

FAMILY LIFE.

A family is a basic human unit of society or community where acceptance, love and care are extended to individual family members.

Functions of a family

1. A family trains its members especially young ones their culture i.e the norm and customs. This helps to preserve the family's culture e.g. in Mbale boys are taught about circumcision helps them to upgrade from childhood to adulthood.
2. A family provides emotional support to its members e.g. comforting them when they are depressed or stressed because of problems. This gives them some belonging.
3. A family Provides formal and informal education to the children by taking them to relatives and also teach them the dos and don'ts of the society e.g. the Kyabazinga of Busoga was educated by his family up to Makerere university and has a bachelor of economics.
4. A family gives good morals to the children thru exemplary living to the parents.e.g. Mrs. Janet Museveni is a good Christian, she brought up her daughter in a Christian way Patience Rwabwogo.
5. A family provides economic support to the members in times of need like organizing the weddings for their daughters in order for them to get married e.g. Sudhir Ruparelia of the bagagakwagalana group organized for his daughter a wedding in London and bought air tickets to ten of his guests.
6. The family provides and preserves the wealth of its members e.g. the father can ensure his wealth with an insurance company so that nobody can temper with his wealth.
7. A family provides protection and security to individual members. In case of problems, they feel loved and a solution is given to them and consoles them.
8. A family helps members develop spiritually i.e develop for fear of God because he is creator and sustainer of life by taking them to Sunday school at church.
9. A family trains children in both domestic and outdoor work such as taking care of oneself by bathing which leads to good hygiene and hardwork

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10. A family links its members to their ancestors in the spirit world thru naming of their children, sacrificing and offering on their behalf initiating them into their culture.
11. A family trains its members for future life by helping them to become independent e.g. boys are encouraged to have their small hats within their father's compound.
12. A family introduces its members to state authority laws that is teaching them what the state expects from them which help them to be law abiding citizens.
13. A family is a source of identity for all its members because it's a point of reference incase one wants to give his or her details.

TYPES OF FAMILIES.

There are two types of families known in Africa. They include extended family and nuclear family.

Extended Family

This is the type of family whose members include the father as the head of the family, mother, children and relatives on both sides and ancestors.

Nuclear Family

This is the type of family which consists of the father, mother and their biological children.

Extended family is divided into two:

1. Patrilineal.
2. Matrilineal

Patrilineal is a system where leadership in the family is by husband who commands high status and respect ,at the time of his death, inheritance of his property is by the relatives and the children.

Matrilineal is a system where leadership of family is by the wife who commands high respect and the property and the children belong to the wife and his relatives.

Advantages Of Extended Family

1. An,extended family provides labour force because a large family lives and works together. This increases on the output of the farm products.

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2. The large numbers of people living together provide maximum security to each other and the property because in case of a problem, all the relatives come in.
3. An extended family creates a sense of belonging and identity to which children grew up knowing their relatives.
4. In an extended family cases of sex abuse like incest are minimized because relatives know each other and the children's upbringing is the community's responsibility.
5. Extended families preserve and promote culture in the society. This is through teaching them their customs e.g. among the Sabiny of eastern Uganda, they taught that circumcision of girls is a stage from childhood to adulthood and getting ready for marriage.
6. An extended family provides for the less advantaged members of the family e.g. the old, disabled, because they are part of that family and therefore looked after by the rest.
7. In an extended family children are collectively guided and counselled by the elders in that family because bad children are an embarrassment to the whole family.
8. Extended families in most cases have provisions for widows and orphans i.e. in some cases the widow is inherited by the brother of the deceased in order to save her from sexual starvation and look after her children properly.
9. Extended families encourage hardwork among the member in order to feed a large number of people in the family.
10. Extended families encourage communal ownership of property. This helps to minimize land fragmentation with its evils like soil erosion.
11. In extended family there is cooperation and acceptance with one another. Since most of them stay together, this creates peace and harmony in the family.

Disadvantages Of An Extended Family.

1. Extended family encourages bad habits such as drug addicts, theft, witchcraft because people have lost morals and some are jealousy with one another.
2. Extended families are expensive to maintain because of the large no of members who have to be fed and looked after.
3. Extended families lead to poor standards of living because they require a lot resources if they are to feed well yet the resources are expensive to acquire.
4. Extended families lead to congestion in a home hence poor health.
5. Extended families promote conflicts since the large number of relatives live together hence easy to find faults with each other.

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6. Sometimes extended families encourage laziness as other members act as parasites depending on those who are hard working.
7. There is a lot of parental influence in marriages of members of an extended family leading to marriage breakup since they contributed towards the payment of bride wealth.
8. Extended families limits saving and investment because most of the money is spent on providing for large family (basic needs).
9. In an extended family, the head of the family may be forced to use dubious ways of getting money in order to look after his family which may lead to imprisonment.
10. At times other members interfere in the family which deprive them of their freedom and rights hence leading to conflicts in the home.
11. Extended families over work married women and take them as their subordinates

Assignment: what are the advantages and disadvantages of the nuclear family?

Reasons Why The Extended Family Is Dying Away Today

NB. Use the word because when writting essays in an exam. why goes with because.

There are many reasons why extended families are almost in extinct as indicated below.

1. Modern education decampaigns extended families as bad backward and expensive to maintain hence the educated keep away from extended families to cut down expenses.
2. Harsh economic conditions have forced people to own small families which they can manage to take care of hence ignoring the extended family.
3. Urbanization which has encouraged the use of money to survive discourages the system of extended families because the head of family may lack enough money to look after a large number.
4. Western culture which emphasizes nuclear families has had a lot of impact on extended families because western world looks at an extended family as an extra expense uncalled for.
5. Political instabilities have also been responsible for breaking up extended families because some live in exile, others urban centres, war camps and a few at home.
6. Moral degeneration between societies causes people to keep away from extended families, because they want to teach their children good morals.

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7. HIV/AIDS has also killed extended families because some members keep away to avoid easy spread of diseases from others who are infected and of fear of shame and trauma.
8. Use of drugs and alcohol has discouraged extended families because others who try to keep their children in right morals and fear the influence of such children from their relatives.
9. Selfishness and I don't care attitude today has killed the extended family system because people find it very hard to share what they have with their relatives.
10. Land is scarce, so People find it difficult in sharing with other relatives on small plots of land.
11. Influence of Christianity which advocates for monogamy hence having few dependent in a home .

FAMILY LIFE IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY

In ATS the man was the head of the family. He took responsibility of the family provision of basic needs and was respected . e.g. in Buganda the wife knelt down while greeting him as a sign of respect.

In African traditional society barrenness was blamed on the woman and this promoted the practice of polygamy in order to get children.

In African traditional society, men married many women who produced many children hence providing labour in the farms.

In African traditional , in a family there was division of work among the family e.g. the boys went hunting with the fathers while the girls remained at home with the mothers doing work.

In African traditional society, fathers property was inherited by boy because the girls would be married off and go to live with other people.

In African traditional society widows were inherited in a family. The brother of the deceased married off the widow in order to avoid sexual starvation.

In African traditional society, it was people of the same tribe but different clans that form a family. It was intended to reduce on family instabilities.

In African traditional society, it was in a family where sexual satisfaction was attained, sex outside marriage was punishable.

In African traditional society, some families extended sex to their visitors and guests as a sign of hospitality. It was intended to avoid the visitors from starving from sex e.g. among the bahima it was called .(**okwarirana**).

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Families were extended in nature. The upbringing of children in a family was collective responsibility. The whole community was involved in disciplining of the children.

In African traditional society, a woman was inferior and the man superior i.e she was taken as a property of the man e.g. among the bakiga of western Uganda. If a woman divorced, she was only given a hoe as her property.

Importance Of Children In African Traditional Society

Children were a source of wealth in form of bride wealth which uplifted the family's economic status e.g in Karamoja, a strong man from the girl's family would go into the kraal of the groom's family and throw a spear and where it ended, all the front cows were taken to the bride's family.

Children were a source of labour i.e garden work which led to an increase in output.

Children were a source of insurance to the parents especially in old age. They would care for them and ensured of a decent burial for them.

Children motivated parents to work hard knowing that they had people to inherit their property.

Children were source of security especially the boys. They defended the family against attacks.

Children helped to stabilize marriage which guarded the couple against divorce because mothers feared to leave their children behind and they suffer.

