her health. Therefore the increase of diseases will affect the society since there will be high death rates, infected people who always think of maintaining their health instead of thinking how to develop the society.

Again, responses indicated that early marriages causes immoral behaviours like theft, prostitution just to mention a few. 15% supported the view that a young girl cannot sustain the needs of the whole family. Since most of these people drop out of school, they end up doing bad things just to keep the family alive be it food, clothes, money or anything that can be needed in the house as the mother. During the interviews, respondent A supports this views by saying;

“In our shona culture they say musha mukadzi meaning a wife is supposed to take care of the family. Now a 12 year old can be called a wife, what does she know? Sometimes the girl married to a polygamist and she is the 5th wife, the husband tell them to take care of the children for themselves. So in order to keep the family she will end up doing prostitution or even steal to provide for the family hence, morality is important for the development of the society. Therefore, if early marriages still exists it is difficult for our societies to develop.”

In an interview a woman aged 30 years raised a point which support what the researcher got from the questionnaires to constitute about 20% response rate. She pointed out that early marriages increases divorce cases in the society. She said;

“Most of the divorce cases in courts today are coming from those people who married at an early age. They do not understand the importance of marriage, what they think of after a simple misunderstanding is divorce. Domestic violence is at its pick because of these early marriages, hence leading to divorces.”

Another 20% of the respondents raised the view that early marriages affect the development of the society as they cause overpopulation. The idea was if the person get married at an early age she will bear more children obviously if she get married at the of 14 there is no way she can stop at 24 but rather 30s or 40s hence increasing the population. For example those from Johanne Marange church, they are not allowed to visit hospitals or even use medications which means they do not use family planning pills or any other family planning methods like injections, hence give birth to many children. Therefore overpopulation in an area where

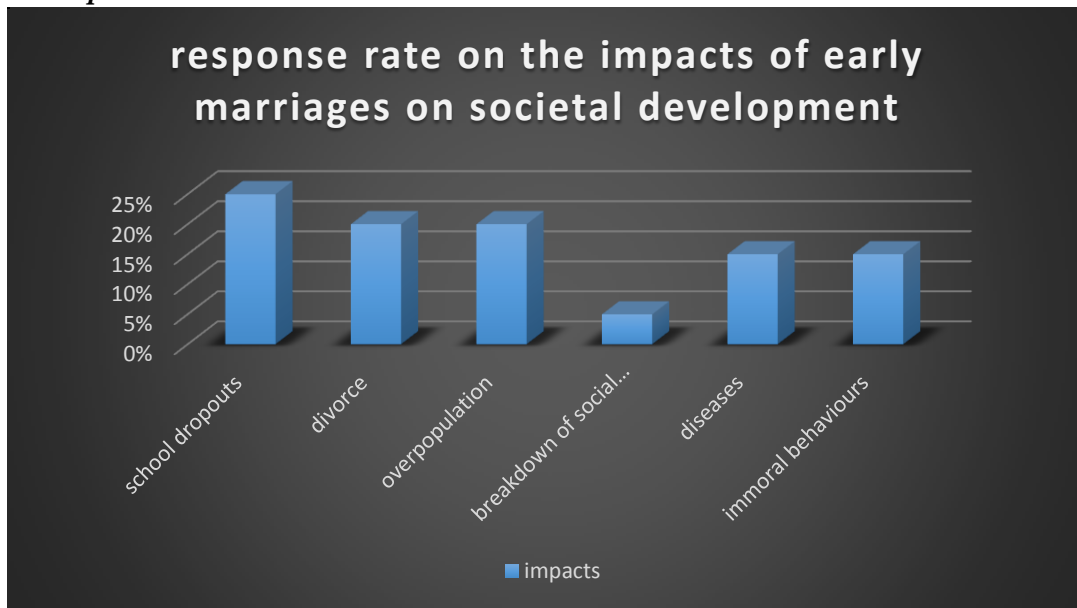
resources are scarce retard back the development of the society since people will be competing over limited resources. Instead of adding the resources, people will be busy fight over the available, scarce resources.

