

**AN ASSESSMENT OF CHILD MARRIAGES AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO WOMEN'S
PARTICIPATION IN CONFLICT RESOLUTION: A CASE STUDY OF NABVUTIKA
COMPOUND, CHIPATA DISTRICT.**

BY

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UNZA/ZOU

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT FOR A DEGREE OF
MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PEACE, LEADERSHIP, AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION.**

UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA

LUSAKA

2017

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APPROVAL

On behalf of the University of Zambia and Zimbabwe Open University I Dr. Paul. H. Moyo wishes to confirm that I supervised Chinjili Kamwenje’s dissertation. I further wish to state that to the best of my knowledge, I believe that the said student actually conducted this research work. I therefore approve that this dissertation by Chinjili Kamwenje be submitted in partial fulfillment for the award of a Master of Science Degree in Peace, Leadership and Conflict Resolution.

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to generate community-based case study of qualitative information on the practice of child marriages and to assess its impediments to women's participation in conflict resolution in Nabvutika Compound of Chipata. It estimated the prevalence of child marriage in the region and assessed its health, physiological, psychological, socioeconomic, and demographic consequences on women's participation in conflict resolution. A total of 50 respondents (victims, teachers, social welfare, gender and educational officers, UNICEF consultants and elderly women and men) were interviewed using a semi-structured interview guide and observations were also used.

The study has further confirmed that victims of child marriage are vulnerable to gender based violence, high fertility, marital instabilities, and to reproductive health related complications. Women's lack of decision- making power in their families and communities is exacerbated by the inherent power imbalance between a young girl and her husband, who is often 10 years or more her senior. This highlighted the practice as an impediment to women's participation in conflict resolution.

Mitigating the practice of child marriage must be a priority in any development effort in Zambia. Based on the findings of the study, the author makes a number of recommendations to reduce the practice of child marriages including: programs designed specifically to reduce child marriages; working with women's associations, the Office of the Ministry of Gender, community organizations, religious and community leaders, influential community members and schools; and working directly with young girls to teach them their rights; strengthening the collaboration between law enforcement, community leaders, women and youth associations, parents, and schools; and providing additional focused training for community-based reproductive health agents so as to enhance national building activities such as conflict resolution processes.

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to everyone who supported me during my study. I thank you all collectively and individually for your support and encouragements. May God bless you!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to acknowledge the contributions of the following people towards the production of this research; I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Paul. H. Moyo for his professional guidance during the time of my research and completion of this work.

Special thanks goes to the Coordinator Dr. G. Muleya and the lecturers and all members of the Institute of Distance Education, University of Zambia, for their great and wonderful support and guidance during my study.

Thanks go to all the respondents who responded during the research period, thank you very much for your contributions.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CBOs	Community- Based Organizations
CBRHA	Community-Based Reproductive Health Agent
CSOs	Community Support Organizations
EAs	Enumeration Areas
EDHS	Ethiopian Demographic and Health Survey
FGDs	Focus group discussion
FMOH	Federal Ministry of Health
ICT	Information Technology
MOCTA	Ministry of Chief’s and Traditional Affairs.
MOH	Ministry of Health.
NCTPE	National Committee on Harmful Traditional Practices of Ethiopia
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
PPS	Probability Proportional to Size
PSUs	Primary Sampling Units
RH	Reproductive Health
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
SCR	Security Council Resolution.
SADC	Southern African Development Community.
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nation International Children’s Emergency Fund
UNCRC	United Nation for Children Right Council
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council viii
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
USUs	Ultimate Sampling Units
WHO	World Health Organization

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1. CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

1.1. Introduction

This chapter highlights the introduction, background, purpose of the study, problem statement, and objectives, Research Questions, Significance of the study, conceptual definitions, and conclusion.

Child Marriage is a complex issue but is often ingrained in gender inequality and the principle that girls and women are somehow inferior to boys and men. Most often, poverty, lack of education, religious and cultural practices and insecurity are causes and initiators of child marriages. The United Nations Security Resolution 1325, however, is a first formal and legal document from the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) that required parties in a conflict to prevent violations of women's rights, to support women's participation in peace negotiations and in post-conflict reconstruction, and to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict. It was also the first United Nations resolution to specifically mention women. The resolution has since become an organizing framework for the women, peace and security agenda.

However, according to UNICEF report on the state of children 2016, Zambia is one of the developing countries with the highest child marriage rates in the world, ranked 16th with 31% of women aged 20-24 years married by the age of 18. Girls Not Brides 2016 report reviews that 6% of girls are married at the age of 15 and 31% are married at the age of 18 in Zambia; this is worrisome because the rates keep on increasing more especially in slums and many parts of rural areas due to a number of causes. These rates of child marriages vary from one region to another, and are as high as 60% in the country's Eastern Region, and as low as 28% in the capital of Zambia. There has been little to no change in the National prevalence rate since 2002, according to 2007 Demographic and Health Survey and the 2010 Census. According to 2016 Zambia Education Review Report records show that, Chipata District had a highest number of 162 girls

dropping out of school due to child marriages and 428 child pregnancies in a year. From the above information child marriages are challenges that need attention on reducing them because they hinder the process of peace and conflict resolution as stipulated in Resolution 1325 of the UN.

1.2. Background

Swaine et al ... (2014) suggests that the emphasis of women's participation in conflict resolution was as a result of the 1995 Beijing Platform for Action which contained an entire chapter focused on women, peace and security. It centered on women's full rights, equal opportunities and participation not only in peace resolution processes but also in governance, lobbying and spearheading of solutions to global issues. During the 1990s, the NGO community was increasingly concerned about the negative impacts of conflict on women, particularly widespread sexual violence seen in civil conflicts in Bosnia, West Africa and Rwanda. Activists were also upset that women faced significant barriers to entering peace talks and the negative impacts that women experienced post-conflict. The Beijing Conference's 5th anniversary (Beijing+5) provided critical momentum for progress on women, peace and security issues at the UN. The Security Council adopted resolution (SRC/1325) on women and peace and security on 31 October 2000.

The resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts. It also calls on all parties in conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict. The resolution provides a number of important operational mandates, with implications for Member States and the entities of the United Nations system. Ngcuka (2015) states that the resolution stresses the importance of women's equal and full participation as active agents in the prevention and resolution of

conflicts, peace-building and peacekeeping. It calls on member states to ensure women's equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspective in all areas of peace building.

As a follow up to resolution 1325, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1889 which calls for further strengthening of women's participation in peace processes and the development of indicators to measure progress on Resolution 1325. In contrast, Zambia is one of the countries which indicate a massive rate of child marriages which is a near and vivid hindrance and source of failure for the Resolution 1325 which promotes women's participation in conflict resolution. The number of girls who are married as children is astounding. According to UNICEF, in 2007 more than 60 million girls aged 20-24 worldwide had married before their 18th birthday. If current trends continue, an additional 100 million girls – or 25,000-30,000 girls every day -will become child brides over the next decade. While boys are subjected to child marriage, most child marriages involve girls. For instance, in Zambia the ratio of girls ages 15-19 that were married as children compared to boys, is 72 to one. An ICRW review shows that rates of child marriage are highest in parts of Africa, and in South Asia, where one-half to three-fourths of girls are married before age 18. Zambia, Niger, Mali and Chad have the highest rates. The implications of child marriage for HIV/AIDS policy”, brief based on background paper prepared for the WHO/UNFPA/Population Council Technical Consultation on Married Adolescents. Women, families and the future: Sexual relationships and marriage worldwide of forced child marriage in the world, ranging from 71 percent to 77 percent.

According to A Situation Report on Child Marriages in Zambia 2015, by World Vision Zambia, it was noted that Zambia has to seek a broader collaboration with specific Traditional leaders who are champions against child marriages and also sensitize the ones who are not seriously engaged through training and peer to peer visits with Traditional leaders who are champions in the area of child marriages and other issues that affect child well-being. In July 2014, MOCTA (Ministry of Chiefs and Traditional Affairs) in collaboration with the Graca Machel Trust held a National Symposium on Child Marriage and World Vision was identified as one of the organizations to sit on the technical committee. For these reasons, investments aimed at achieving the Resolution 1325 should aim at eradicating child marriages both countries with low

rates of child marriage as well as hotspots within countries with high rates. Thus, the need to carry out the study in order to provide possible solutions and recommendations.

1.3. Purpose of the Study

The principal purpose of this study is to generate qualitative information and to critically examine the consequences of child marriages on women's participation in conflict resolution processes in the selected compound. Presently, there is a lack of data on all aspects of child marriages as an impediment to women's participation in Conflict Resolution. Earlier research has examined the problem as a mere possible hindrance to the success of women in conflict resolution. While there is ample information on child marriages of a general nature, there are few studies that have examined the practice of women in conflict resolution processes. Therefore, more data is needed on the psychosocial and developmental impact of child marriages on girl children and the ways in which they regress women from participating in conflict resolution as well as wider social, political, and economic consequences. This study attempts to fill these gaps.

1.4. Problem Statement

Despite Zambia having signed the Resolution 1325 of the UN on Women's rights a lot more need to be worked upon in order to make the resolution effective. In this case, child marriages have been a major hindrance to the effectiveness and progress of Women's participation in Conflict Resolution. This is because the practice of child marriage violates the rights that are legally and constitutionally regarded as the first two most "essential conditions of marriage". Among those marrying child, some are forced into this union, others are simply too young to make an informed decision and resulting into dropping from school. Somebody else provides consent on the child's behalf. The child does not have the opportunity to exercise her right to choose her mate. As a result, child marriages could be regarded as forced marriages. Young girls are forced or pushed into marriages by their parents, relatives, friends, local elders, and the like. According to the UNICEF Report records (2014) more than half (55 percent) of the married women reported being forced into marriage, including 57 percent of those in rural areas

and 47 percent in urban communities. These findings show the severity of the problem and shed light on the extent of violation of individual human rights. Young girls are being influenced to get into marriage without their consent and interest. Who in most cases act as intermediate negotiators between the brides' and grooms' families and work to get them heard and respected. In general, parents, grandparents, and other relatives play a significant role in pushing one into marriage.

According to Harrington, K. F. (2004), the widespread perception is also that girls who become pregnant enter a premature marriage, or become the head of an impoverished household, relying on meager assistance from her family and the child's father. Child marriages which stem from strong patriarchal attitudes does not only hinder the resolution in the means discussed above but also SADC Gender Policy report (2007) argues that the implementation process of the resolution has been challenging as a result of: Unequal power relations due to strong patriarchal attitudes which have a negative impact on the implementation process of the resolution; High infant and maternal mortality rates increased health problems including malaria, tuberculosis, and STIs are one of the consequences of child marriages due to lack of extensive education which the girls were supposed to receive if not of marriage ; increased incidences of gender based violence at all levels, in particular violence against women and children, incest, rape, domestic violence, violence in educational institutions, human trafficking and sexual offenses have also been major perpetrators blocking the success of the resolution which in all child marriage is also the cause behind the scene.