Children expanded the clan. Boys were born and they also gave birth to other children who helped to expand the clan.

Through children, ancestors were reborn. They were reborn through their character traits e.g. temper and physical appearance like colour.

Children were a source of entertainment to their mothers. They sang and danced for them which helped to kill boredom and loneliness.

Children were a source of pride to their parents. A family with children was highly respected because it was assumed that the parents would be able to look after them.

Children acted as heirs to their parents. They inherited their parents upon death and continued with their responsibility of looking after the family.

Changing Patterns Of Family Life Today.

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Some people live single lives within the family because of various reasons like religious influence like being a priest unlike in African traditional society where everybody of marriageable age was expected to marry and form a family.

Many people prefer to have few children whom they can cater for by providing them with basic needs of life yet in African traditional society, family with many children was highly respected.

Many people prefer to have nuclear families which is due to the bad economic situations like poverty while in African traditional society, it was mainly the extended family system.

There is individualism in the families today. Family members like in isolation in respect to the sources of entertainment and social ways of life while in the African traditional society it was a communal living.

Intermarriages are common in African families today. Family members have freedom to marry from any tribe or race while in African traditional society people married their tribesmates for easy coordination and understanding.

There is an increasing level of family instability caused by poverty, while in African traditional society, most marriages were stable due to sex education.

All children in a family have equal rights especially education, protection and inheritance of property. While in African traditional society boys were respected more than the girl child.

The family tends to employ others to do most of the domestic work. This is brought about by the working patterns of the parents where they tend to be away most of the time while in African traditional society, work was done by everyone starting from childhood.

There is equality of all members in the family. This is brought about by Christian teachings where everybody being created in God's image while in African traditional society men were more superior than women.

There is equal provision of basic needs in families by both husbands and wives since they all work and earn income while in African traditional society provision of basic needs was done by the men.

Single parenthood is common in modern families due to a number of factors e.g. death of a partner while in African traditional society widows were inherited by the brothers of the deceased. They had no room for single parenthood.

Men prefer to marry one wife to form a family. This is because of poverty while in African traditional society polygamy was a sign of respect to the man.

Problems Resulting From The Changing Pattern Of Family Life.

There is a problem of incest resulting from parents keeping children themselves away from the village relatives hence such children don't know one another and may end up having sex with close relatives.

There is a problem of selfishness especially among the youths since they have been trained to bather less about other people apart from their brothers and sisters yet sharing is a Christian value/ virtue.

Widows and orphans are left to take care of themselves in situations where their husbands died and fathers died earlier than expected which results into poor living conditions.

There is a lot of indiscipline in families where children lack respect for parents and at times , parents lack respect for their children hence increasing family conflicts.

There is a lot of disagreements between husband and wife, parents and children because the difference in interest and tastes due to generation gap hence leading to family break up.

Many families have house girls who do house work therefore children grow up without knowing how to do domestic thus laziness and state of irresponsibility.

Bad habits like alcoholism , drug taking are part of the family where a wife, husband and children are victims which leads to fights in a society and in a family which ends up leading to imprisonment.

There is a lot of " I don't care" attitude where people of the same clan or family are less bothered about what affects other members of the other family hence creating of enmity among themselves.

Today's family is characterized by sexual immorality i.e incest because of , staying in nuclear families ,t his has led to spread of diseases and unwanted pregnancies.

GENERATION GAP

Generation refers to all people within the same age bracket.

Generation gap refers to the differences between the various age bracket especially between the young and old.

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Members of the same age bracket tend to understand each other better and share a lot of information. The old and young tend to put their ages into consideration in their social and economic ways of life.

Causes of the generation gap in the family.

The working patterns keep the parents away from home most of the time. This means that the children are left to go on their own and mostly left in the hands of the house maids.

Some parents are conservative that they insist on doing things as they were doing in their past time, however life keeps changing e.g. today many young girls wear high waist trousers in order to appear smarter which old people consider to be indecent dressing.

Some parents prove to be irresponsible to the point that they fail to provide for the needs of their children so the children feel neglected and develop an attitude of being less considered when it comes to making decisions.

The emphasis on children rights is increasingly making it difficult for parents to have full control over the affairs of their children. This has tended to cause misunderstandings between parents and children.

Presence of technology where young people spend a lot of time surfing and refuse to do domestic work and instead watch pornography which leads to misunderstandings between children and parent

Influence of the money economy where Children have become richer than their parents and ignore what their parents tell them and instead do what pleases them.

Influence of formal education where children look at themselves as more educated and knowledgeable than parents and therefore under look their parents and advices.

Peer/group influence where young people tend to follow the advice of their friends in order to fit in the group e.g. young boys tend take drugs and they end up learning bad habits like having sex before marriage.

Permissiveness where people behave in a way they like minus minding about other people's feelings e.g. if one wants to have sex he/she gets a partner and has it and also if you feel like kissing in public you can do it.

BIBLE TEACHING ON A FAMILY

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OLD TESTAMENT

It teaches that a family should be comprised of one man for one woman i.e monogamy that is why God created Eve for Adam.

It teaches that there should be companionship between a man and a woman in a family to avoid loneliness. e.g God created eve for Adam because he was lonely and needed company and he was happy.

It teaches permanence in a family.. God created man and woman to stay together permanently e.g. in the book of Malachi God says “ I hate divorce declares the Sovereign Lord (Malach 2:15)

It teaches that in a family ,children must respect their parents in order to live longer and establish a strong family relationship. (exodus 20;5).

It teaches that in a family there should be forgiveness of each other when partners wrong each other to promote peace and harmony e.g. Prophet Hosea forgave his adulterous wife Gomer and bought her back from the other man.

It teaches that family was centre of child education. Parents are responsible for the discipline of their children e.g. in the book of proverbs, it says spare the rod and spoil the child.

It teaches that parents should offer sacrifice for their children whenever they go wrong to cleanse their sins e.g. job used to offer sacrifice to God on behalf of his children whenever they went wrong in order to be forgiven.

It teaches that the production of children unites a husband and wife. A childless family is unstable e.g. Abraham was forced to produce with his slave girl Haggar a child because he lacked a child with his wife Sarah.

It teaches that children are considered important in a family and are looked at as blessings from God e.g. Hannah was miserable until she prayed to God and He blessed her with a child called Samuel (1 Samuel 1:1-4)

It teaches that in the old testament , a family includes relatives and it is an extended type. Many people were included in Abraham family and it was the basic unit of the community.(genesis 12:1-5).

NEW TESTAMENT

It teaches that man is head of the family and deserves all the respect just as Christ is the head of the church.

It teaches hard work in a family in order to provide basic needs to family members. St. Paul in his first letter to timothy , he says a man who does not provide for his family is worse off than a non believer.

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It teaches that parents should raise their children in a God fearing way i.e should raise up their children with Christian instructions.(Ephesians 6:1-5).

It teaches that there should be love in a family between husband and wife. eg St peter says “ husbands love your wives and treat them with respect just as Christ loved the church.

It teaches that there should be permanence in a family. ,Jesus said that what God has put together no man shall separate(divorce). That’s why man leaves his father and mother to get united with his wife and become one.

It teaches that children should obey their parents and respect them and the parents should treat their children well and not provoke them into anger. (Ephesian 6:1-4).

It teaches that there should be submissiveness of women to their husbands. This leads to peace and harmony in a family e.g. Sarah was submissive to her husband Abraham and called him master. (1 Peter3:1-8).

It teaches that there should be forgiveness in a family between parents and children inorder to live in harmony e.g. in the story of the prodigal son, was forgiven by his father after wasting his money and a feast was conducted for him .

it teaches that in a family one is free to choose a career or vocation e.g. Jesus’ parents never stopped him from preaching the gospel to his people.

It teaches that children are important in a family and a couple wasn’t allowed to produce children outside e.g. joseph wanted to break his engagement to Mary because she was not pregnant for him.

SEX DIFFERENCES AND A PERSON

What is Sex?

Sex refers to the biological differences that exist between male and female. Sex can also be defined as a state of being male or female.

Gender is used to refer to the task, duties and responsibilities attributed to a particular sex by a given community.

Difference Between Men And Women Today

In marriage men pay bride wealth to the parents of the girl which appears like as if a wife has been bought from the parents making men more superior to the women.

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There are jobs which are offered to men because they are stronger than women e.g. lifting of heavy loads, driving heavy vehicles which shows that men are still stronger than women.