To support the above response, respondent Z argued that early marriages lead to too much land fragmentation which is detrimental to productivity. He further explained that;

“Agriculture is the backbone of our economy and at societal level it can be done for commercial reasons and general sustenance. So if there are too many of early marriages, the only thing those children are given is land to till. So basically the land is sub-divided so that everyone gets a share. At the end of the day, the land is over fragmented even to minors without the knowhow, sometimes affecting those with the ability to produce more in the name of equality to every citizen hence general productivity of the society is being affected.”

Responses shows that early marriages bring about negative impacts to the development of the society as these young girls drop out of school just after marriage. The husband’s family will be expecting a grandchild from their daughter-in-law meaning to say there is no way such a person will get a chance to attend formal education. This is in support of Kamal and Hassan (2013) who argued that early marriages hold back young girls from continuing their education even basic primary education. Some pointed out that early marriages lead to overpopulation which cause people to fight over the limited resources available hence affecting the productivity of the society. This was in support of UNICEF (2014) that while population growth endangers people and planet alike, tackling child marriage in developing countries helps protect and empower girls and women, hence lower birth rates. Thus early marriages as a phenomena is affecting societal development in Zimbabwe looking at the percentage rate of young potential girls who are being married, hence distracting the greatness in them which can bring development to the society.

Fig 5 summarises the results obtained on the impacts of early marriages on societal development



4.2.3 Challenges faced in addressing early marriages in Zimbabwe

During the research conducted, the respondents were asked to give their views on the challenges faced by different organisations, government and general citizens when trying to eradicate early marriages in Zimbabwe. Responses showed that people have tried to eradicate early marriages but a lot of obstacles make it impossible.

From the information collected from the participants it shows that there is limited supporting machinery to stop early marriages. Although resources are scarce but if many people, organisations come together, help each other with the ideas, this will help in addressing the issue of early marriages. Considering the fact that the most affected population is the rural population, there is a limited number of facilities that work against the need to curb child marriages for example, counselling platforms, rehabilitation centres, Vocational Training Centres (VTC). Therefore, addressing early marriages in rural areas can be difficult.

The major obstacle faced in trying to address the practice of early marriages in Zimbabwe is lack of funds and resources to educate the societies on the consequences of early marriages. Most people who are being experiencing early marriages are those in the rural areas and they do not consider the effects of being in marriage at an early age so they need to be educated. In an interview with respondent X from Katswe Sisterhood, she reiterated that;

“The challenge that we have as an organisation is lack of resources to educate people on the subject matter, that is early marriages and I think it’s the same with the

government. The highest population which is being affected are from rural areas and you find out that most of them do not have full knowledge of the consequences of early marriages on their children, families, society or the nation as a whole. Therefore all these people must be educated but with few resources that we have we cannot educate all the provinces. Taking for example here in Manicaland only, there are seven districts but we can be able to cover only 3 of them and the rest left unattended to.”

Respondents a, b and c agreed with respondent X who raised another challenge that the citizens are ignorant of the things they really know. Respondent X asserted that;

“The other obstacle is ignorance among Zimbabwean citizens. I was talking about educating just a small group and you find out that after receiving such kind of information or knowledge, early marriage rate is increasing. Why? It is because they are ignorant of the thing they really know. It does not mean that among those people who are force their young children into marriage through their religious beliefs and cultural practices do not know what the law says. They know that early marriage has effects on the health of the child but you see them forcing a child into an old rich man. The bad part of it is some of them do not allow their children to visit the clinic. Therefore, ignorance is a big challenge faced in addressing early marriages.”