Moreover the report continues to state that, high incidences of STIs and HIV and AIDS infection rates especially among women and girls and limited male involvement in reproductive health, HIV and AIDS care and support services and general health care; Disparities in educational attainments and in formal wage employment between women and men; Disparities in enrollment rates between girls and boys especially in secondary and tertiary institutions; Few girls specializing in male dominated professions; Limited access to ICT among women; Negative portrayal of women and women's issues in the media Multiple roles of women increased trafficking of women and girls; High poverty levels especially amongst women; Entrenched discriminatory cultural norms; High poverty levels especially amongst women Religious

affiliation and norms Child and/or forced marriages; Limited participation and representation of women in decision making processes; Little or no training or support offered to women parliamentarians weak legal instruments and inadequate enforcement mechanisms; Limited constitutional and legal rights among women; Plural legal systems with no clear reinforcement mechanisms of women's human rights; Difficulty in accessing legal recourse because of financial and social constraints; and Disparities in access, benefit, opportunities and control over resources such as land, housing, water, credit, technology, extension services and other productive sectors such as mining have all pooled into the challenges of women's active participation in conflict resolution.

1.5. Objectives

1.5.1. General Objective

- To assess how child marriages are an impediment to women's participation in conflict resolution.

1.5.2. Specific Objectives

- Establish the influence, outcomes and manifestations of child marriages on women's participation in conflict resolution in Nabvutika Township.
- Identify barriers to the measures which the *Zambian* government is putting in place to reduce and eradicate child marriages in Nabvutika.
- Suggest appropriate ways that would enhance government's role in eradicating child marriages and promoting women's participation in conflict resolution.

1.6. Research Questions

- How are Child marriages impediments to women's participation in conflict resolution?

1.6.1.Sub- Questions

- What is the influence, outcomes and manifestations of child marriages on the participation of women in conflict resolution in Nabvutika Township?
- What are the barriers to the measures which the Zambian government is putting in place to reduce and eradicate child marriages in Nabvutika?
- What are some of the appropriate ways that would enhance government's role in eradicating child marriages and promotion of women's participation in Conflict Resolution?

1.7. Significance of the Study

The results of this study may broaden the understanding of the effects of Child Marriages in the field of peace, leadership, and conflict resolution on how it impedes Women to participate in Conflict Resolution not only in Zambia but also the world at large. Furthermore, the study may suggest possible solutions to arrest the problem and further the advancement of women's participation in conflict resolution. It may also serve as a source of information to students who wish to study further in this field as well as a partial requirement for the fulfillment of the award of a Master's Degree in Peace, Leadership, and Conflict Resolution.

1.8. Scope of Study

This Study was conducted in Nabvutika Township, Chipata targeting a population of couples as a result of child marriages and others such as head teachers, teachers, and guidance and counseling officers as stated in the methodology. Nabvutika has a favorable representation of couples as a result of child marriages as well as a good number of women who have had experiences with one dispute or the other.

1.9. Operational Definitions

These concepts/terms are where the study is centered on and shall be explained to the respondents directly during the interviews.

- ASSESSMENT – is the evaluation or estimation of the nature, value, or quality of something. (Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary)
- CHILD MARRIAGES- is either one or both of the married couple being under the age of 18 years old or in both basic and high school (MOCTA report, 2016).
- CONFLICT RESOLUTION - is a way for two or more parties to find a peaceful solution to a disagreement among them. They are conceptualized as methods and processes involved in facilitating the peaceful ending of conflict and retribution. (Akapalwa, 2010).
- CONFLICT- is a serious disagreement or argument, typically a protracted one. (Webster Dictionary)
- RESOLUTION 1325- is a resolution adopted by the UN which centers on women, peace, and security. (Swaine et al, 2014).
- WOMEN – is an adult human female.

1.10. Limitation of the Study

This study was limited by time. The time awarded to the study was not enough. Unavailability and inadequate literature of a number of books, reports, policies and strategic documents were unavailable for review. The unwillingness of the targeted respondents to fully participate in the research was another limitation encountered during the study. Resources were also limited due to some financial constraints. Each of these limitations was managed in a way that minimized impact on the overall study.

1.11. Ethical Considerations

The National Commission for Protection of Human Subjects of Biological and Behavioural Research (NCPHSBBR) (1999) reveals that the term persons indicates that individuals should be treated as autonomous agents and secondly persons with diminishing autonomy are entitled to protection. In all research that involve human subjects demands that they enter into research voluntarily and whether or not to participate in research. They have the right to withdraw from the research at the time. In addition, the Commission indicates the principle of beneficence believes that persons involved will be treated in an ethical manner. On the principle of Justice

NCPHSBBR (1999) emphasis fairness for election of participants, and should be given good treatment and should be given the right to privacy. To apply the three ethical considerations of respect and confidentiality, beneficence and justice, informed consent is implied. The subjects of this study will be respected to a degree that will be capable of providing the right and much needed information and given an opportunity to choose either to be respondents or not. This opportunity provides adequate standards to obtain informed consent. The researcher also considered the confidentiality with the information which was given by the respondent, the information will not be supplied to anyone, and therefore results from findings will be produced as aggregated.

Confidentiality and Protection of respondents' identities was highly observed. Respondents were also told on how the results would be published. Participants' rights were taken into account that is the rights to be informed about the study, the right to freely decide whether to participate in the study or not as well as the right to withdraw at any time without penalty. The principle of Justice was seriously taken into account by not condemning or burdening the participants who were involved in the child marriage practice. The research was equally shared and fair between the researcher and Participants.

The researcher had requested for a letter of introduction from the Research Coordinator, seeking for permission to carry out the research, this acted as proof to the student. The research is aimed at following high standards of research. Respect and trust, were being followed highly between the researcher and the respondents during data collection at all levels of research. Other aspects include the protection and confidentiality of data.

1.12. Conclusion

This chapter was highlighting the introduction, background, purpose of the study, problem statement, objectives, Research Questions, Significance of the study, scope of the study, operational definitions, limitation of the study, and ethical considerations of the study that were conducted.

2. CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Introduction

This chapter of the study will review the literature related to the study of Child marriages as an impediment to women's participation in conflict resolution processes. The major literature that shall be reviewed includes; the text books and various reports on teenage pregnancies, the Zambian education report, SADC Report, the United Nations Reports including the stipulated document on the resolution itself, the African Charter, and other materials which explains and shows the negative impact of child marriages on the fulfilment of women's full participation in peace and conflict resolution talks.

2.2. Theoretical Perspective on the Impediments to Women's Participation in Conflict Resolution

According to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) gender policy report (2007) has it that SADC recognizes gender equality as a fundamental human right and an integral part of regional integration, economic growth and social development this includes Women's participation in conflict resolution as stipulated in the UNSCR 1325. SADC is therefore, committed to removing all forms of gender inequalities at the regional and national levels through a series of goals and actions derived from legally binding international, continental and regional instruments. SADC's Member States' commitment to gender equality is demonstrated through accession to and ratification of frameworks that promote women's human rights such as the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women which became a SADC ratified Convention in March, 2004. SADC governments as stipulated in its gender policy (2007) are also party to the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa through which they have reaffirmed their commitment to gender equality as enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union Article 4, Dakar Platform for Action (1994), Beijing Platform for Action (1995), United Nations Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and

Security and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (2003) and the Millennium Development Goals.

However, the SADC Gender Policy Report (2007) unfolds some of the most common and aggressive impediments to women's participation in conflict resolution processes in the region which are: Unequal power relations due to strong patriarchal attitudes has been a negative impact on the implementation process of the resolution; High infant and maternal mortality rates increased health problems including malaria, tuberculosis, and STIs are one of the main factors hindering the success of the resolution in the SADC region ; increased incidences of gender based violence at all levels, in particular violence against women and children, incest, rape, domestic violence, violence in educational institutions, human trafficking and sexual offenses have also been major perpetrators blocking the success of the resolution. Moreover the report continues to state that, high incidences of STIs and HIV and AIDS infection rates especially among women and girls and limited male involvement in reproductive health, HIV and AIDS care and support services and general health care; Disparities in educational attainments and in formal wage employment between women and men; Disparities in enrollment rates between girls and boys especially in secondary and tertiary institutions; Few girls specializing in male dominated professions; Limited access to ICT among women; Negative portrayal of women and women's issues in the media Multiple roles of women increased trafficking of women and girls; High poverty levels especially amongst women; Entrenched discriminatory cultural norms; High poverty levels especially amongst women Religious affiliation and norms Early and/or forced marriages; Limited participation and representation of women in decision making processes; Little or no training or support offered to women parliamentarians weak legal instruments and inadequate enforcement mechanisms; Limited access of constitutional and legal rights among women; Plural legal systems with no clear reinforcement mechanisms of women's human rights; Difficulty in accessing legal recourse because of financial and social constraints; and Disparities in access, benefit, opportunities and control over resources such as land, housing, water, credit, technology, extension services and other productive sectors such as mining have all pooled into the challenges of the implementation process of the resolution.

The analysis according to Orina (2014) also reveals that these issues that impedes women from participating fully in conflict Resolution are often connected and overlapping - for example,

Orina (2014) notes that poverty exposes women and girls to HIV and AIDS. Similarly, due to lack of education and exposure, poor women and girls are subjected to traditional beliefs and customs that are detrimental to their wellbeing and impede them from participating in national building activities such as conflict resolution talks. McCarthy (2011) holds that the diversity of women's experiences and opinions during and after a conflict/war determines their post-conflict role. That is to say that the experiences and opinions of women are multidimensional, depending also on factors such as ethnicity, class and religion. However, the conditions of war and peace do affect women differently than men, and those differences are rarely taken into account during the peace building process. Women are also universally disadvantaged in patriarchal societies, although in different ways and to different degrees, which contributes to a common pattern of experiences and concerns.

Swaine (2014) highlights that one of the challenges that impedes the women, peace and security agenda is the fact that it has not been domesticated. This is because the complex challenges and opportunities of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, as enunciated in United National Security Council Resolution 1325 of 2000, and several subsequent resolutions, lend themselves to both a "cup half full" and a "cup half empty" interpretation. The very phrase, Women, Peace, and Security Agenda (WPS, for short), is itself a sign of progress among professionals working on global gender policy and programs around the world, as it is increasingly accepted as an important mandate across a wide variety of institutions, both public and private. On the downside, the WPS agenda is clearly not a household term (widely known outside activist and policy circles), nor is its foundational policy, United Nations Security Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325).

2.3. Literature Review: Knowledge Gap

In this regard, however, beside other factors, Child marriages have also impeded women's full participation in conflict resolution processes. According to UNICEF's state of the World's Children report (2016), Zambia has one of the highest child marriage rates in the World; it is ranked 16 with 31% of Women aged 20-24 years married by the age of 18. The rates of child marriage vary from one region to another, and are as high as 60% in the eastern part Zambia and

as low as 28% in the capital of Zambia (Lusaka). This has little to no change in the National prevalence rate since 2002, according to the 2007 Demographic and Health Survey and the 2010 Census. Child marriage in Zambia may be more prevalent than we think. The birth registration rate of 14% makes it difficult to the exact age of millions of girls when they had their first child. This is according to the ministry of Health report (2016). A number of young girls find themselves in child marriages due to a number of forces and these include poverty, illiteracy, cultural practices, peer pressure and influence from foreign cultures. While more women are now marrying at late ages, in many regions, child marriages remains the norms.