Today there is much pride and happiness when a baby boy is born than the girls. This is experienced by both parents showing that males are more important than females.

Women at the time of marriage leave home of their parents and join homes of their husbands and they go to live with them permanently.

Children and property in a family belong to men in most African societies and women are entitled to a small percentage of the property.

In some families, where money is scarce, parents prefer taking sons to school at the expense of girls claiming that girls will get married to educated men.

Inheritance in most African societies still goes to sons other than daughters because of the belief that women are foreigners in their fathers' home.

Domestic violence in most of the families affects females rather than males who are mistreated by their husbands, beaten at times up to death.

Sexual indiscipline like rape, defilement mainly affects females rather than males, men rape women which portrays inferiority complex and at times they become pregnant and produce bastards.

Women are still blamed for the indiscipline of children in many homes and men are left free.

Women are being divorced by some men without complaining or getting any share from the acquired property.

Today leadership posts in a country are mainly given to men and are skeptical to vote women into leadership e.g. Maureen Kyalya applied as a presidential candidate in 2016 but was given few votes (less than 1% of the total votes cast) and president Museveni won the race with over five million votes.

Today in African societies still deny female certain food stuffs and prefer them to be eaten by men like some clans of the baganda, girls don't eat mamba fish.

In some families women are left out when inheriting property of their fathers.

Areas Of Equality Between Men And Women

Both men and women have equal job opportunities in the job market as long as they have academic qualifications and ability.

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Schools have been built to provide education to both men and women whereby some are mixed and others are single.

In schools especially mixed ones both men and women -----today and some are doing better than those headed by men especially if a woman has good paying job.

There is equal sharing of tasks in a family between husband and wife e.g. paying school fees , buying food and building of the home etc.

In churches both men and women are involved in activities of serving God like preaching e.g. pastor Imelda Namutebi of liberty worship centre in Kampala. She is the senior pastor and preaches the gospel to all kinds of people.

Today both men and women vote for leaders of their choice i.e one man one vote regardless of sex. This helps them to determine the political position of their country.

Through affirmative action, the government empowered women to choose female members of parliament per district which has made parliament to have many women today e.g. Hon Betty Nambozeis a woman MP for Mukono municipality under DP ticket.

Both males and females are free to participate in marriages and above all to choose for themselves marriage partners.

Men and women are actively involved in police procedures in situations of disagreement which help to create harmony in society e.g. hon betty bigombe initiated peace talks between the government of Uganda and lord resistance army LRA rebels which created peace in northern Uganda.

Women are protected by the same law as men e.g. they shouldn't commit adultery which applies to both men and women.

Today women have been encouraged to train and become professionals in areas which seem to be for men e.g. Engineering, Police and Law etc.

Both have a right to own property. Many women today own big property like men e.g. Nalubwama and Nabukeera arcades in Kampala are for women.

WOMEN LIBERATION MOVEMENT

This is defined as an attempt by women to set themselves free from all forms of oppression ranging from political, social and economic setting.

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Aims Of The Liberation Movement(What Are Women Fighting)

The movement aimed at achieving equality of men and women on fundamental human rights e.g. a right to marriage partner.

The movement aims to achieve freedom in all aspects of life such as employment opportunities and choice of a marriage partner.

The movement seeks recognition from men and the public so as to appreciate the women and their effort in development of their family and the government/nation.

The movement aimed at overcoming all forms of sexual abuses in women because in most societies women were looked at as sexual objects e.g. among the bahima of western Uganda, if a man got a special visitor, he would surrender his wife in order to avoid the visitor from starving sexually. It was called “ Okwarirana”.

The movement seeks to reduce and stop domestic violence which is practiced against women that leads to death of some e.g. Katussime from bushenyi district lost her ears, limb when she was seven months pregnant. They were cut off by her husband who suspected her to have committed adultery.

The movement aims at uplifting the status of women and make them valuable by enabling them get access to job where they earn some income and live better lives.

The movement aims at stopping forced marriages that young girls get into which denies them to the right to marry a partner of their choice.

The movement also aims at uplifting the economic status of the women in society. This is because women had no economic bases for financial prosperity. So it aims at empowering them economically.

The movement seeks to give the same opportunity in the field of employment so that women are considered in recruitment as men because most times they are considered to be inferior and less knowledgeable.

The movement also aims at removing the social bias against women in which they are considered weak and inferior than men e.g. if a woman lost her husband, most times people think she cant survive on her own.

Impact of the women liberation movement /advantages and disadvantages of equality.

Advantages/ positive impact:

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There is sharing of responsibilities in a home, which improves on the relationship between husband and wife that brings about love and stability in marriage/a home.

The government revenue has increased as both men and women contribute to the national income through taxation since they are all employed.

The movement has improved people's standard of living, health and sanitation especially in home because both men and women work towards the families welfare.

There is proper family planning and managing resources where the wife and husband sit to decide on priorities of the family.

The movement has reduced on the rate of early marriages which are responsible for the promotion of domestic violence since women get married to partners they don't love but whose parents like of material wealth.

The movement has increased the life expectancy of women as they eat each and every kind of food that they want so they get a lot of food values and nutrients.

The movement has increased the number of women in churches such as pastors in the born again churches This has led to their spiritual growth. eg. pastor Imelda Namutebi of liberty worship church in kampala.

The movement has enabled women to own land and access bank loans leading to increasing investments for the family and the nation at large since they have money.

The movement has promoted the leisure industry since women are key players in the leisure(music) industry such as actresses hence leading to incomes of their families.

There is effective participation in public affairs like parliament which helps in proper decision making e.g. Rebecca Kadaga the current speaker of parliament and woman MP of Kamuli subcounty (constituency).

The economic status of society has developed since women also participate in trade e.g. Sarah Nyakana owns lady charlotte bridal centre in kampala.

The movement has given women a chance to participate in the policy making and implementation e.g. Janet museveni minister of education and sports helped in the implementation of the new curriculum.

Negative impact/ disadvantages

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The movement has made Women to force their husbands to take up their roles like domestic work. This has led to conflicts in a home.

The movement has led Women to initiate divorce and have decided to live on their own homes which has led to prostitution and suffering of the children e.g. former vice president Specioza Wandira Kazibwe divorced her late husband Engineer Charles Kazibwe for slapping her twice.

The movement has made Women to drag their husbands to courts of law even over simple matters which has led to misunderstandings between them hence divorce.

The movement has made women to also deny their husbands sex especially after a disagreement and a quarrel which has led to sexual unfaithfulness with its problems like AIDS.

The movement has made women to misuse their leisure time by carrying out adultery which has led to unwanted pregnancies hence abortion which at times leads to death.

The movement has made Women go to the extent of marrying men and even helping them pay bride wealth which is against our traditional culture of men marrying women.

Women have gone to the extent of refusing to produce children for their husbands since they don't want the burden of pregnancy. This makes the men go out and produce the children they want with other women.

Women have also misused songs which belittle their husbands which at times leads to fights hence causing body injuries e.g. A woman is like money even when thrown in a toilet, she is picked.

The movement has made Women leave the work of disciplining / raising up their children to house girls because they are busy with work. This has led to immorality among children.

Women dress indesciently because they have money and buy clothes of their choice. This leads to ashaming of their husbands in public.

Women have assumed family leadership where they take decisions in a home, which has led to disrespecting their husbands so they end up getting other women who give them their due respect.

The movement has made Women to be taken up foreign cultures leading to deterioration of African cultures leading to poor dressing, poor language and life style.

The Role Of The Church In Uplifting The Status Of Women.

The church has constructed girls schools which has helped to equip girls with education so as to compete with men and eradicate illiteracy from the society. St. Joseph girls school Nsambya constructed by St. Francis church.

The church has encouraged women to make choices of their marriage partners and that is why before church marriage occurs the couple is always asked whether it has agreed to get married.

The church has offered scholarships to girls in various levels of learning hence empowering them academically especially the needy girls like the orphans e.g. Compassion International.

The church encourages women to participate in politics so that they openly compete with men. This has helped women to make political decisions.

The church has established self help projects for women like liquid soap making, which is aimed at uplifting the economic status of women since they get money after selling their products.

The church preaches about equality between men and women and encourages men to respect their wives since they were all created in God's image and likeness.

In some churches like Anglican church, some women have been ordained as reverends hence lifting them up spiritually and they preach to people and convert them to Christianity.