Religious and cultural differences considered to be an obstacle in trying to address the practice of early marriages in Zimbabwe. The idea being that different people believe in different things, different religious doctrines and culture. If people try to address the issue of early marriages in a society where culture is preserved they will just say it is our culture. In such a society if a family suffers from avenging spirit and the spirit is to be paid back by a young girl to be a wife to the spirit, the girl has no option but to get married and serve the family from mysterious death in the family. In the situation where people of that area are more into their religious doctrine like the Johanne Marange people it is difficult to convert them not to follow their church doctrine for they might see that person as the devil. They believe that a girl is supposed to get married at an early age before losing her virginity so if people try to address the issue of early marriage to such people it is a great challenge.

Poverty came also as an obstacle in trying to stop early marriages. Responses showed that where there is poverty it is difficult to stop early marriages since families and the girls themselves view marriage as a way of escaping poverty. In an interview with one of the chiefs in Buhera District, he remarked that;

“Urombo ndihwo hunogona kutadzisa kuderedzwa kwekuwanikwa vana vachiri vadiki. Kana mhuri iri yeurombo vanotogara pasi nemwana voonesana kuti vangararama sei kusvika vabuda nezano rekuti mwana aroorwe zvake. Vana vamunoona mumagrowth points vachingotenderera zvisina tsarukano vanobva kumhuri dzevarombo, ukada kumutsiura anokuudza kuti ndiri kuda kurarama. Hakuna mwana wemupfumi ungamboita tsika dzakadaro kana kuroodzwa nevabereki vake ari mudiki hazvigoni. (Poverty is an obstacle to the eradication of early marriages in Zimbabwe. In a family where poverty is at its highest level, the parents together with their daughter discuss how they can survive poverty in their family and come up with the idea that if their daughter get married, the family would survive. As long poverty is there it is very impossible to stop early marriages in our country. If you try to stop a young girl from loitering in growth points, dating old people ending up impregnated, hence early marriage, she will tell you that she want to survive. It is very rare to find a girl from a rich family being in such immoral practices or her parents marry her at an early age, only if it’s a demon. Therefore, if people still live in poverty looking at our economy early marriages will continue to exist.”)

Uneducated parents in the society has been viewed as a hindrance to the progression of eliminating early marriages in Zimbabwe. Most children raised concern on their uneducated parents and leaders in the society. If a parent is illiterate, chances are high that they do not value the education of their children. An example was given of the parents who attends Johanne Marange church, that if the mother was married at a young age, before completing her education, she will do the same to her child. They know that if their children learn more than what they did, they will be able to decide for themselves on whom to marry yet they already targeted a rich, old man in the church. Thus, it is difficult to eliminate early marriages in Zimbabwe with uneducated parents who do not value education of their children.

Lack of sound legislation to eliminate early marriages and poor implementation is another challenge raised by the respondents. Laws are there but they are not effective because they are failing to implement what they stated in their pieces of legislations. If a person marry a young girl or impregnate her before the age of consent which is 18 should be punished by the law but in societies due to the respect people have for each other, the only solution they do is to give the girl to the responsible man. So as long there is no sound legislation on early marriages and the government is failing to implement these laws, all these efforts will go for nothing.

According to Sibanda (2011) there is lack of political will to address the issue of early marriages in Zimbabwe as the ruling which are being given by the constitutional court on early marriages shows the incompetence of the government. The Parliament itself is failing to come up with a law to end early marriages in Zimbabwe since some of these parliamentarians are the ones who are falling in love with young girls in their constituencies, giving them money and at the end impregnate them. So these people are being afraid of coming up a law which might backfire them.

Despite all the efforts being made by organisations, government, general populace in trying to curb the problem of early marriages, challenges are there affecting the progress hence, affecting economic and social development of a society. Points were raised that limited supporting machinery that work against early marriages due to lack of resources to educate the citizens on early marriages is a challenge faced in addressing early marriages. This is in conjunction with what Melton (1994) asserted that low public awareness of the illegal nature of early marriage and of the consequences of child marriages is a challenge in trying to solve early marriages problem. It is important to note that the government is failing to enforce sound laws which punish those who spearhead the practice of early marriages. Therefore, it is important to note that challenges are there in trying to solve early marriages in Zimbabwe and there is need for solutions to all these obstacles.