According to Le fever, Quiroga and Murphy (2004) noted that 20-50 percent of women in developing countries are married by the age of 18, with the highest percentages in sub-Saharan Africa and south Asia. Early motherhood has been the subject of a growing number of study researches of a growing number of studies, research prefects and intervention programs in Africa. African women in federal marry at a much earlier age than their non- African country parts, leading to child pregnancies, surveys carried out in some Saharan countries offers alarming examples. In Niger, for example, according to the Health and Demographic survey (HDS) (1992), 47% of women aged between 20 and 24 were married before the age of 15 and 87% before the age of 18. According to LOCOH (2000) a total of 53% had a child before the expected age.

The following tables show the data about women ages 20 to 24 married by 18 years old.

Table 1.1: Women Ages 20 to 24 married by 18 years old

	Country	Child marriage prevalence
1	Niger	77%
2	Chad	71%
3	Mali	65%
4	Bangladesh	65%
5	Guinea	65%
6	Zambia	56%
7	Mozambique	57%
8	Uganda	54%
9	Burkina Faso	52%
10	India	50%
11	Ethiopia	49%
12	Yemen	48%
13	Eritrea	47%
14	Togo	37%
15	South Africa	8.6

Service: Demographic Health Survey (DHS), Data from 1995 to 2003.

[World Health Organization Report (2004)].

The figure below prevalence of Child marriages in Zambia province by province.
 Percent of 20-24 year old females married by the age of 18

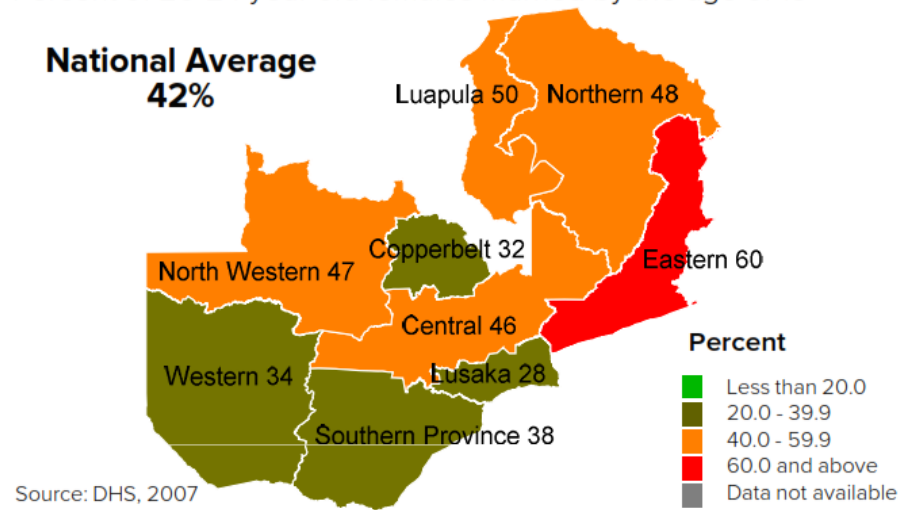


Figure 1.1: Prevalence of Child marriages in Zambia province by province

The table 1.1 above shows that in Africa there are countries with very high rates of child marriages, such as Niger (77 percent) Chad (71 percent) and Zambia (56 percent) but others such as Togo in west Africa have a more moderate rate of child marriage (31 percent) while south Africa has a fairly small percentage of young women marriage child (8 percent) (Malhotra and Malthur 2000). From the information above, it shows the severity of the problem more especially that poverty is very high in developing countries and Zambia is not spared at all. Child marriage is associated with high levels of poverty; hence in Zambia it is seen as rural phenomenon, although there are some cases of child marriages in urban areas. Poverty leads many parents to withdraw their children from school and offer them for marriage to older men (in most cases) in exchange for the payment of bride price (lobola) or dowry.

In addition with reference to figure 1.1, Mucheleka (2007) revealed that incidences of child marriage are high in Zambia. The Country has been ranked 10th on a global ranking of prevalence of child marriages amongst girls and boys. Particularly notable is the vast gender discrepancy with 42% of women aged 20 - 24 years, married before age 18, compared to only 5% of men, indicating that girls are often married to older men. Reasons were social and economic factors that perpetuate child marriages. Economic hardships encourage families to marry off their daughters rather than send them to school, and social norms support the view that education is less important for girls than boys. Girls who marry early are caught up in a negative

cycle that involves premature childbearing, high rates of maternal mortality and child malnutrition.

2.4. Main Causes of Child Marriages

Malhotra and Malthur (2000) holds that Child marriage continues to be a reality for many of the world's girls because of a variety of factors. However, these factors which are presented below are not a particularity of African countries because they seem to be almost the same all over the world with very few disparities due to cultures. These include poverty, lack of education and job opportunities, insecurity in the face of war and conflict, and the force of custom and tradition.

2.4.1. Poverty

For many poor families, Malhotra and Malthur (2000) view that, marrying off their daughter at an early age essentially is a strategy for economic survival; it means one less person to feed, clothe and educate. In Asia and Africa, the importance of financial transactions at the time of marriage also tends to push families to marry their daughters early. For example, in many sub-Saharan cultures parents get a high bride price for a daughter who is married near puberty. In Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Nepal, parents feel that their burden of paying a dowry at their daughter's marriage will be lower if she is married at a young age. Globally, forced child marriage is much more common in poorer countries and regions, and within those countries, it tends to be concentrated among the poorest households. For example, a girl from a poor household in Senegal is four times more likely to marry as a child than a girl from a rich household.⁶ in impoverished situations; parents see few alternatives for their daughters, aside from child marriage.

2.4.2. Limited Education and Economic Options

Little or no schooling according to Malhotra and Malthur (2000) strongly correlates with being

married at a young age. Conversely, attending school and having higher levels of education protect girls from the possibility of child marriage. In many African countries, educating girls often is less of a priority than educating boys. When a woman's most important role is considered to be that of a wife, mother and homemaker, schooling girls and preparing them for the jobs may be given short shrift. And even when poor families want to send their daughters to school, they often lack access to nearby, quality schools and the ability to pay school fees. It is usually safer and economically more rewarding to spend limited resources on educating sons than daughters. This boxes families into child marriage as the only viable option for girls.

2.4.3. Insecurity in the face of conflict

When families live in unsafe regions, Malhotra and Malthur (2000) state that, parents may genuinely believe that marrying their daughters is the best way to protect them from danger. In war-affected areas in Afghanistan, Burundi, Northern Uganda or Somalia, for example, a girl may be married to a warlord or another authority figure that can ensure that she and her family remain safe. In the Democratic Republic of Congo and elsewhere, girls have been abducted or recruited by armed groups and made into 'bush wives' of combatants and commanders.

2.4.4. Tradition and Religion

Malhotra and Malthur (2000) holds that in many societies, parents are under pressure to marry off their daughters as child as possible in an effort to prevent her from becoming sexually active before marriage; a woman who does so brings dishonor to her family and community. Because marriage often determines a woman's status in many societies, parents also worry that if they don't marry their daughters according to social expectations, they will not be able to marry them at all. Forced child marriage also is a route to cementing family, clan, and tribal connections or settling obligations. For example, in Pakistan's Northwest Frontier Province, Afghanistan and in some parts of the Middle East, marrying young girls is a common practice to help the grooms' families offset debts or to settle inter-family disputes. At its core, forced child marriage is rooted in tradition. A 2007 ICRW study found that no one religious affiliation was associated with the

practice. Rather, a variety of religions were associated with a high prevalence of forced child marriage, in a diversity of countries throughout the world.

2.4.5. Value of virginity and protection of young girls

For Malhotra and Malthur (2000), Child marriage is one way that ensure that a wife is protected on placed firmly under male control; that she is submissive to her husband and works hard or her in-law's household; that the children she bears are legitimate (UNICEF 2001) on the other hand, for many societies that prize virginity before marriage, child marriage can manifest itself on a number of practices designed to "protect" a girl from unsanctioned sexual activity. Parents may genuinely feel that their daughter will be better off and safer with a regular male guidance. In conflict-torn Northern Uganda for e.g. some families marry their young daughters to Military members in order to defend family honour or secure protection for themselves, the same thing has happened to girls in Somalia in the course of that country's conflicts (UNICEF 2001). The young girls, orphans or separated with their parents or relatives the only way to survive and to get protected is to get married (De Gmedt 1998).

2.5. The Consequences of Child Marriage

The damaging effects of child marriage on girls are wide-ranging and have implications for society as a whole, ranging from serious health issues to psychosocial vulnerability, a denial of education and even violence and abuse. This has a profound effect on the overall development of girls and also has negative consequences for their children and families, which in turn has grave repercussions for society. As a result, this regresses many resolutions that are made in the world including the resolution 1325 which promotes women's participation in conflict resolution. This is because the actual goal of the resolution 1325 is to empower women during peace and in conflict. It suggests women's full participation in social, political and economic. Uphold the protection of women's rights both in peace and conflict, however, with the upcoming of child marriages the resolution 1325 seems an en passant because the impact of child marriages is an overspill.

The following are the impacts which child marriages have on women:

2.5.1. Impact on Health

The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Progress Report (2013) points to child marriage as one of the triggers of Maternal Mortality. It is estimated that 38 mothers die each month due to complications relating to pregnancy and child birth in Zambia. These conditions are disproportionately pronounced among teen mothers. Thus, maternal mortality is still high and only declining at a very slow rate from 649 deaths/per 100,000 live births in 1997 to 483 (UNFPA 440) IN 2010. Where child marriages take place, the understanding is that sexual intercourse will not take place until the first menstruation of the girl. However, this is not always the case, especially where the husband is much older than the wife as result girls are more susceptible to contracting sexually transmitted diseases. In addition to this even HIV/AIDS and complications of child motherhood affect the social wellbeing of girls who go through child, child and forced marriage and deny them the right to enjoy their childhood.

2.5.2. Impact on Education

UNICEF Review report (2016) states that education is a right for girls as well as a necessity for their families since it provides enormous social and economic benefits. Girls, who are educated, tend to marry later, have lower maternal mortality rates, delay the birth of their first child, have fewer children, and have better spacing between their children and command better earnings. Studies have shown that the education of girls has contributed to a decrease in HIV infection; a decrease in domestic violence; a decrease in female genital mutilation and can even foster democracy and political participation. Denial of education is a direct consequence of child marriage.

2.5.3. Psychosocial/ Developmental impact

Child marriage has profound effects on the emotional well-being of girls since it causes the loss of childhood, involves forced sexual intercourse and denies girls freedom and the opportunity for personal development. The UNICEF Review Report (2016) unveils that when a child gets married, she is catapulted into adulthood whether she is emotionally or developmentally ready for the marriage. Children who have experienced a loss of childhood go through phases of bereavement. These include denial and isolation in terms of which the child experiences a

disbelief that the experience has occurred. There is anger, which is usually evident in other relationships or behavior, and there is depression, which is an apathetic phase that can have severe consequences, and, finally, acceptance of the loss.

2.5.4. Domestic Violence and Abuse

Zambia Human Rights Review report (2013) shows that Child wives are also more vulnerable to domestic violence and abuse because of their position of powerlessness and dependency within the marriage. There is very little information available on the extent of the abuse within child marriages, since this form of abuse occurs within the family and is rarely reported. A survey in India found that girls who married before the age of 18 were twice as likely to report being physically abused as opposed to those who married later. Data from a survey in Egypt found that 29% of married adolescents had been beaten by their husbands and 41% of these while they were pregnant.