The church encourages forgiveness and reconciliation among the married people and other members of society. This helps to stabilize the marriages and avoid divorce.

The church has encouraged the development of girls' talents e.g. music by sponsoring their launches to help them record their videos.

In some churches women read scriptures and conduct choirs hence helping them to develop their talents of music administration and speech.

The church has provided training systems for women mainly on health related concerns such as food and nutrition, family planning. This has helped them to live longer due to eating nutritious foods and having the right number of children they can look after.

The Role Of The Government In Uplifting The Status Of Women In Uganda.

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1. The government has encouraged the education of a girl child in order to compete openly with the boys at university level e.g. government gives the girls the 1.5 entry points to Makerere university.
2. The government has facilitated maternity wards with equipment in the various hospitals in the country in order to enable the women to have safe delivery.
3. The government has put in place strict laws against sex abuse which affects mostly women like rape which has helped them to be protected against ruthless men.
4. The government has allowed women to give birth to number of children they need minus carrying out forced family planning **methods**.
5. The government has created a ministry responsible for women affairs. this is the ministry of gender, labour and community affairs. This has helped them to discuss the various problems that they do face and get solutions for them.
6. The government has put in place a special day for women in the recognition and contribution they make to the country politically, economically and socially e.g. on the 8th march of every year is declared a public holiday and it's a women's day.
7. The government has encouraged establishment of financial institutions aimed at empowering women economically and to be self-reliant by giving them loans at various levels.
8. The government Politically has established electoral colleges for women e.g. women council representatives aimed at empowering them politically, socially and economically.
9. The government respects fundamental human rights irrespective of sex to the extent that some organisations, human rights bodies are headed by women e.g. Allen Kagina who is the commissioner for UNRA.(Uganda National Roads Authority).
10. The government has tried to avail equal opportunities in the employment sector hence males and females today compete for the same job opportunity hence enabling women to earn some income.
11. The government has built schools for both boys and girls and some schools are mixed to encourage co-education start befriending members of the opposite sex.
12. The government has made a uniform salary scale in different sectors of the economy for both men and women.

SEX EDUCATION

Sex education refers to the various way through which the youths come to learn about sex related issues and sex roles.

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There are many ways through which members of society acquire sex education and those include the following;

1. Parents and relatives are the first teachers to their children concerning sex. They teach them to keep clean, abstain from sex till marriage, have minimal interaction with boys.
2. Sex education is acquired through formal education in subjects like Christian Religious Education (CRE), biology where reproductive education is given.
3. Sex education is acquired through reading news papers e.g. red pepper where they read about sex related issues.
4. Sex education is acquired through reading the bible e.g. 1 corinthians talks about our bodies as being a temple of the Holy Spirit which should be respected and not misused sexually.
5. Sex education is got through professional sex educators e.g. Senga Babirye Mulongo Of Radio Beat who teaches girls what to do in order to be sexually good to their husbands in future.
6. Sex education is acquired through teachers in class during CRE lessons where they are taught how to maintain their virginity till marriage.
7. Sex education is acquired through conferences, seminars e.g. the Ekisakate organized by Nabagereka Nagginda Sylvia (the wife to the Kabaka of Buganda Ronald Muwenda Mutebi II) where girls are taught their sex roles.
8. Sex education is acquired through Peer groups where they discuss various ideas concerning Sex and come to learn about them
9. Sex education is acquired through mass media e.g. tvs, where young people are taught issues concerning their sex like how to bathe so as to ensure good hygiene.
10. Sex education is acquired through the church by the religious leaders who organise seminars and teach the young about the dangers of sex abuse
11. Sex education is acquired through listening to music of songs that elevate people e.g. gospel music, which make the youth to appreciate the value of purity of their bodies.
12. Sex education is acquired by punishing wrong doers and rewarding achievers which makes others copy and live an exemplary life.

Problems Of Teaching Sex Education/Limitations Of Parents In Participating In Sex Education.

Most parents are shy to discuss sex related issues with their children therefore they leave them to learn on their own leading to sex misuse out of ignorance.

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Most parents leave sex education to schools where teachers are expected to teach them while teacher assume that they have been taught by their parents. This leaves the children in suspense.

Today parents claim to be busy to spare time to teach children about sex. They leave them in the hands of house maids who end up teaching them sex at an early age.

Some children are more knowledgeable about sex due to modern technology than their parents so they see no need to be taught and they neglect such information.

Permissiveness in society has given chance to children to have sexual intercourse before they are taught therefore the adults find it of no reasons to teach their children.

Wrong information is given to children esp girls in families where there step mothers so as to get spoilt e.g. they tell them there is no need of learning house work, you will get married to rich men. This is because they don't want them to be successful in future.

Low religious conviction where children don't care about their spiritual lives. They engage themselves in sex at an early age due to lack of fear of God.

Some children are too afraid and are not free with their parents because they are tough and keep a distance from them hence mixing out sex education and they get information from their peers.

Today most children spend their time in boarding schools and lack enough interaction with their parents they miss sex education and instead get information from their peers and news papers which may be misleading.

Some children are rebellious to their parents and they end up failing to attain sex education from their parents because of indiscipline e.g. some don't want to do house work.

There is a problem of poverty whereby some children fail to practice sex education as they get into prrmarital sex with a view of attaining material benefits which their parents may not provide.

Peer group influence also distorts the information given the young ones by their parents and hence limiting effective sex education. They take their friends information as true since they want to fit in the group.

Measures Taken To Improve Sex Education.

Parents have been advised to spare time and talk to their children about sexuality so that children are to take in the right information.

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The church should emphasize exemplary living by parents and other adults to encourage good morals to the young ones.

The government through the parliament has passed strict laws on sex deviations like defilement which has made the youths to do away with sex because they fear to be imprisoned.

Guidance and counselling of parents who fear or have no time to talk to their children about sex. This can be done by counsellors, village leaders, church leaders in order to teach their children about sex education.

Seminars, workshops, youth camps and conferences have been used as centres where children are given sex education e.g. Ekisakate organized by Sylvia Nagginda in holidays for the youths between 13 and 20 years has helped them to acquire sex education.

Church leaders and other Christians should teach sex education through their sermons and fellowships to young people in order for children to live morally upright life e.g. pastor Alex Mitala always organizes “GLOVIMO” seminars for the youth which helps them to maintain their virginities until marriage.

There are radio programmes which are used to talk about sex. These help the youths to live holy lives e.g. top radio talks about abstinence from sex until marriage every Sunday from 3.00pm-5.00pm.

Newspaper and magazines are produced with a column containing sex education to the children e.g. Straight Talk in the New Vision which talks about safe sex and abstinence.

The ministry of education has included sex education in the curriculum right from the lower level of education to help children have access to such information e.g. PIACY which was initiated by the president to educate the youths about sex and AIDS.

The government has launched a campaign of reviving cultures of tribes to teach sexual values that are important to children.

NB The tense you use, will depend on the question

Sex Differences and a Person In African Traditional Society(Understanding of Sex InATS)

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In ATS Sex organs were highly respected and were given special names (pet names). They were not called by their real names. E.g. in Buganda, the private parts were called “akasolo” meaning a fierce animal

In ATS in adolescent stage, children of different sexes were separated when playing and while sleeping in order to avoid sex abuse i.e incest.

In ATS Sexual intercourse was only for the adults who were married and was done late in the night (wee-hours). It was to keep sex a secret from the children and from others.

In ATS Widows were inherited by the brothers of their dead husbands and the widowers were given wives from the family of the late wife to cater for their sexual needs and look after the children properly.

In ATS sex was understood as a means of producing children to expand on the clan and the society at large. A barren wife/ childless marriage was compensated by polygamy.

In some societies, blessings were related to sex e.g. among the baganda, a successful journey depended on the sex of the person one met first, those who were women preferred women and men preferred men.

In ATS Premarital sex was highly prohibited and accompanied by heavy punishments to sex offenders in order to serve as an example to the rest of the young girls e.g. among the bakiga a girl who got pregnant before marriage was pushed off a cliff of river Rwizi to die and serve as an example to the rest of the girls.

In some tribes, before marriage of their children, parents of the bridegroom were the ones to have sex with the bride before the actual marriage e.g. among the banyoro, the father of the boy was to have sex with his daughter in law because they believed that sex was painful and fathers had the experience of breaking virginity.