4.2.4 Legislative frameworks

The researcher wanted to see if the participants know of any legislative framework which addresses the issue of early marriages and know if they are effective. The responses shows that most of the people do not have an idea on these legislative. Especially the affected population, that is the young girls, they do not even know of their rights if such a situation happen to them. Only few respondents seem to have an idea on the legislative frameworks which try to address early marriages in Zimbabwe. About half of the respondents, just know about the legislatives without full knowledge of what they say (labelled as Good), only one quarter know in detail about these legislatives (labelled as Excellent) and the other quarter does not know about these laws at all (labelled as Poor). Fig 6 below shows the responses on the impacts of early marriages.

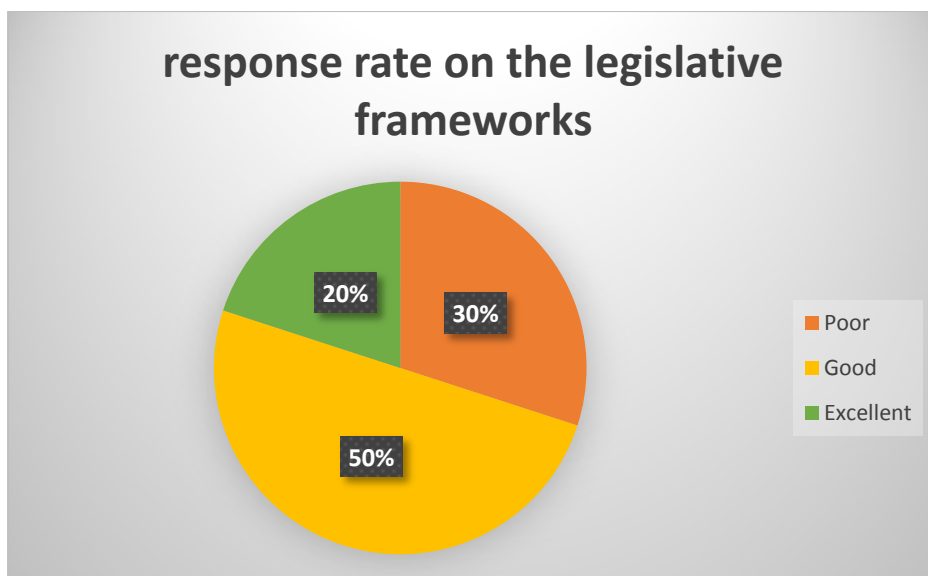


Fig 6 shows the Response Rate on the effectiveness of legislative frameworks

Only 20% of the respondents indicated that they really know about the legislative frameworks on early marriages in Zimbabwe. They stated about the constitution of Zimbabwe which provides for the rights of every person in chapter 4 of the constitution. They also further explain about the age of consent explained in both the constitution and the marriage act as 18 years. Some pointed out on the SADC model law on eradicating early marriages which require regional and international treaties require countries to set the minimum age of marriage at 18, register all marriages and take effective action, including legislation to eradicate early marriages.

From the responses 30% do not know of any law pertaining the issue of early marriages. Three young girls interviewed by the researcher do not even know of any law pertaining the issue of early marriages. One of them argued that;

“We do not know of any law on early marriages, in our school we are not being taught of such laws. Many girls of my age are being forced into marriage and they do not know their rights if that happens. Where is the government while all these things is happening to us?”

About half of the participants on the legislatives shows that they heard about the legislatives but they do not know what they are all about. They just know about the constitution of Zimbabwe, the Marriage Act but they have no idea of what these documents contain. It is difficult for them to use it against anyone who supports the practise of early marriages since

they should be able to interpret the law as it is. Their worry was that, the law makers come up with a law and they announce about it in radios and televisions or when they do public hearings on these things. After implementing the copies of any law should be distributed everywhere so that everyone know.