2.5.5. Poverty

Johansson (2015) argues that Child marriage contributes to the perpetuation of poverty in a number of ways. The withdrawal of girls from school restricts their ability to become employed. They do not have the skills or education to become part of income-generating activities and this is further compounded by the maternal and child health problems that emanate from child pregnancies. Child brides are significantly more likely to have more children, which will decrease resources in the family. Child brides are, therefore, far more vulnerable to poverty. The lack of independent income and autonomy will increase this vulnerability.

Further suggestions however, hold that the above are not the only negative consequences which child marriages have on the fulfillment of the UN Resolution 1325 but also high incidences of STIs and HIV and AIDS infection rates especially among women and girls and limited male involvement in reproductive health, HIV and AIDS care and support services and general health care; Disparities in educational attainments and in formal wage employment between women and men; Disparities in enrollment rates between girls and boys especially in secondary and tertiary institutions; Few girls specializing in male dominated professions; Negative portrayal of

women and women's issues in the media; Multiple roles of women increased trafficking of women and girls; High poverty levels especially amongst women; Entrenched discriminatory cultural norms; High poverty levels especially amongst women Religious affiliation and norms and limited participation and representation of women in decision making processes.

2.6. Key Theories

- Critical Race Theory propagated by Derrick Bell.

2.6.1. Critical Race Theory

The Critical Race Theory according to Orina (2014) is a school of thought originating in the 1970s that seeks to address the relationship between racism, race and power by situating discrimination and oppression within “economics, history, context, group, and self-interest, and even feelings and the unconscious.” Though originating in the law, it has since expanded to numerous disciplines and to address other bases of discrimination and social differentiation, including gender. This theory will serve as a backbone of how child marriages segregates and impedes women from extensive participation in conflict Resolution Processes ranging from both at home level to the international community. This theory will assist in the understanding of how child marriages impede women from peace talks and conflict resolution processes.

2.7. Conclusion

This chapter reviewed and discussed relevant literature related to the study and the necessary theories as well as the theoretical framework. It highlighted the knowledge gap and what the research was intending to fill.

3. CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1. Introduction

This chapter describes the techniques of research which will be used in the collection of data during the study which include the research design, area of the study, study population among others. It also indicates the sampling procedure and selection, sample size, data collection instruments, validity and reliability of research instruments.

3.2. Research Design

The study was a case study which used a Qualitative Research design with Qualitative research methods. The aim was to enable the study offer and stimulate explanations about child marriages being an impediment to the fulfillment of women's participation in conflict resolution activities in Nabvutika Township, Chipata District. Therefore it was an interactive study between the researcher and the respondents. A Qualitative Research Design according to Bolarinwa (2006) is a research design whose research is based on qualitative data and tends to follow exploratory mode of scientific method. That is it, it explores around events, occurrences and practices. A case study as further suggested by Bolarinwa (2006) is a detailed account of one or more cases.

3.3. Target Population

In this study, the target population was 50, involving the residents of Nabvutika compound, teachers, the District Education Secretary Officers, the Ministry of Social Welfare, the social workers, Non-Governmental Organizations, and UNICEF consultants.

3.4. Sample Size

Out of the total population of Nabvutika compound, a total of 50 was selected to represent the entire population. The sample size of about 50 respondents was selected because it represents the population concerned with issues related to the Child marriages and the awareness of the

demands of women's participation in conflict resolution activities in Nabvutika compound of Chipata District. This was enough for a qualitative study more especially due to the time frame which was given. The sample size consisted of 2 head teachers and 6 class teachers (within the schools that are located in Nabvutika), 2 social welfare officers (Chipata District), 34 residents in Nabvutika (these were both married and unmarried residents), 2 officers from the Ministry of Gender, 2 district FAWEZA officers, and 2 UNICEF consultants.

3.5. Sampling Technique

- Purposive sampling technique was used. The researcher purposely selected respondents.

3.6. Data Collection Instrument/tool

3.6.1. Semi- Structured Interview Guide

This was used to gather information between the researcher and purposely-selected respondents involved as regard to the study. This helped to collect useful information needed for the research.

3.7. Research Site

This research was conducted in Nabvutika Township of Chipata District.

3.8. Data Analysis

The study used only qualitative data analysis method, and the collected data was analyzed by two methods which are Quasi- Statistics and Narrative Analysis. The instrument underwent a gradual process of narrative analysis involving the analysis of individual's speech or the stories which respondents, victims of child marriage shared about themselves as well as comparing ideas with them while avoiding negatives. Whereas, Quasi-Statistics was used to detect the number of times a certain issue was mentioned in the field notes, precisely, the interview guide, as very rough estimate of the frequency. After which interpretations and useful conclusion which attempted to address the issues rose in the study, arrived at the effects and influences which child marriages has on women's participation in conflict resolution in Nabvutika township and Zambia at large.

3.9. Conclusion

This chapter highlighted how the research would be conducted; the collection of data and the analysis.

4. CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Introduction

This section contains the data collected. The data has been presented in form of tables and pie chart, descriptions were tables cannot apply for easy interpretation and analysis and a short explanation to blend with the information presented on a table or variable. Four categories that is; the resident couples of Nabvutika community, Teachers, women association Organizations and the other government officers were maintained. The demographical data of the total sample for the respondents with reference to age, gender, marital status and education level for respondents were presented through the use of tables, pie charts, figures, blended with an explanation. The data is presented as follows;

4.2. Distribution and Position

The interview guide was administered to 50 respondents and was successfully answered representing a percentage of 100% being completed.

4.3. Presentation of Findings/Data

4.3.1. Age of respondents

Table 4.1: Age of respondents from the total sample size of 50

Age of respondents	Female	Male
	Frequency	Frequency
15-24	10	8
25-34	15	3
34-45	8	6
Total	33	17

Table 4.1 shows that most of the respondents were between the ages 24 and 34 years, the eldest being 45 and 15 the youngest. Eighteen (18) respondents were between the age of 15 and 24 years while eighteen (18) respondents were between the age of 25 and 34 years and fourteen (14) were between the age of 34 and 45 years.

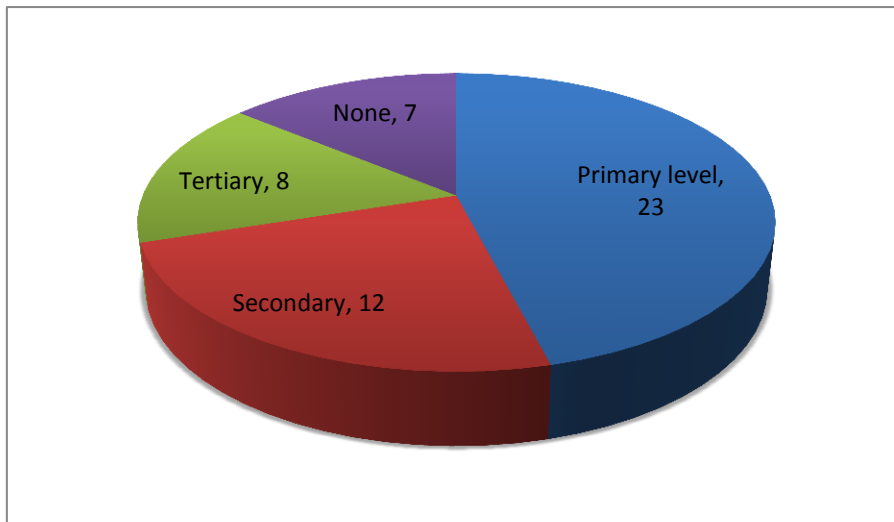
4.3.2. Sex (gender) of respondents

Table 4.2: Sexes of respondents

Sex of respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Male	17	34
Female	33	66
Total	50/50	100%

Table 4.2, shows the total percentages of both male and female respondents who participated in this study.

4.3.3. Education Levels of Respondents

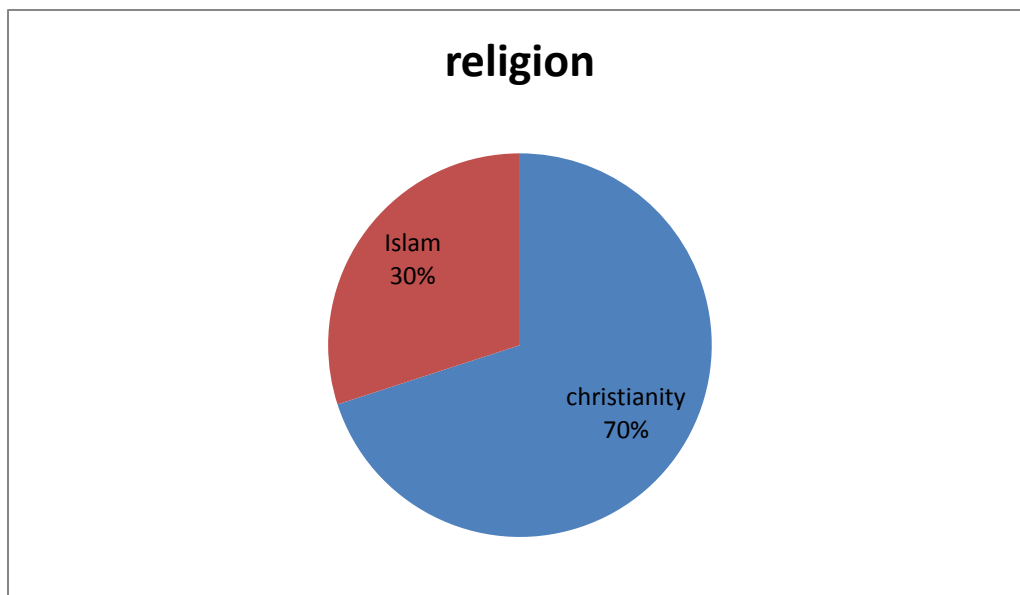


Pie Chart 4.1: Education Levels

Pie chart 4.1 shows the respondent's levels of education are concentrated at the primary level

with even those that have not been in formal education. First quarter represents twenty-three (23) respondents who were at the primary level, second quarter represents twelve (12) respondents who had secondary level of education while third quarter represents eight (8) respondents who were who are at tertiary level and the fourth quarter represents seven (7) respondents without formal education.

4.3.4. Religious Affiliation of Respondents



Pie Chart 4.2: Religious Affiliation of Respondents

Pie chart two shows the religious affiliations of the respondents, first quarter shows most respondents were Christians thirty-five (35), second quarter shows fifteen (15) respondents were Muslims. However, it is important to note that Chipata District of the Eastern part of Zambia, that is the research site inclusive, religion is highly embraced and the major and most dominating religious groupings are Christianity and Islam.