In. ATS Sex was also understood as a way of expressing happiness and love e.g. among the banyankole a man expressed his happiness by surrendering his wife to a visitor for two nights. It was called okwarirana.

In ATS Sex was for married adults that is why in some societies wives would be shared with others. E.g. among the banyankole a man was free to have sex with his brother's wife, he would put a spear on the door which was as a sign to show he was inside having sex with a woman.

In ATS Virginity was valued and the youth were taught the values of virginity and were urged to maintain it till marriage e.g. among the baganda a gift of a

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goat was given to the aunt by the groom's family when a woman was found a virgin on marriage as a sign of appreciation for the work well done.

In. ATS Sex meant roles carried out by people of different sex e.g. women did indoor work, and the men did outdoor. Girls were taught by their mothers and aunties and boys were taught by their fathers and uncles.

In. ATS Sex rituals were observed to mark important events in life and to bless their children e.g. among the baganda parents had sex the night their children got marriage as a sign of giving them blessing especially child production.

Contents Of Sex Education In African Traditional Society.(What Was Taught)

1. In ATS Girls were taught traditional methods of birth control e.g. breastfeeding and traditional herbs in order to ensure proper spacing as growth of their children.
2. In ATS Boys and girls were taught about their physical and emotional experiences in preparation of adult life e.g. wet dreams for boys and menstration for girls.
3. In ATS Girls were taught to take care of themselves in marriage e.g. cleanliness, beauty by wearing beads in order to attract the men.
4. In ATS Girls were taught patience and tolerance especially those about to get married since marriage was full of challenges.
5. In ATS Girls were taught to keep their virginity because it was a source of respect on honour in future e.g. among the banyankole a girl who got married was still a virgin the boy sent a wholly coin to the girl's aunt and the goat as a form of appreciation for work well done.
6. In ATS Boys were taught to be courageous and brave in order to meet members of the opposite sex and form a family and also protect their families.
7. In ATS Marital secrets were revealed to the young ones, girls were taught by their aunties how to clean their husbands after sex to ensure cleanliness e.g. in Buganda they were taught to keep a piece of cloth for hygiene purpose known as "enkumbi". It was used to clean the man's private parts after sex.
8. In ATS Girls were taught how to look attractive in the presence of opposite sex. They were encouraged to smear oil in order to soften their bodies e.g. in ankole, girls would smear their bodies with ghee in order to soften it and appear attractive to their husbands.
9. In. ATS Playing sex was taught to both boys and girls ready for marriage. This helped to stabilize their marriage in future. E.g. in Buganda girls were taught bed songs "kusikina" by their aunties. It was aimed at making sex enjoyable.

10. In ATS Girls were taught domestic roles. They were taught skills of preparing food and digging, welcoming visitor. This helped them to manage their homes and families in future.
11. In. ATS the, young were taught their clans, custom and relatives were introduced to them which helped to prevent incest among young people
12. The youth were taught how to respect elders and their superiors and girls were taught how to respect the opposite sex eg in buganda, girls had to kneel down while greeting elders and boys which was a sign of respect.

IMPORTANCE OF VIRGINITY

Virginity makes sex exciting and creativity never runs out in Marriage as the couple discovers new styles every Now and then

It helps one to get the right partners for a life long relationship in Marriage with limited levels of regrets for sex misuse.

it brings joy to the parents who invest much in their Children with a hope for a better future for them. Fornication causes alot of disappointments to parents

Abstainance from sex till Marriage makes a girl to be treasured in Marriage by the husband. since she kept her self pure

Virginity enables one to achieve his or her dreams as a result of prolonged life ie free from unwanted pregnancy and Hiv /Aids

Virginity saves one from being guilty of sex misuse and helps one to keep her health in good condition esp in such an immoral society.

Virginity strengthens faithfulness are trust among the married people leading to a stable MArriage relationship in future

Virginity makes a woman dignified and is treated with respect by the society for her patience.

Virginity is Gods will for sex to be enjoyed in marriage only. outside marriage its a sin

Virginity makes ones health free from STDS like AIDS the killer disease which leads to psychological torture.

Virginity ensures emmotional and spiritual security to a person since she avoids frustrations and broken hearts and worships her God freely.

Virginity enhances self control, a character that is highly rewarded by God since its a fruit of the holy spirit.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN A.T.S

Women were separated from their husbands they couldn't sit with their husbands while eating but instead sat with the Children bse eating together was a sign of equality.

Forced marriage was carried out to the Women as parents wanted material things and neglected the girl or women's feelings

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Polygamy was allowed among the men which put women in a difficult situation as they were looked at as property of men and had to compete in order to win the mans love.

The birth of a girl was taken to be normal while a boy created happiness and was accompanied by a feast in the community

Women were denied a chance of eating delicious food stuffs which denied them food values e.g in buganda Women were prohibited from eating chicken, grasshoppers that they would make them barren.

Women were a source of entertainment to visitors. it was a hospitable gesture to give a wife to a male visitor for sex e.g among the Banyankole it was called okwarirana meaning laying a bed for one another.

Women were regarded as property of the men and that is why men would at times beat their wives esp those who were stubborn

There was much inequality b/n men and Women because of their sex differences. Women were considered to be a weaker sex and therefore inferior to men

Women were given hard tasks like digging ,fetching water, caring for Children while men would just eat go for games and attend meetings. Childless Women were humiliated, they were looked at as a source of curse and blame was put on the Women. men would even be Forced to get another woman instead.

There was female genital mutilation carried out on Women which reduced on their sexual urge eg among the Kikuyu Women of Kenya the labia manora was cut off in order to prevent adultery.

POSITION OF HONOUR FOR WOMEN IN ATS

They were mothers and had a good image as mothers eg they looked after Children and raised them up in a morally up right manner which gave them respect.

Women were strong in the field of health,they were instrumental in the treatment of various diseases, they used local herbs.

Women were educators in society, they taught the young ones morals. discipline, culture through proverbs and story telling.

Women provided sexual satisfaction to men and a man was highly respected if he had many women.

In some societies women acted as spirit mediums esp in sacred places.

Women contributed vital ideas through their husbands and sons to watch which was important to the community eg in buganda the queen mother was a strong advisor to the king and her contribution was highly regarded by the king and the society.

FORNICATION.

Fornication refers to sex before marriage.

ASSIGNMENT. Write down the causes of fornication in your books.

Dangers of Fornication.

Fornication leads to **spread of diseases** as a result of unprotected sex which has permanent damages to the body.

Fornication leads to **unwanted pregnancies** and this further leads to production of bastards who later suffer improper upbringing.

Fornication leads to **school dropouts** especially the girls who terminate their studies early because they are pregnant.

Fornication **results into sin of abortion** as a way of terminating unwanted pregnancies yet abortion is murder and a sin before God.

Fornication makes one loose dignity and respect if one engages in sex he/she will fear to associate with people freely because of guilt conscience.

Fornication **leads to loss of virginity**. Virginity is valued and a man who marries a woman who isn't a virgin doesn't fully trust her thinking that she can go out anytime.

Fornication leads to **enmity and hatred** if one of the partner refuses to marry the other because of disappointment.

Fornication leads **to prostitution**. Girls at times may be dropped after fornication and end up floating. In the long run, it results into prostitution.

Fornication Creates a **bad relationship between parents and children** when they discover that they are fornicating yet they spent much money on them.

Fornication leads to **production of bastards** who end up being raised under hostile environment after being dumped at their grandparents' village.

Fornication is a sin before a God. Fornicators will never inherit the kingdom of heaven. Sex is meant to be played in marriage.

The **girls may lose a chance of getting married in future** because they are considered as being cheap by the males.

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Solutions of Fornication.

One must have **self control** by allowing the Spirit of God to rule over and dominate him/her.

Christians should **pray to God** to help them overcome temptations because whatever you ask from Him, He gives it to us.

The youth shd go in for marriage If they cant control the sexual desire, they should go ahead and marry rather than dying of passion.

Bride wealth should be reduced by parents so that young men who don't have money can get married and avoid fornication.

The youth should **join groups with good ideas** because bad company ruins good character.

The youth should **occupy themselves** all the time because an idle mind is the devil's workshop. They should do constructive work during their free time to avoid sexual temptations.

. Girls and boys should wait to Have sex until officially married to their spouses.

The youth should **respect their bodies** because they are temples of the Holy Spirit and should be holy and not defiled.