Most of the targeted audiences seem to have no idea on the legislative frameworks which deal with the problem of early marriages in Zimbabwe. This indicated that the citizens are being victimised because they have no knowledge of their rights and they do not know what the law says. This shows that these legislative frameworks on early marriages are not effective as there is poor implementation of these laws.

4.3 Chapter summary

The chapter highlighted research findings on the impacts of early marriages on societal development in Zimbabwe. The researcher started by looking on the causes on the causes of early marriages, impacts of early marriages on societal development which was the thrust of the research, challenges faced in trying to stop early marriages, the effectiveness of the legislative frameworks as well as looking for the strategies that can help in the process of eradicating early marriages in Zimbabwe. Different responses came which shows different views of the participants.

CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter will give summary on the research findings from the previous chapter. The researcher drew conclusions on the cause, impacts of early marriages on societal development, challenges faced in trying to address early marriages as well as on the legislative frameworks put in place in trying to eradicate early marriages from the research findings. Also the chapter provides the recommendations to be implemented in order to curb early marriages in Zimbabwe.

5.2 Summary of findings

5.2.1 Causes of early marriages

There are various factors which can be viewed as causes of early marriages in Zimbabwe depending on the area. These factors includes, poverty where people are forcing their children into marriage in order to survive the economic hardships. Some get married at an early age due to peer pressure, what they want is to have what they cannot afford to buy ending up being impregnated by rich old people with flashy expensive cars, hence get married at an early age. Responses showed that early marriages can be a consequence of gender imbalances. In patriarchal societies where boys are being valued more than girls, the only thing a girl child see as an achievement is marriage not knowing they can do better than just a marriage. Also, school dropouts causes early marriages in Zimbabwe. Statistics shows most of the girls who experiencing early marriages is as a result of school dropouts. Religious beliefs and cultural practices also contributed to the rise of early marriages. Different people believe in different customs and doctrines so there are church doctrines which support early marriages like that of the Johanne Marange and some cultural practices like *kuzvarira*, *kuripa ngozi* and *chimutsamapfihwa* supports the practice of early marriages.

5.2.2 Impacts of early marriages on societal development

Early marriages bring negative impacts on the development of a society. From all the responses no one view early marriages as a positive thing to the development of the society. Early marriages causes school dropouts and this limits young girls who have the potential to bring development to the society. There no longer have the capability to make their own decisions and take party in the activities which contributes to development be it of the family, community or the country at large. Also early marriages also affect the health of the victims, spreading of STDs, hence ending up having high death rates. In most cases the social fabric is being broken down, there is no longer peace, unity and respect if the marriage took place in a

manner which is not good to one of the families, yet there will be no development in a society where there is a lot of conflicts. Other impacts include overpopulation, domestic violence as well as high dependence ratio.

5.2.3 Challenges on early marriages

In trying to curb the problem of early marriages, different institutions and organisations together with the government came up with different measures but this seem to be of no use since the rate of early marriages remains at a high level. There are several challenges faced in the process to curb early marriages. These includes, lack of funds to conduct awareness campaigns to educate citizens on the negative effects of early marriages, ignorance of the citizens, uneducated parents, lack of sound legislations and poor implementation of these laws. There are a limited number of supporting machinery that works against early marriages like counselling platforms, VTCs or even lack of entertainment for the young girls to be occupied. Therefore, early marriages will continue to increase as long these challenges are not being addressed.

5.2.4 Legislative Frameworks on early marriages

On each and every situation at hand, the government come up with pieces of legislation which addresses it. Different laws has been passed in order to stop early marriages in Zimbabwe. However, responses shows that only a few knows about these legislations. Some just know that such laws exists but they do not know what they say and some do not even know that they exist especially the most affected population, teenagers. There are just a few people in Manicaland province who clearly showed their knowledge on these laws that is the constitution of Zimbabwe on the rights of the people, age of consent which is 18 and also the Marriage Act stipulate on the age of consent again. There is also what is called the SADC PF model law on eradicating poverty and protecting children already in marriages. It shows that the government is not educating people on these laws after enforcing them.