4.3.5. Marital Status of respondents

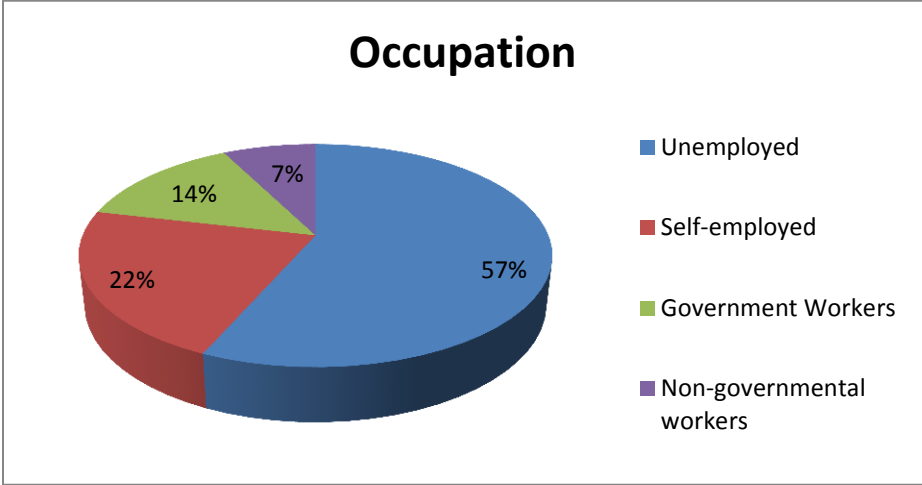
Table 4.3 Marital Status of Respondents

Marital	Female	Male

Status of respondents	Frequency	Frequency
Single	7	9
Married	21	5
Divorced	8	0
Total	36	14

Table 4.3 shows the number of respondents married was twenty- six (26), single respondents were sixteen (16) and divorced were (8).

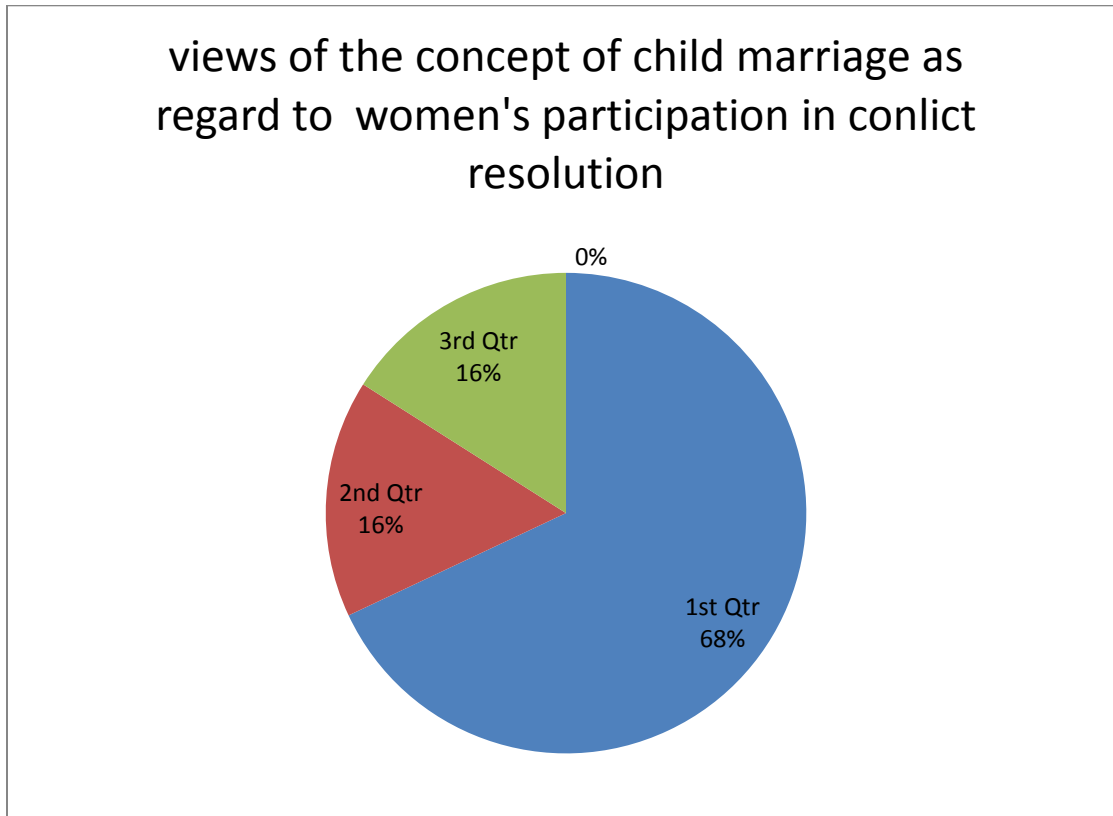
4.3.6. Occupation of Respondents



Pie Chart 4.3: Occupation of Respondents

Pie chart 4.3 shows the occupation of the respondents, the first quarter shows that most respondents were unemployed, second quarter shows that were self- employed, the third quarter were government workers and the four quarter shows non- governmental and women association workers.

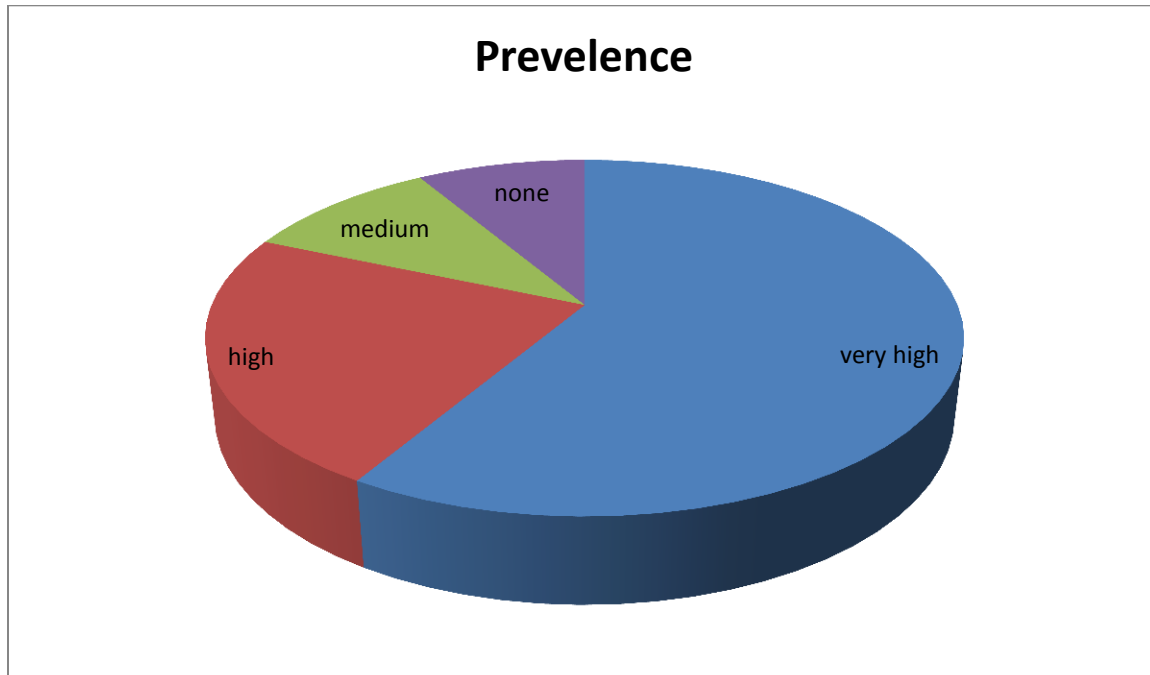
4.4. Concept of Child Marriages and Women's Participation in Conflict Resolution.



Pie Chart 4.4: Concept of Child Marriage and Women's participation in Conflict Resolution by Respondents

Pie chart shows the knowledge relating to the concept of child marriages and women's participation in conflict resolution, findings show that respondents had an idea of what child marriage is but are not fully aware of women's right and duty to participate in conflict resolution and are not aware of how child marriage impedes women's right to participate in conflict resolution activities, the first quarter shows thirty-four (34) respondents who stated that child marriages was getting married below the age of 16 years but do not know the importance of women's participation in conflict resolution, the second quarter shows eight (8) said avoiding unplanned pregnancies on the concept of child marriage with little idea about the importance of women's participation in conflict resolution, the third quarter shows eight (8) respondents who defined the concept of child marriage and gave the importance of women's participation in conflict resolution activities.

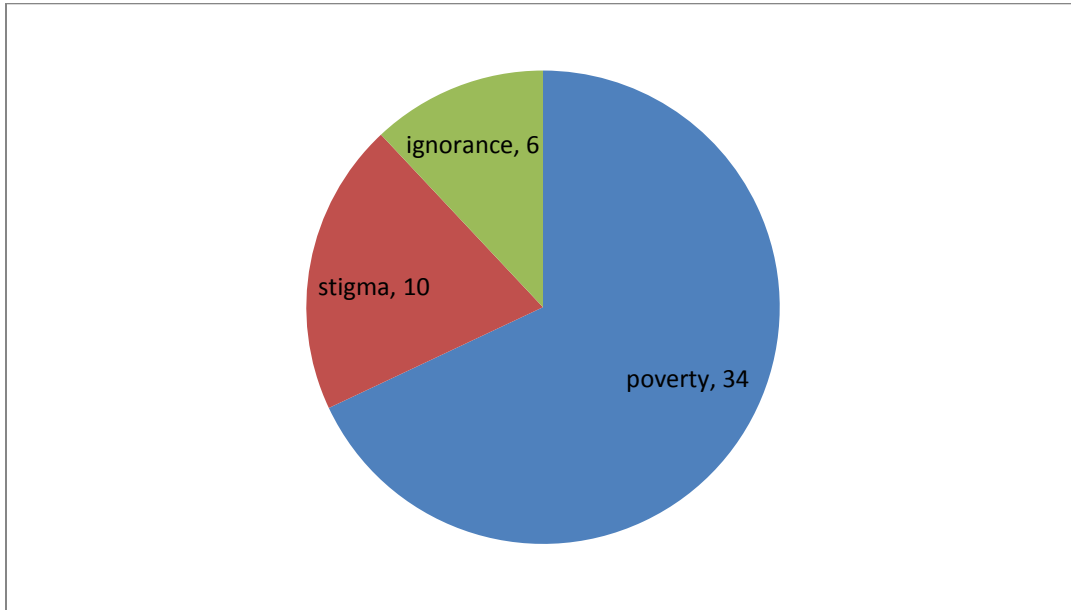
4.5. Prevalence of Inactive Participation of Women in Conflict Resolution As A Result Of Child Marriage.



Pie Chart 4.5: Prevalence Rate

The Pie chart 4.5 indicates that almost all respondents said that inactiveness of women especially girl children who are married off young in Nabvutika compound was very high as shown in the first quarter, the second quarter shows the respondents who said that participation was high, the third quarter shows the respondents who said that the participation was medium and the fourth quarter shows the respondent who said they did not know.

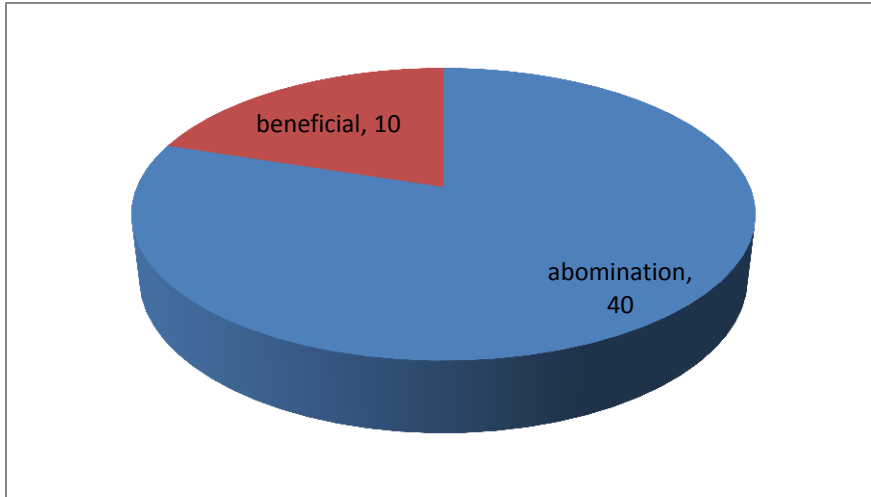
4.6. Factors Contributing to Child Marriages Being an Impediment Factor to Women's Participation in Conflict Resolution



Pie Chart 4.6: Socio-economic factors

Pie chart 4.6 shows the respondent's on the Socio-economic factors contributing to inactive participation of women in conflict resolution due to child marriages, the first quarter shows respondents who said it was poverty and lack of financial empowerment thirty-four (34), the second quarter shows respondents who said that it was social stigmatization and lack of will power ten (10), the third quarter shows respondents who said that it was ignorance six (6).