The church should **provide guidance and counselling** to children in their adolescent stage in order to refrain from sex before marriage.

The youth should receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour who will help them to become free from sin and immorality.(Romans 6:66-8).

The church should give counselling and guidance to give solutions to their problems instead of selling their bodies for money.

Parents and teachers should give proper sex education so that they are able to know the DOS and DON'TS in society.

CHURCH HISTORY(THE ROLE PLAYED BY WOMEN IN CHURCH HISTORY)

The church encourages women to be equal to men in the following ways:

The Roman Catholic Church encouraged nuns to play a very leading role in society e.g. treating the sick, teaching people how to read and write, beautifying the church etc.

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Some important women **advocated for the rights of the poor and the sick** e.g. mother Theresa of Calcutta in india who established schools and houses for the poor and orphans

Women took up vocations which gave them access to the public to render services e.g. nuns in roman catholic church.

They went out to preach the word of God alongside men as missionaries. Wives of Christian leaders played a very leading role of taking care of their husbands to enable them to do the work of God.

Mother Kevin of Little Sisters of St. Francis established a religious organization which set up many social facilities to help the needy and others e.g. nsambya hospital and babies home etc.

Missionaries gave equal opportunities to men and women to receive education e.g. the girls schools were set up to promote girl child education.

Missionaries in Africa preached against oppression of women in marriage. They recommended a free and fair marriage where each partner's rights are respected.

The missionaries encouraged re marriage and discouraged African practices like inheritance of widows which used to encourage exploitation of women.

Missionaries **encouraged monogamy and preached against polygamy** which undermined the position of women in Africa.

The wives of protestant missionaries provided gospel of free women and in some churches they were preachers and also participated in others like teaching and helping the disadvantaged.

Among the Anglicans and seventh day Adventists church, women were ordained as deacons to minister to the congregations

The apostles preached the gospel to both men and women without discrimination and both men and women were converted to Christianity and began to preach the gospel.

Many female Christians composed hymns which were being sung in churches. Many women prayed for people and also carried out prayer in the society e.g. the mother of John offered her house as a place of prayer in the early church.

Hanna Kagye a widow of the chief of Tooro taught women and children Christianity by entering into their homes.

She also trained girls at mission schools to be productive by teaching them traditional crafts so that they were not lost.

SEX DIFFERENCES AND THE PERSON IN THE OLD TESTAMENT (BIBLE TEACHING ABOUT SEX IN THE O.T)

The book of Genesis implies that both man and woman were created in the image of God and implies that they are equal (Gen 1-:27).

In Genesis man and woman need each other i.e they complement each other. Woman was created as a companion to man(gen 21:24).

The ten commandments protect both man and woman meaning that they all have equal rights e.g. don't commit murder applies to both(Exodus 20)

God gave both man and woman control over all the resources available. On the earth.and other creatures

One of the ten commandments reflects equality. It advocates for children to respect/ honour their fathers and mothers so that they may live longer on earth.

Women were appreciated and loved in the role played in producing Children e.g Sarah produced iscaac for Abraham when he was 100 years.

Both men and women lost God's favour after sinning in the garden of eden. They were all given punishments e.g. a man was to sweat in order to get food and a woman was to yearn for her husband and produce out of pain. (Genesis 3:16-17).

Both men and women God rewards them for those who have trust and pray to him for help e.g. in Samuel , God responded to Hannah's requests who was barren by giving her a son called Samuel after serious prayersat Shiloh (I Samuel 2).

Both men and women were rescued from slavery regardless of sex. God heard the cries of the Israelites and Moses rescued them (Exodus 3).

The Old Testament has examples of records of women who made contributions to their society e.g. Deborah was a judge and esther was a prophet and Miriam composed a song (Exodus 15:19-21).

CASES OF INEQUILITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN IN OLD TESTAMENT

During creation, a man was created first meaning that he is superior to a woman who was got from his rib (Gen 21-23).

Women were included in the list on the man's property together with his houses, oxen, servants, donkeys (exodus 20:17).

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A woman become inferior to a man after eating of the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:16). I will increase your desire for your husband and he will rule over you.

In the Old Testament polygamy was carried out by men, they married many women(1 kings 11:3) King Solomon married 700 wives.

In the Israelites community women were considered unclean and not allowed in places of worship especially after giving birth and after MP's.

Men were allowed to issue divorce certificate to their wives if they were tired of them (deut 24:1-3).

Women were blamed for being agents of the devil and causing harm to the society e.g. in Genesis 2:3, during the fall of man, the woman caused the man to sin by eating the forbidden fruit.

Barrenness was blamed on the Women and barren Women were despised. Rachel, Jacobs wife was barren and was jealous of her sister Leah (gen 30.1-8)

Women were considered inferior to men and were prohibited from playing an official role during the time of worship. Exodus 19.15-18.

In the O.T men always had an upper hand in the social and political affairs of the community. they took up most of the posts in leadership like kingship and being judges. Exodus 29.1-9

The second creation story shows that man was created first and woman was created from the mans ribs hence inferior.

SEX DIFFERENCES AND A PERSON IN THE NT (BIBLE TEACHINGS ABOUT SEX DIFFERENCES)

It teaches that Jesus is the saviour for both man and woman because he died for mans sins (john 3.16).

It teaches that for one to enter the kingdom of God, he or she must accept Jesus christ therefore going to heaven is not by sex but accepting Jesus Christ as a personal saviour.

It teaches that on the judgment day, both men and Women will be affected. the righteous will see God and the sinners will go for destruction.

It teaches that Jesus socialised with both men and women e.g in the book of Mathew, he had friends Mary and Martha and he told them to seek the kingdom of God.

It teaches that Jesus had a concern for everyone, he cared for everyone in terms of health eg Jesus healed a woman who had a flow of blood for 12 years when he touched his cloak.

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It teaches that Jesus instituted the second greatest commandment of love the Lord your God with all your strength, mind heart and soul and love your neighbor the way you love yourself.

It teaches that women receive the promises of salvation on behalf of mankind e.g. Mary received the promise of salvation.

It teaches that man and woman should love each other. St. Paul advises men to love their wives and women to respect their husbands which shows that there is equality in marriage relationships.

It teaches that married people are a master of each other's bodies meaning that there is equality e.g. St. Paul in his first letter to Corinth 7 says that a woman's body belongs to the man's body and a man's body belongs to the woman's body.

Peter in his letter calls both men and women to agree to suffering. Both men and women entitled to salvation. (1 Peter 1:1-2).

Paul in his letter to the Galatians indicated that all people are equal to the Lord. In Christ there is no difference between men and women

It teaches that Jesus forgave both men and women e.g. he gave Zacchaeus the tax collector and the adulterous woman and told her not to sin anymore.

COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE

Courtship means the period of time people intending to live together as husband and wife take while studying one another.

IMPORTANCE OF COURTSHIP.

Courtship gives chance to man and woman to appreciate each other's physical appearance i.e beauty, this gives them joy.

Courtship helps to understand each other's academic levels and know the intellectual support they should get from each other for a better living.

Courtship tests one's patience and endurance because if one is able to wait for that specified period of time, then she/ he is ready to marry.

Courtship helps the couple to establish each other's health status through medical tests and observance, this helps one to accept each other's health status without affecting the marriage.

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They also come to understand each other's status so that by the time they come together, they prepare for the financial constraints.

Courtship is a time when they express love for one another like visiting , exchanging gifts and sharing inner feelings to one another. This helps to cement their relationship.

Courtship helps the partners to know each other's family background and appreciate each other leading to making a commitment from an informed point of view hence building a stable relationship.

Courtship helps the couple to know their religious beliefs and get to find and agree on how to handle the identified differences in in their relationship.

Courtship helps to introduce relatives to each partner. This rules out the possibility of committing incest and draws closer commitment to one another.

Courtship is the time when the two share experiences in life like problems and how they intend to live together with them.

Courtship helps the two to understand, identify and respect each other's likes and dislikes (individual hobbies} this helps in determining as to whether the partners will in future share their leisure time together.

Courtship enables parents of the concerned to advise or guide and give blessing to the children intending to marry, this leads to marriage stability.

Courtship helps the two people to recognize their cultural differences that they have e.g. language, food eaten, way of dressing etc. this helps them to adjust accordingly.