5.3 Conclusions

5.3.1 Causes of early marriages

Research shows that early marriages are caused by different factors which range from poverty, gender imbalances, school dropouts, peer pressure, religious beliefs as well as cultural practices. Out of all these challenges, poverty is the major cause of early marriages in Zimbabwe. All these other cause came as a result of poverty, looking at school dropouts they are being caused by poverty, those who are being affected by peer pressure are from poor

families so they are struggling to live life of those who are rich. Even in those churches which believes in early marriages, most people who force their children to be married old people, they target rich people and as for cultural systems like *kuzvarira* is being done in order for the family to survive. Therefore, poverty is the major cause of early marriages.

5.3.2 Impacts of early marriages on societal development in Zimbabwe

Early marriages bring negative impacts to the society, in fact they are a hindrance to the development of the society, they never bring upon development. The reason why early marriages viewed as a barrier to the development of the society is that many children who get married at an early age her formal school and education cease, and they stop acquiring skills and knowledge limiting her prospects for employment. Thus the society is being robbed of the unearthed potentials who can bring the development of the society in the name of marriage.

5.3.3 Challenges faced in trying to address early marriages in Zimbabwe

The study find out that there are many challenges faced in trying to curb early marriages in Zimbabwe. However, it is important to note that above all these challenges, lack of funding is the great challenges as it hinders all other activities that can be done to stop early marriages like the creation of entertainment facilities, upholding of awareness campaigns among others which need funds. Lack of sound legislations and poor implementation by the government also seem to be a challenge which need to be addressed so that everyone who goes against the law get punished.

5.3.4 Legislative Frameworks on early marriages

Legislative frameworks on early marriages are there but the sad part is only a few people knows about them. It is true that the majority of people do not know about legislations, especially people from the rural areas, they do not know even their rights yet the government pretend to represent every citizen of which failing to give information to its citizens.

5.4 Recommendations

Basing on the summary and conclusions given in this research, the following recommendations were made;

5.4.1 The state should include early marriages funds in its budget so as to cater for everything that need money in the process of eradicating early marriages. For example awareness campaigns on early marriages, creation of VTCs all these need enough funds as

lack of funds has been raised as the major challenge which hinders the eradication of early marriages.

5.4.2 There is need for the empowerment of young girls especially those in rural areas. This can be done through the creation of projects which are meant for young girls. Empowerment projects helps in the process of eradicating early marriages since young girls will be occupied even if they drop out of school due to lack funds to pay for her school fees, they get something to do and this can help them to sharpen their minds and think of greater things which can help the development of their respective societies.

5.4.3 The government should put strict measures on those who support the practise of early marriages in Zimbabwe. As it is in Zimbabwe those who are spearheading the practise of early marriages are not being charged of their offences. The government is reluctant on people who are forcing young girls into a marriage. Therefore, it is wise for the government to put strict measures like stating the years one can spend in jail if found on the wrong side of the law on early marriage because currently if a girl report the issue, the girl will always lose.

5.4.4 The government together with the NGOs as well as the CSOs should always conduct awareness campaigns to teach the society on the effects of early marriages. Some people are allowing early marriages due to lack of knowledge so they need to be educated on the topic. In these campaign, they should teach young children on their rights as well as distributing copies of these pieces of the legislation. The government should make sure every person have a copy of a constitution for them to know their rights so that their rights will not be violated.

5.4.5 People must value the girl's educational rights. Every girl child should learn at least to the ordinary level so that she can be able to make decisions of her own life without the interference of other family members. There should be scholarships offered to girls who do not have money to pay for their school fees especially those from the poor families and orphans. In most cases the government give help to people who are not in needy. Thus, financial should be given to the people who are in needy first to make sure every girl get her right to education, hence lower down the rate of early marriages in Zimbabwe.