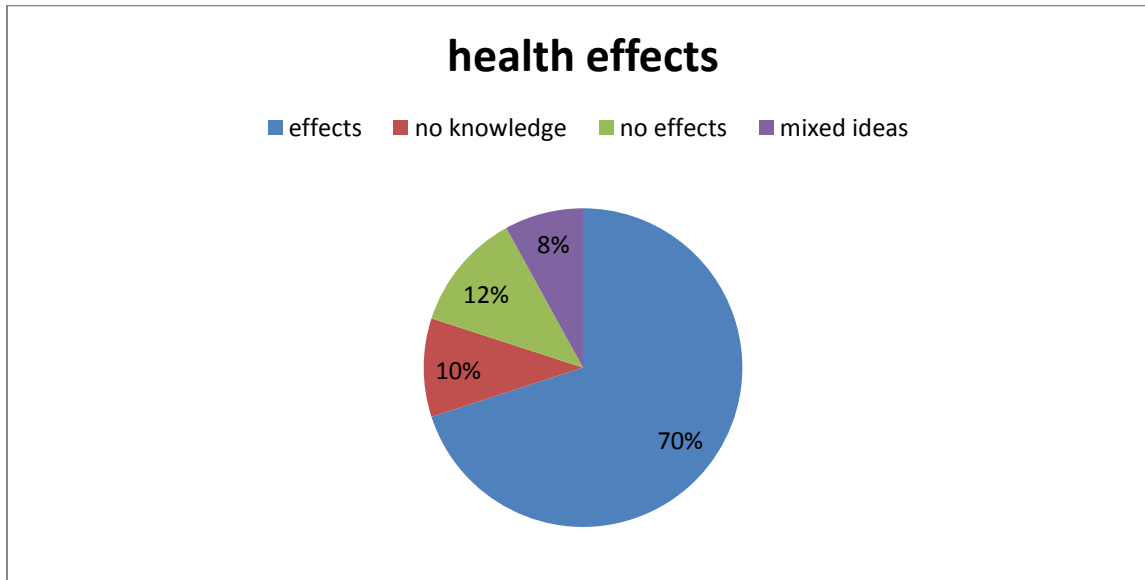
4.7. Cultural Factors Contributing to Child Marriages Being an Impediment Factor to Women's Participation in Conflict Resolution



Pie Chart 4.7: Cultural and religious factors

Pie chart 4.7 shows how the issues regarding cultural causes of child marriages impedes women from participating in conflict resolution activities, forty (40) respondents said it's an abomination for married girls to take part in conflict resolution activities and this represented by the first quarter on the pie chart, the second quarter shows ten (10) respondents said it is beneficial for girls to take part and fully participate.

4.8. Effects of Child Marriages on Women’s Participation in Conflict Resolution.



Pie Chart 4.8: Health effects of Child Marriages

4.8.1. Health effects of Child marriages on women’s participation in conflict resolution

Pie chart 4.8 shows the respondent’s knowledge on the health effects of Child marriages on the women and girl child impeding them from participating in conflict resolution, the first quarter shows thirty-five (35) respondents who that said child marriages had more health effects on girl child, the second quarter shows five (5) respondent who said that they had no knowledge about the effects of early marriage on the girl child, the third quarter shows six (6) respondents who stated that they had no effects, the four quarter shows four (4) respondents who said that they had ideal weather early marriage has effects or not .

4.8.2. Education effects of Child marriages on women’s participation in conflict resolution

Table 4.4 Education effects of child marriages

AGE	Female	Male
15- 24	17	0
24- 45	25	8

4.8.3. Education Effects of Child Marriages

Table four shows the number of education effects of early marriage on the girl child; the findings showed the age 15 to 24 years of age had seventeen (17) respondents school drop outs because of the early marriage and the age 24- 45 years of age had thirty-one (33) respondents whose view was ignorance as the effect.

4.8.4. Psycho- Social Effect of Child Marriages on Women's Participation in Conflict Resolution.

Almost all the respondents had the views of child marriages having a psychosocial impact on conflict resolution.

4.8.5. Power sharing effect in households

Each respondent highlighted the imbalance of power and decision making in a home which was found as a result of child marriage.

4.9. Other Interview Responses

Customs surrounding marriage, including the desirable age and the way in which a spouse is selected, depend on a society's view of the family – its role, structure, pattern of life, and the individual and collective responsibilities of its members. The idea and function of 'family' varies across the world and is in a state of constant evolution among the respondents that were interviewed.

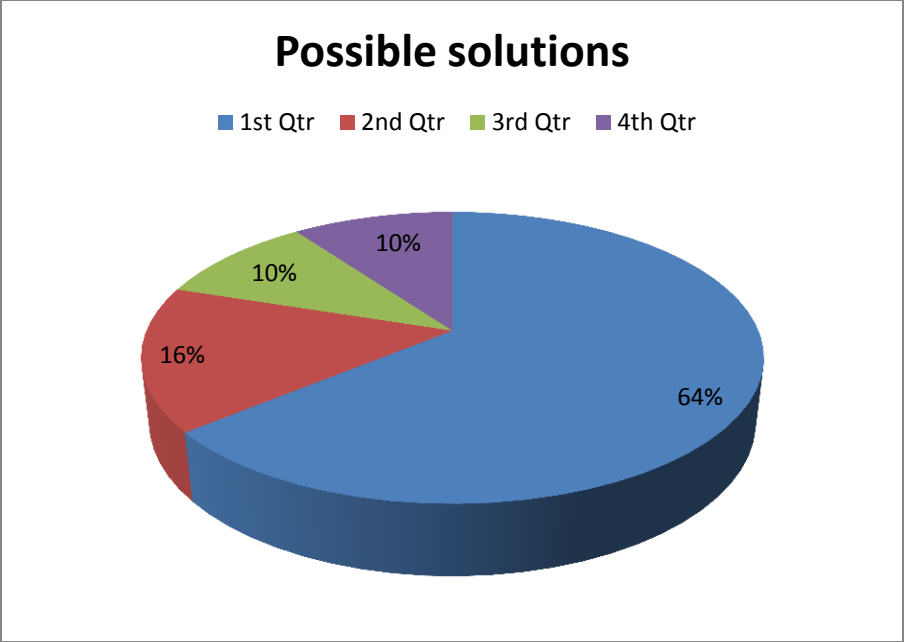
4.10. Culture and tradition

Women's participation in conflict resolution activities is often deemed as a taboo because it is not a traditional practice that in many places happens since generations. In some communities like rural areas, a girl or woman who tries to intervene or participate in conflict resolution may receive harsh penalties such as divorce, beatings or regarded as one without morals.

Harmful traditional practices can be linked to each other. In southern Ethiopia for instance, child marriage usually follows the practice of female genital mutilation/cutting, which is considered a rite of passage to womanhood. Early marriage is one way to ensure that a wife is 'protected', or placed firmly under male control; that she is submissive to her husband and works hard for her in-laws' household; that the children she bears are 'legitimate'; and that bonds of affection between couples do not undermine the family unit. As a result, it has a direct effect on the participation of women in conflict resolution.

Parents may genuinely suffer shame that their daughter participates in issues such as conflict resolution and may be seen to have no morals in society. In effect, they amount to strict controls imposed upon the girl herself. She may, for example, be secluded from social interaction outside the family. She may be told what she can and cannot wear.

4.11. Possible Solutions to Reduce Child Marriages and Encourage Women's Participation in Conflict Resolution



Pie Chart 4.9: Possible Solutions to enhance women’s participation in conflict resolution in Nabvutika Compound.

4.12. Possible Solutions to reduce child marriages in Nabvutika Compound

Pie chart 4.9 shows the findings from respondents on the possible solutions for reducing child marriages revealed that government need to come up with good policies and laws with thirty-two (32) respondents on the first quarter, the second quarter shows eight (8) respondents revealed that government need to build more schools and recreation centers, the third quarter shows five (5) respondents revealed that government need to empower the community small loans and the fourth quarter shows five (5) respondents who had no idea.

4.13. Discussions of Findings

4.13.1. Introduction

This part of the chapter gives a detailed discussion of the results of the study. The demographical data of the total sample for the respondents with reference to age, gender, marital status and education level for respondents were presented through the use of tables, pie chart, figures, blended with an explanation.

4.13.2. Distribution and Position

The study had respondents of 50 and was carried out and the interview was successful.

4.13.3. Age of Respondents

Most of the respondents were between the ages 15 and 24, the eldest being 45 and 15 the youngest. Eighteen (18) respondents were between 15 and 24 years while eighteen (18) respondents were between the age of 25 and 34 years and fourteen (14) respondents were between 35 and 45. Results in terms of age of respondents show that most of them are in their tender age including parents of the same children. This study also revealed that parents because of getting married early, even their children are marrying while they are still below eighteen years old as a result they are also unaware of their right to fully participate in conflict resolution.

4.13.4. Sex (Gender) of Respondents

The sampling technique had a balanced sample size as regard to the study at hand.

4.13.5. Education Levels of Respondents

Most respondent's levels of education are concentrated at the primary level with even those that have not been in formal education. The findings are a clear indication that education levels contribute to the effect of child marriages on girl child and her inactiveness in conflict resolution activities, because when a child is in school up to the secondary she will know her position in society. The above statement can be supported by a study which was conducted by Santhya, and Annabel (2007) which stated that, delaying marriage and childbearing allows teenagers to gain more education and perhaps more earning opportunities, as well as improved health, education, and labor market success for their future children. A woman's age at first marriage is positively related to her total years of schooling and future achievements.

4.13.6. Religious Affiliation of Respondents

In terms of religion, most respondents were Christians with thirty-three (33), seventeen (17) respondents were Muslims. Religion especially the Muslims do defend child marriages and

regards women's participation in conflict resolution activities as disrespectful and taboo in some cases by relating it to their founder Mohamed who married a nine year old girl and the marriage with a young girl is good because it lasts as well there is total submission to the husband. Findings also revealed that religion plays a role on the problem of child marriages and inactive participation of women in conflict resolution in Nabvutika compound in Chipata. One of the Muslim respondents revealed that the Islamic conservatives, whose influence has grown enormously in the past two decades in Chipata District, defend child marriages by pointing to the Prophet Muhammad's marriage to a 9-year-old as one of them stated that, "*Muslims believe that child marriage is deeply rooted in local custom here, and even enshrined in an old tribal expression: "Give me a girl of 8, and I can give you a guarantee for a good marriage"*". Therefore, in such scenarios a woman/girl may never have an opportunity to take part in conflict resolution.