Problems Associated With Courtship

There is sexual temptation between the two because they are always together in private places this leads to fornication which is a sin before God.

There is lack of proper guidance and counselling from adults because many youth keep their relationships a secret from their relatives which may lead to regret.

Many people work far away from their parents and fail to consult them during this period which leads to conflicts between parents and children.

It is expensive on the side of the man because he spends a lot of money to impress the girl.

There is limited time for courtship. This leads to making bad choices in terms of discipline which later results into divorce.

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Most young people consider physical beauty more than the inner beauty (character). They fail to utilize courtship to lay a foundation for marriage.

There is a danger of HIV/AIDS, some people take up courtship before knowing their HIV status and end up into fornication paving way for AIDS and death.

There is a wide spread indiscipline and immorality among young people during courtship evidenced by sexual immorality, watching porn, smoking, drinking alcohol which are a sign of moral decadence.

It leads to incestuous marriages because sometimes these people don't study one another hence violating cultural norms and biblical teachings.

There is a possibility of getting unwanted pregnancies which leads to abortion which is a sin before God and also leads to death.

There is a lot of pretense in courtship. Most young people are not straight forward, hide their true character only to discover it after marriage which leads to disappointments and quarrels.

During the period of courtship, one may end up abandoning the one he/she had which leads to psychological torture.

During courtship, one of the partners may be unfaithful and end up cheating the other, which causes conflicts and at times separation.

MARRIAGE

Refers to a legal union of man and woman as husband and wife to establish a permanent relationship of mutual love, companionship, comfort, production and upbringing of children.

Qualities Of A Good Marriage Partner.

1. He/she must have sound health. One who is free from diseases, pressure, ulcers because they are expensive to treat.
2. He/she should be one who is morally upright i.e one of good character such as kindness, patience, truthfulness etc.
3. A good partner is one who is sexually attractive and able to satisfy your sexual desire in order to avoid sexual temptation of adultery.
4. There should be true love for one another. The two must be friends who cannot do without one another and should tolerate each other's weakness and build on strong points.
5. He or she Should marry a partner whose religion is in line /tolerable with hers or in order to avoid future religious conflicts.
6. The intending partners should chose a person who will entice them and feel comfortable with to show your friends.beautiful

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6. The intending partners should be having almost the same level of education in order to avoid difficulties in understanding one another.
7. Those intending to marry should have common interests in order to help then develop fellowship in marriage and also agree.
8. The age gap between the two should be minimal with the boy being older than the girl since girls mature faster than the boys.
9. The intending partners should be reasonably close in cultural beliefs. This will help them understand each other more clearly.
10. He or she shd be financially sound: marry someone who is employed and able to look after the family .
11. The family background of a person is profound. You should know whether they are wizards, criminals like robbers -because charity begins from home.

Types Of Marriage

1. Customary Marriage.

This is a type of marriage which takes place within the established customs of a given family.

It is arranged by both families of the couple and involves the payment of bride wealth.

Characteristics/ Attributes/ Features Of Customary Marriage.

It involves payment of bride wealth and in some cases exchange of gifts is made to the family of the girl.

In this marriage, the man is superior to the woman as the head of the family. The parents and the rest of the family members can choose the marriage partner or approve on the choice made by the children.

It is polygamous in nature i.e a man is free to marry more than one wife as long as he'll pay the bride wealth to them and look after them.

Virginity of the girl is valued and respected. A girl who is a virgin earns respect to her family and additional gifts are added to her family.

Marriage between people of different clans because people of the same clan are considered brothers and sisters.

Widows are inherited. This is based on the ground that a woman is married to all family members.

The community members involved through giving sex education to their children and contributing towards the payment of bride wealth.

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The main purpose of marriage is production of children and childless marriage is considered to be cursed by the spirits.

Initiation rites are necessary before marriage. The intending parties are initiated from childhood to adult hood i.e among the Sabiny of eastern Uganda female genital mutilation was to be carried out to prevent adultery of women.

Divorce is rare and only accepted so under serious conditions such as bad character like night dancing of a woman.

It is a divine institution, its success depends strongly on ancestral spirits who bless the marriage of the Children.

Advantages

The marriage is relatively cheap since it's a community affair where everybody contributed to the payment of bride wealth.

Marriage is more stable after payment of bride wealth and also there is continuous guidance to the couple.

Its flexible since there is room for polygamy and divorce in extreme cases of over beating one of the partners.

It gives chance to many women to get married since polygamy is acceptable.

There is a proper choice of a marriage partner since the parents are also allowed to choose or approve the choice made by their children.

It encourages and promotes sexual morality in marriage since virginity is valued and highly respected.

There is enough sexual education given to the partners before and after marriage which enables partners to know their roles as husband and wife hence family stability.

There is parental blessings. Parents usually bless their children to have stable marriages.

Sexuality is legalized. Sex outside marriage is a sin and is punishable but sex in marriage is legalized and partners enjoy it freely.

It is convenient .i.e there are no strings attached , one doesn't need to belong to a certain religion or be converted in order to practice it.

It helps to eliminate incest . this is because parents who are more knowledgeable about the relatives help in the choice of marriage partner.

It promotes culture i.e when the couples get to understand their culture . cultural values such as girls kneeling while greeting are promoted.

Disadvantages

It tends to promote inequality in marriage since a man is considered to be superior and the women inferior.

It may be expensive especially when they demand a lot of bride wealth which at times may make the groom's family poorer.

There is a possibility of one making a wrong choice since the parents sometimes choose partners for their children.

There is a possibility of marriage breakup since it gives room for divorce in case of unfaithfulness, witchcraft and domestic violence.

There is a lot of parental interference since parents are usually involved in the generation of bride wealth which at times destroys the peace of the marriage.

There is a lot of misunderstanding in the family due to its being polygamous in nature.

Men tend to treat their wives as property since they paid bride wealth and this promotes inferiority complex.

It lacks God's blessings. Customary marriage misses out of God's blessings because at times the religious leaders who represent God on earth are absent.

There is lack of love in the initial stages. This is because choice of marriage partners is done by the parents.

It leads to early marriages since parents arrange the marriage and in case they have no money, some parents tend to marry off young girls to get money.

It leads to forced marriages as some people may force their daughters to go with men who are highly established.

2. CHURCH MARRIAGE (RELIGIOUS)

This is a contract made between two people to establish a permanent relationship for mutual love, respect, production and upbringing of children. It is officiated by a religious leader.

Characteristics of church marriage

The church marriage is presided over by religious leaders.

The church marriage has got to be witnessed by a congregation and these become the witnesses of the marriage.

The church marriage is meant to be monogamous i.e one man one woman.

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There is exchange of wedding rings by the partners which acts as a physical symbol to reflect their commitment to each other.

A church marriage is always issued with a marriage certificate signed by the partners, church leaders and other witnesses.

There is of matrimonial vows i.e they promise to remain faithful to each other regardless of the circumstances.

The church marriage is a public affair i.e announcements are made before the wedding date.

It emphasizes individual choice of a marriage partner but this should be accompanied with parental consent.

It is blessed by God through the religious leaders as they represent God authority.

It takes place after the fulfillment of the cultural requirements such as the payment of bride wealth.

Advantages of church marriage.

It is a divine one and it is holy. The couple receives God's blessings through God's representatives i.e the priest.

Married people. It enables Christians to freely share the sacraments without any limitations e.g. Holy communion, special prayers, baptism etc.

It reduces on the problems with polygamous marriages like witchcraft since it is meant to be a monogamous type.

There are many gifts given to the couple by friends and relatives, this helps to boost the newly married couple to have a good beginning in their new home.

The couple is honoured and respected because the public knows that they are truly married people and they can easily access jobs and promotions at work places. It is long lasting. This is because problems in marriage are solved by the couple and other religious leaders.

Children born in this marriage are brought up in a Christian environment and thus they have fear for God.

There is love and understanding in marriage because there is free choice of a partner and less interference from parents and relatives.

There is higher chances of sexual satisfaction since the couple give their bodies to each other and each has liberty to the other's body.

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It leads to production of legitimate children and the wife is secure incase the husband passes on, relatives know that she is on official wife and leave her the property.

There is high degree of faithfulness in marriage. This comes about because of genuine love among some partners.

Disadvantages.

It tends to be very expensive for the ordinary people to avoid as it requires many items such as cake, decoration, bridal cars etc.