5.5 Conclusion

The researcher made a great effort in assessing the impacts of early marriages on societal development in Zimbabwe using the case study of Manicaland Province from 2010 up to 2016. The researcher came to the conclusion that early marriages have negative impacts to the development of the society as there are a lot of effects where early marriages are being

practised. It cannot be denied that one of the reasons why Zimbabwe is still under developing countries is the practice of early marriages. It is of paramount importance to note that early marriages in Zimbabwe are at its pick level where people are being at an early age before reaching the age of maturity stated in the Constitution of Zimbabwe (2013) as the age of consent (18 years) and there is no development. Young girls are being married in the name of religion, cultural practises, gender imbalances, peer pressure, school dropout and above all poverty being the major driven factor of early marriages. Early marriages cannot just happen without effects on the environment where they are being practise, thus their impacts on societal development has been analysed by the researcher. Evidence shows that early marriages never bring positive effects be it family, community or country. This is why where early marriages are being practiced especially in the developing countries, there is no achievement in terms of their development. Through the practice of early marriages, the society is being robbed of the potentials who might bring development to the society but their visions are being shadowed. Therefore, people cannot ignore such situations, the government, NGOs, CSOs as well as individuals stand up and work against the problem. However, challenges will always be there affecting the progress of eliminating early marriages in Zimbabwe, thus solutions should be provided in order to curb early marriages problem. In a bid to eliminate early marriages the government should make sure that every citizen know about every legislative framework they put in place.

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APPENDIX A; Questionnaire Guide



MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERISTY

UNDERGRADUTE DISSERTATION RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRES

My name is Lorrein Madhuku(R145866G) and I am currently studying BSc in Politics and Public Management at Midlands State University. I am conducting a research on the impacts of early marriages on societal development in Zimbabwe with the case study of Manicaland from 2010 up to 2016. The research is being conducted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Bachelor of Science in Politics and Public Management Honours Degree. The questionnaires consists of 9 questions your commitment in completing these questionnaires will be greatly appreciated. All responses will be kept anonymous as no names shall be requires and no one will be identified in the research.

SECTION A. *Tick the appropriate choice*

1. Gender Female Male
2. Age 10-15 16-25 26-35 35+
3. Marital Status Single Married

SECTION B

1. What is early marriage?

2. What are the causes of early marriages?

3. Can poverty be said to be the major cause of early marriages? YES / NO. If yes why?

4. Do you think early marriages have effects on societal development in Zimbabwe? YES/NO If yes what are the effects?

5. Does early marriages bring positive effects to the society? YES/NO

6. Is there any organisation tried which tried to eliminate early marriages in this area? YES /NO

7. What are the challenges faced in try to address early marriages in Zimbabwe?

8. Are there any legal frameworks to address early marriages in Zimbabwe? YES/NO. If yes, how effective are they?

9. What strategies can be put in place in order to reduce the rate of early marriages in Zimbabwe?

THANK YOU!!

Appendix B: Interview Guide



MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERISTY

UNDERGRADUTE DISSERTATION RESEARCH INTERVIEW GUIDELINE

My name is Lorrein Madhuku(R145866G) and I am currently studying BSc in Politics and Public Management at Midlands State University. I am conducting a research on the impacts of early marriages on societal development in Zimbabwe with the case study of Manicaland from 2010 up to 2016. The research is being conducted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of the Bachelor of Science in Politics and Public Management Honours Degree. Your commitment in answering these questions will be greatly appreciated. All responses will be kept anonymous as no names shall be requires and no one will be identified in the research.

1. Are you married and if yes at what age?
2. What is early marriages?
3. What are the causes of early marriages in Zimbabwe?
4. What are the impacts of early marriages on societal development?
5. What are the challenges faced when fighting against early marriages?
6. Can we say parents have a hand in marriages of their young daughters?
7. Do you know of any legislative framework which was put in place to end early marriages in Zimbabwe and are they effective?
8. What are the strategies that you think if implemented can help to solve the problem of early marriages in Zimbabwe?