4.13.7. Marital Status of Respondents

From the findings on the status of the respondents showed that most of them were married with only a few being single or unmarried but among them are underage girls or mothers.

4.13.8. Occupation of Respondents

Most of the respondents were unemployed and self-employed that is, they are involved in small businesses such as selling tomatoes, vegetable and fruits. As it can be seen, these businesses have very little income meaning that they are not able to meet their basic needs like taking their children to school hence, forced into early marriage as a relief for the family which had a direct effect of their active participation in conflict resolution activities.

4.13.9. Concept of Child Marriages as Impeding Factor to Women's Participation in Conflict Resolution

Relating to the concept of child marriages, findings show that respondents had an idea of what child marriages are but had no or less idea on the importance of women's participation in conflict resolution. The study has clearly revealed that respondents have the knowledge about early marriage, including those who said that it was avoiding unplanned pregnancies and those who said that child marriage was security for the girl child, except that the majority had no knowledge on the obligation, right and importance of women's participation in conflict resolution.

4.13.10. Prevalence of Child marriages in Nabvutika and its direct spiral over on conflict resolution activities for women

The study revealed that almost all respondents said Nabvutika has high number child marriages. This was confirmed by other respondents during the focus group interview guide that the trend at times as been that girls were expected to get married at the age of 13 to 16 years. The results can be supported by the study by Mucheleka (2014) which revealed that most teenagers were already in marriage between the age of 18-24 years of age and eastern province had the highest between 2002 and 2007 with 60% and above. A UNFPA sub-analysis of the 2007 as well indicated that two out of five girls (about 42%) were married before their 18th birthday. This analysis also showed that girls living in poverty and in rural areas faced a higher risk of child marriages and most especially those without access to education which has a direct spill over on their participation in conflict resolution activities.

4.13.11. Demographic Factors Contributing to Inactiveness of Women's Participation in Conflict Resolution

4.13.11.1. Socio-Economic

Poverty in families was among the major causes of child marriages causing a lack of participation for women in conflict resolution because some parents were not able to take their

children to school and marriage is seen as bringing economic security for the girl and sometimes for her entire family. Poverty is one of the major factors underpinning early marriage. Where poverty is acute, a young girl may be regarded as an economic burden and her marriage to a much older – sometimes even elderly man, is a family survival strategy, and may even be seen as in her interests. In traditional societies, the bride's family may receive cattle from the groom, or the groom's family, as the bride price for their daughter.

The findings can be supported by a report on cause and effects of child marriages in Ethiopia which revealed that poverty is acute, families and sometimes girls themselves believe that marriage will be a solution to secure their future. It is believed that giving a daughter in marriage allows parents to reduce family expenses by ensuring they have one less person to feed, clothe and educate. Families may also see investing in their son's education as more worthwhile investment. In some cases, marriage of a daughter is a way to repay debts, manage disputes, or settle social, economic and political alliances. In communities where a dowry or 'bride price' is paid, it is often welcome income for poor families; in those where the bride's family pays the groom a dowry, they often have to pay less money if the bride is young and uneducated".

The study also revealed that low levels of education as a result of Child marriages of contributed very much to lack of participation of women in conflict resolution as indicated on background information where most of the respondents have only gone up to primary level and very few have completed secondary, worse still tertiary education in Nabvutika compound. Education helps children to delay teenagers engaging into child marriages. A study by UNICEF (2005) in its findings confirmed the importance of education as often to be seen as key to preventing child marriage. The study revealed that teenagers who had attended primary school were less likely to be married by age 18 than those who had not. The preventative effect of education was observed most strongly in Senegal, where 20 per cent of women who had attended primary school had been married by the age of 18, compared to 36 per cent of those who had not attended school. For women who received tertiary levels of education, child marriage rates were often negligible.

4.13.11.2. Cultural Factors Contributing to Lack of Women's Participation in Conflict Resolution

Regarding cultural factors contributing to lack of women's/ girls participation in conflict resolution it was established that girls are not meant to participate in conflict resolution for it is a huge abomination but to be submissive house wives and mothers as a way of protecting them from bad behaviour for girls and also to protect their sexuality. The findings are supported by the theory of honor used in the study which underpins notions of sexual morality, the proper and improper behaviour of women, and the reputation of men within the larger community. For a man and his family, honour is understood as the sexual integrity and chastity of the women in the family, e.g. mother, wives, sisters, and daughters. Because honour is seen to reside in the bodies of women, it operates to control, direct, and regulate women's sexuality and freedom of movement by their male relatives. This framework of honour also works to reinforce the high value placed on sexual integrity and virginity before marriage. In this sense, child marriage is symptomatic of social and cultural traditions, attitudes, and beliefs that deny women and girls their rights and stifle their ability to play an equal role in their homes and communities. Customs surrounding marriage, including the desirable age and the way in which a spouse is selected, depend on a society's view of the family – its role, structure, pattern of life, and the individual and collective responsibilities of its members. The idea and function of 'family' varies across the world and is in a state of constant evolution among the respondents that were interviewed. Participating in conflict resolution for a woman or girl is not a traditional practice and is seen as an abomination for generations. The study further revealed that parents may genuinely feel the shame if their daughter is participating in such issues and society may see her as immoral.

4.13.11.3. Ignorance and Religious Views

Some of the respondents stated that ignorance was one of the problems that lead to lack of women's/girls participation in conflict resolution activities. For example, one parent said, "Many parents expect do not their daughters when they marry them off young to be involved in activities like conflict resolution because they feel it is in her best interest, often to ensure her safety in areas where girls are at high risk of harassment and physical or sexual assault.

Findings also revealed that religion plays a role on the problem of child marriages as an impediment to women participation in conflict resolution in Nabvutika compound. One of the Muslim respondents revealed that the Islamic conservatives, whose influence has grown enormously in the past two decades in Chipata District, defend child marriages by pointing to the Prophet Muhammad's marriage to a 9-year-old as one of them stated that, "Muslims believe that child marriage is deeply rooted in local custom here, and even enshrined in an old tribal expression: "Give me a girl of 8, and I can give you a guarantee" for a good marriage".

4.13.11.4. Limited Education

Teenage wives and Parents who are uneducated about their freedoms and rights such as participation in conflict resolution are more likely to be inactive and dormant in issues of peace building. Some teens and the majority of parents do not fully understand the importance of women's participation in conflict resolution. Such teens may get incorrect information from friends, discriminatory traditional and religious practices. Many times, teens do not have the knowledge needed to make informed and responsible decisions.

4.13.12. Effects of Early Marriage on Women's Participation in Conflict Resolution

4.13.12.1. Health Effects of Early Marriage on the Girl Child.

According to the researcher's findings shows that the respondents had more knowledge on the health effects of early marriage on the girl child as it can be seen that thirty-nine (39) respondents, said early marriage had health effects and four (4) stated that they had no effect this shows that the health effects of early marriage on the girl child is on the higher level and only seven had no knowledge. This can be supported the report done by the UNICEF in 2001 the statistic shows that the girls who marry before the age of 18 were affected by complicated pregnancies that lead to maternal mortality and morbidity, girl aged 10-14 are five time more likely to die in pregnancy on childbirth than woman aged 20-24; girls aged 15- 19 are twice as likely to die. Many of these deaths take place within marriage. One of the many sufferings early married women face is the physical pain associated with sexual intercourse due to the

physiological immaturity of the sexual organs. Physical pain during intercourse, obstetric fistula due to youthful delivery, when girls are not physically matured, and other complications due to pregnancy are among the many health-related problems faced by young married women.

Considering these facts, empirical data was gathered on the health-related effects encountered by early-married women. Women married before the age of 18 were asked if they had encountered any health problems as a result of early marriage. To have a better picture of the situation, the responses are organized by age at first marriage, (12-14 and 15-17 years). As expected women who married earliest (ages 12-14) encountered more health problems than those married between 15 – 17 years.

4.13.12.2. Education Effects of Early Marriage on Women Participation in Conflict Resolution

The findings showed the age 14 to 17 years of age had seventeen (17) school drop outs because of the early marriage and the age 17- 30 years of age had thirteen (13) said that the distance from school. Education has a central place in the realization of gender equity, and at the individual level, it creates better opportunity for employment and earning, thus decreasing dependency and enhancing self-reliance. Educating a girl enhances the probability of improved reproductive health, family planning, well-being of children, higher economic earning, and improved household management. But this study showed that Nabvutika compound in Chipata district had more girls dropping out from school due to early marriage and other studies reveal that early marriage has a major negative impact on women's education. Child marriage inevitably denies children of school age their right to the education they need for their personal development, their preparation for adulthood, and their effective contribution to the future well-being of their family and society. Indeed, marriage girls who would like to continue schooling may be both practically and legally excluded from doing so. For a number of poorer families, the potential rewards of educating are too far off and therefore their education is not recognized as an investment. Families perceive that a girl's education will only benefit her husband's household, and not her parents. Additionally, some parents believe that girls do not need an education for their roles as wives and mothers that education undermines cultural practices and it teaches the girls to reject tradition.

According to the qualitative sources of information, in the Amhara Region early marriage is the major cause of school leaving for girls, which directly affects women's social and economic status. If a girl drops out of school, it is more than likely that she has been married. Especially, in rural areas, marriage was reported by the respondents as their main reason for discontinuing education. According to the finding of research shows that early marriage was the major effects of girls leaving school a study carried out by East Gojjam Zone education office, 58 percent of the 72 Female students in Debay-Tilat were married. Similarly, of 58 students sampled from 7 Schools in Emahoy Wereda, over 36 percent were already married, as were 30 percent of the 60 students sampled from 12 schools in Dejen Wereda who are living with their husbands (East Gojjam Education Office, 2005). All of these women were married below the legal age and remained so at the time of the sampling. Their husbands never allow them to use family planning methods (contraceptives), and therefore, they are all destined to drop out the school when they get pregnant.

4.13.12.3. Psycho-Social Effect of Child Marriage on Women's Participation in Conflict Resolution

The loss of adolescence, the forced sexually relations, and the denial of freedom and early marriage have profound psychosocial and emotional consequences. Most girls who are unhappy in an imposed marriage are very isolated.

4.13.12.4. Decision Making and Will Power Effect

The hypothesis that women who are married as children have less decision making power than women who marriage is delayed until adulthood. They don't have ability to make decision on their own health care, contraception, household budget, daily house purchases, visit to family and friends etc. they have little power in relation to their husbands and in –Laws according to UNICEF Report Review of 1996 is true. In that, such issues remain dominant among the victims of child marriages.

4.13.13. Possible Solutions to Reduce Child Marriages and Enhance Women's Participation in Conflict Resolution.

The findings from respondents on the possible solutions for reducing child marriages revealed that government need to come up with good policies and laws in the first quarter, the second quarter revealed that government need to build more schools and recreation and training centers, the third quarter revealed that government need to empower the community small loans and the fourth quarter revealed three (3) respondents who had no idea. This can be supported by a study by Alemu, (2012) revealed that community activity is part of 'civic responsibility which is about doing things in our community because we want to or feel we should, rather than because we have to by law. The study indicated that you can take civic responsibility and be active in your community by joining any of the activities in the community like helping with a primary school play, or coordinating or coaching junior sport, setting up an arts space for the community or getting involved in youth radio or being part of a youth advisory group through the local council.

4.14. Conclusion

This chapter highlighted the findings and discussions of the study. Findings were discussed and presented in tables and charts.

5. CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1. Introduction

This chapter reveals the conclusions and recommendations to the study.

5.2. Conclusions

- The study has revealed that child marriage is an impediment to women's participation in conflict resolution. This is because child marriages have a direct effect on the participation of women in conflict resolution. In low-income families, the lack of economic alternatives contributes to the inactiveness of women in conflict resolution as they are in fear that they might disadvantage themselves financially, as such, marriage may be seen as bringing economic security – for the girl and sometimes for her entire family which will force girl child to drop from school and be married off. In many contexts it is considered normal for young adolescent girls to marry and is justified as a tradition or customary practice essential to preserving a family's 'honor' and a girl's virginity. In a broader sense, the acceptance of marrying a girl as a child is part of a cluster of social norms and attitudes that do not consider the rights and freedoms of the girl child such as the right to participate in conflict resolution.
- Child marriage is symptomatic of social and cultural traditions, attitudes, and beliefs that deny women and girls their rights and stifle their ability to play an equal role in their homes and communities such as their active participation in conflict resolution.
- Women are ignorant about their rights; the very phrase, of Women, Peace, and Security Agenda (WPS), is itself a sign of progress among professionals working on global gender policy and programs around the world, as it is increasingly accepted as an important mandate across a wide variety of institutions, both public and private. On the hitch, the WPS agenda is clearly not a household term nor is its foundational policy as it is

displayed in our day to day lives, vices such as Rape, gender based violence Child marriages; have been on the daily scene.

- Health effects on women as a result of child marriages influence their participation in conflict resolution negatively
- Education effects on women as a result of child marriages influence their participation in conflict resolution negatively. Part of the reason is that women turn out to have social stigmatization and ignorance due to little or no education at all.
- Child marriages have a psycho-social impact on women as a result of social stigmatization which makes them unable to participate in conflict resolution activities.
- Child marriages robe the power of decision making and will in households as a result they cannot afford to participate in conflict resolution as it should be.

5.3. Recommendations

Child marriage is recognized as a violation of human rights and a critical social problem. The practice is also recognized as a barrier that inhibits young girls from attaining education that would otherwise have a lasting positive impact on their life and well-being. In view of these facts, and based on the findings of the study, the following programmatic recommendations are set forth to help design interventions that may reduce and ultimately eliminate the practice of early marriage and enhance their participation in conflict resolution as well as lessen the misery of a number of girls in the Nabvutika and throughout the rest of the country. These recommendations may be:

- The need for the government and local authorities to make good policy that will address Cultural and traditional values and norms in Nabvutika compound in Chipata district by creating workshops with the traditional leaders and community leaders teaching them on the importance and benefits of women's participation in conflict resolution.
- The study findings indicate that cultural and traditional values and norms are important determinants of women's lack of participation in conflict resolution. As it has not been a tradition that has been maintained through generations, sometimes women may be unaware of

the disadvantages, or may feel that the disadvantages are justified for cultural or economic reasons. Even where parents and children understand the negative implications of early marriage, societal pressure to conform may be great. Traditions promoting dormant participation of women in conflict resolution need to be challenged.

- Both the government and local authorities in Nabvutika compound must empower the community and the youth (building the capacity of youth associations) by providing them with information and knowledge on the benefits of women's participation in conflict resolution, and create sensitization forums for community leaders.
 - There is need for the government to improve in-school education for young people with greater variety of sources of information on various topics. Young people feel that such information should be openly discussed in such schools which are in Nabvutika community.
 - There is a need for government and local authorities to conduct outreach services through strengthening peer education activities in the communities and for increased involvement of all community members in understanding the importance of peace and women's involvement in it.
 - The government should bring development projects which are a five years' project in Nabvutika compound as seen Nepal found that involving the community in effort to improve opportunities for unmarried girls contributed to changing traditional attitudes about early marriage among parents and communities which can also be applied to the Zambian situation. This is also what is required in the SADC gender policy report as a prerequisite for women's participation in peace talks and conflict resolution.
 - Both the local and the national authorities in Nabvutika compound in Chipata district must build more schools and recreation centres in community so as to boost women's morale and self-esteem which has a direct positive impact on conflict resolution activities.
 - The government should empower the people in community with micro loans and reduce the pressure of school fees. As such ignorance which is a contributing factor to women's inactive participation in conflict resolution shall be minimized.
- The findings of the study show that early marriage is the major cause for girls not to attend school or discontinue their education. However, advising parents to send their

daughters to school when schools are too far will not work. Making schooling for girls more accessible is very important.

- Those elements of communities that oppose early marriage, such as women's organizations, need support to ensure that they have the capacity to act effectively as advocates against it. Work jointly with religious, health, and educational leaders to develop an information and education strategy about the negative effects (social, economic, health, etc) of early marriage.
- More research to be carried out more often to find possible ways to engage women in conflict resolution as it is known that the concept of women participating in conflict resolution is a new phenomenon.

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UNICEF review Reports

World Health Organization Review (2004)

Zambia Human Rights Review Report (2013)

APPENDICES

Appendix i

Tables and figures

Percent of 20-24 year old females married by the age of 18

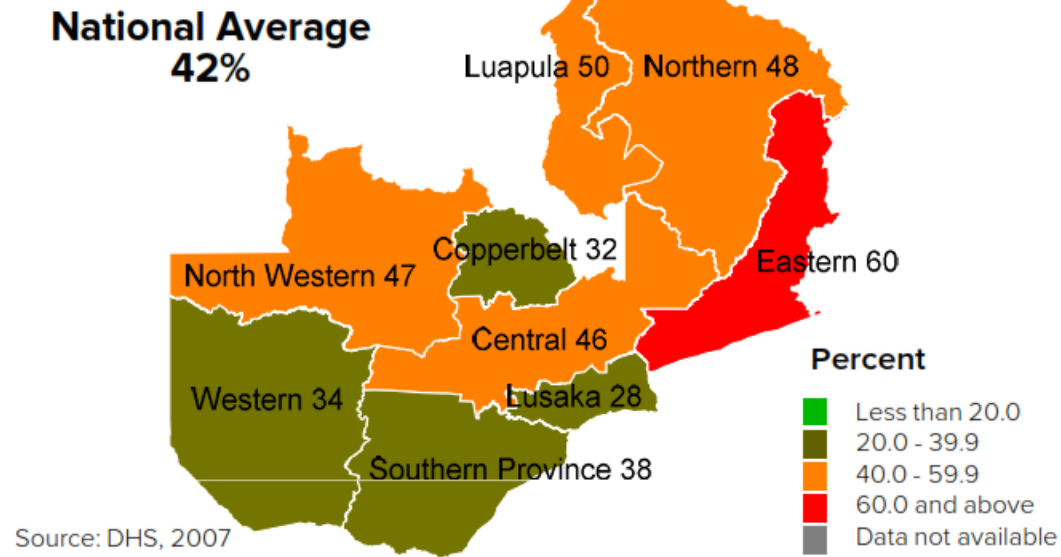


Table 1.0: Women Ages 20 to 24 married by 18 years' old

Country	Child marriage prevalence

1	Niger	77%
2	Chad	71%
3	Mali	65%
4	Bangladesh	65%
5	Guinea	65%
6	Zambia	56%
7	Mozambique	57%
8	Uganda	54%
9	Burknafaso	52%
10	India	50%
11	Ethiopia	49%
12	Yemen	48%
13	Eritrea	47%
14	Togo	37%
15	South Africa	8.6

Service: Demographic Health Survey (DHS), Data from 1995 to 2003.

[World Health Organization Report (2004)].

Appendix ii: Time-frame

S/NO	ACTIVITIES	WHEN TO DO
1.	Proposal preparation	August to December 2016
2.	Submission of Proposal and commencement of Data collection	January 2017
3.	Data interpretation and analysis	February-March 2017
4.	Typing and Printing	May 2017
5.	Report writing and submission	June –July 2017

Budgeting

Proper budgeting is a very important element of a research. If you cannot do a proper budget, no one can trust you with his or her money. Without budgeting, you can end up spending all your money on one activity. A researcher must also be much disciplined as indiscipline can cause you to misuse donor funds and thus fail to complete the research. You should have a well-done work plan because it will form the basis for your budget. It is only after you have identified all the important items, activities and the time frame involved that you can write a good budget. That is, the work plan forms the basis for the budget.

If activity A is literature review, it's important to identify where you will carry out the review. Identify the areas you are going to visit, then look at the time period, i.e., how long will you be going there for the review? E.g., 10 days. All these must be well tabulated in the work plan. Then look at the costing, how much is it on these areas? How much is lunch? Do you need accommodation? How much is it?

ACTUAL BUDGET;

Activity A

Literature review

Transport to and from the area of study	K20	10	K200
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Meals	K10	10	K100
Sub Total			K300

Activity B

Fieldwork

Transport to and from the area of study	K25	15	K375
Meals	K20	15	K300
Sub Total			K675

Activity C

Data Analysis

Data Analysis	K240
Stationary and Binding of Reports	K655
Grand Total of all the Activities	K1,570

Appendix iii: BUDGET SUMMARY

S/NO	ITEM	UNIT COST (K)	TOTAL COST (K)
1.	Typing of proposal	3 X 20	K60.00
2.	Typing of questionnaire	3 X 5pages	K15.00
3.	Photo coping of questionnaire	0.20 x 5x 165	K165.00
4.	Transport for Submission of questionnaires		K300.00
5.	Transport for Submission of questionnaires		K300.00

6.	Transport Collection of questionnaires		K300.00
7.	Analysis, Typing, Printing Report editing	5 X 50	K250.00
8.	Binding	120 x 4	K480.00
9.	Total		K1570.00

INTERVIEW GUIDE

Dear Respondent, I am a student pursuing a Master’s Degree in Peace, Leadership and Conflict Resolution under the University of Zambia. I am carrying out an assessment on child marriages as an impediment to women’s participation in conflict resolution. Therefore, you have been purposively selected to participate in the research by answering the preceding questions on this interview guide. The purpose of this interview is solely for academic purposes and whatever information will be given will be strictly confidential and only used for academic purposes.

1. Gender

MALE	<input type="checkbox"/>
FEMALE	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Age

3. What do you Understand by Child Marriages?

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4. Are Child Marriages beneficial in some way?

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5. If not, state your reasons?

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6. Do you think a child who has been married off able to provide his/her needs and that of his/her new family? State reasons for your answer.

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7. Are girl spouses who are as a result of a child marriage able to resolve disputes in and out of their marriage?

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8. In what ways do you think child marriages may reduce?

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9. Are you: Married, Divorced....., Widowed..... ?

10. If yes, at what age were you married?

BELOW 18	ABOVE 18

11. If below 18, what are some of the benefits and challenges have you or did you experience in your marriage?

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12. Have you been able to participate in resolving your marital disputes and any other disputes? (to be answered by women only, up to question 15)

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13. If yes, have you been satisfied with the outcome of the resolution after the disputes?

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14. What are some of the challenges you have met when resolving disputes both in your marriage and outside your marriage?

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15. Are your opinions heard and respected when resolving the dispute, you are faced with?

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16. What are some of the ways you think can be done to improve women's participation in conflict/dispute resolution both at individual and governmental level?

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