It is risky incase one is got in adultery in these days of AIDS yet they vowed to stay together in times of joy and sorrow until death set them apart.

It leads to poverty. In order to make it very attractive before friends and relatives, one borrows a lot of money and some sell off their property.

It is rigid especially in case one of the partners is not a Christian and he/she has to be converted in order to be married in church.

It is against cultures and norms of some societies. It rejects polygamy yet polygamy solves a number of problems such as barrenness.

Some parents refuse their children to be married in church until the bride wealth has been fully paid. This makes church marriage to delay.

It is time consuming since it involves many activities for the occasion to be colourful.

Sometimes love is lacking. Some people enter church marriage for the sake of honouring parents and pleasing friends. This leads to divorce.

It undermines other forms of marriage. Church leaders consider them as evil and they consider those married customary as fornicators.

It makes the couple to make unnecessary commitments before the partners are aware of their future stability e.g. for good for worse, in sickness and good health.

There is exploitation of a wife by the husband. Since she is wedded in church, the husband takes her as his property and overworks her.

CIVIL MARRIAGE

This kind of marriage is officiated by the government authorities to become a legalized one. thereafter they become husband and wife and then the marriage certificate is issued.

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Characteristics

It takes place before government officials. It is there that the partners make their vows to each other before the RDC or District Commissioner who registers them.

The two partners have got to reach an agreement without any due influence for them to marry.

Both partners are supposed to be above the minor age of 17 years in other words they are supposed to be in the age of consent so as not to question that decision to take up marriage.

It is meant to establish a legalized monogamous marriage i.e where there is a husband and one wife.

The partners have to carry a letter of permission from their parents and civic leaders like the LC1 chairperson. This helps and rule out the possibility of marrying off young boys and girls without the approval of the parents and guardians.

The partners should be of a sound mind and sober i.e they should be mentally normal not under the influence of drugs.

Government often take on effort to search if the partners had been legally married before which would make the civil marriage disputable.

The public is notified for a period of more than three (3) weeks. This is done through public notice board at the district.

Advantages.

It is time saving. There are no wedding meetings therefore I can do other things instead of concentrating on wedding meetings.

It is cheap in nature. Since they are few expense and few witnesses. In Uganda, couples that want undergo civil marriage pay 200,000/= (two hundred thousand shillings only) as registration fee.

It reduces on unnecessary parental intervention because parents are less involved in this kind of marriage.

It leads to family stability, the wife feels accepted , recognized and permanent in a home.

It is flexible, its less discriminate in nature because it doesn't put into consideration things like religion and culture.

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It is an official and recognized form of marriage. It therefore protects peoples interests incase of any problem since it is recognized by government through its office.

It is flexible , to the extent that it can allow divorce, if partners apply for it with convincing reasons.

Disadvantages.

It lacks God's blessings. Civil marriage misses out God's blessings because religious leaders are absent in this kind of marriage to represent God.

It is mainly for people who enter it out of problems e.g. when a man impregnates a school girl and marriage take place circumstantially to avoid imprisonment.

There is fewer ties for courtship. The couple is not given enough time to study one another which destabilizes marriage.

It misses out parental blessings. Most times parents are not involved in this kind of marriage so the couple misses parental blessings yet parents represent God on earth.

It distorts African culture. This is because it allows mixed marriage cultures.

It is more private than public. Marriage is a public affair but with civil marriage it involves few witnesses and it is conducted in an office.

It sets a bad example. This is because other Christians may opt to go in for civil marriage and shun church marriage hence miss God's blessings.

It involves mixing of cultures and religions. This sometimes leads to conflicts in adjusting to people's cultures.

It can be terminated and incase children are born they may lack parental love and care.

Reasons Why Some People Reject / Postpone Church Marriage

NB use the word because as you write yr points. why goes with because

Failure to make the right choice. Marriage is a permanent relationship if one has failed to make a proper choice he postpones it.

It is monogamous and binding. Some people don't want to be committed to a person until they are sure of the true character of man and woman.

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Failure to pay bride wealth. If the boy hasn't paid bride wealth then marriage is postponed since some parents want it before church marriage.

Religious differences. Some people postpone church marriage because of religious differences between the partners e.g. catholic priest will not wed a Muslim boy with a catholic girl. She has to first convert to Christianity.

Some wedded women serve as bad example i.e they tend to be big-headed and because church marriage is binding , men postpone it to save themselves from headache.

It is expensive. It requires millions of shillings in order to make it appear colourful before friends and relatives.

Some people regard customary marriage as the true and essential marriage and they look at it as an extra.

Some people fear to commit themselves to an impotent man and barren women since children are important in marriage.

Existence of trial marriage which is not punishable, leads to production of children and gives all pleasures of marriage including sex so no need of church marriage.

Some people fear to make marriage vows which they are not sure of honouring even when they fail to have children thus postpone church marriage.

Some people fear to marry under church marriage because they look at it as a woman's culture which doesn't respect any African way of life.

What Should Church Do To Encourage Church Marriage.

The church should encourage the couple to make an affordable function. It should be within the means of the couple.

The church should continuously guide married people to behave well by conducting marriage seminars in order to serve as a good example to the unmarried people.

The church should carry out and support mass weddings. This will enable the poor Christians to marry in church e.g. Pastor Robert Kayanja of miracle center cathedral carried out mass wedding of 200 couples on 6th February 2017 where they received Holy Matrimony.

The church should set up projects so as to employ people to raise money to fund the wedding function e.g. Pastor Gary Skinner of Watoto church constructed schools for poor and orphaned children in wakiso district and employs teachers who work in them.

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The church should motivate Christians to undertake church marriage by offering sacraments and the church should also assist the couple maternally.

The church should appeal to parents to demand for less bride wealth for daughters. This will enable the poor men to marry them instead of fearing to go in for them.

The church should encourage intending couples to carry out enough courtship in order to make the right choices and go in for church marriage.

The church should sensitize the Christians about the importance of church marriage such as faithfulness, marriage, respect and blessings from God and parents.

The church should teach Christians to accept the teachings of the church about marriage such as monogamy so that they accept to live with one man and one wife.

The church should preach to Christians that sex outside marriage is a sin and therefore one should get married in order to avoid God's punishment (1 corinthians 6:18-20).

They should teach Christians that its right to get God's blessings therefore they should go for church marriage which is blessed by God through reverends and priests.

The purpose of marriage.

Marriage is purposely for producing children to fulfill God's commandment i.e be fruitful , multiply and subdue the earth.

Marriage enables parents to properly bring up their children who are disciplined and God fearing.

Marriage also fulfills God's plan of bringing man and woman together as at the time of creation, God said it is not good for man to live alone, I will make him a helper.

Marriage is for enjoying sex as a gift given to them by God.

Marriage brings about companionship, support, comfort of a man and a woman let us create man a suitable companion.

Marriage is the only way that two people in question can express love to one another. They express their emotions and feelings.

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Marriage makes human beings complete ie man leaves his father and mother to join his beloved wife and the two become one.

marriage makes man and his wife independent from their parents making them to live on their own.

marriage is aimed to bringing unity in families and in between the two families of the man and woman joined in holy matrimony.

Marriage is a sense of belonging to the partners and their children. This can be evidenced in tittles and after marriage like Mr. and Mrs. Mau

Marriage is a solution against misuse of sex of the unmarried e.g. fornication. One wont yarn for sex if one is married to someone because they always enjoy it.

Marriage is for the purpose of expanding the clan and enriching it through children. Boys are for defence and girls for bride price.

Requirements Of a Good Marriage

A good Marriage should have love and faithfulness between the two people to marry if their marriage is to succeed.

A good marriage must have a sense of responsibility among the. couple that brings about a lot of care hence a stable marriage.

A good marriage It is characterized by submissiveness and understanding of both partners and should always remember to pray for their future together so that they are able to settle out of their problems.

A good marriage must be guided by the spirit of God i.e partners must be God fearing and always remember to pray for their future together.

A good Marriage must be monogamous because it has less conflicts. A

good marriage must have blessings of parents so as to last longer. A good

Marriage must be between people of different sex and clans. God created Adam and eve to eradicate incest.

A good Marriage must be forgiveness in a good marriage in order to live in peace with one another

A good Marriage must have effective and regular sex play in a good marriage. This helps to avoid sex misuse and satisfy sexual desires.

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A good. Marriage should be respect for each other in a marriage in order for it to last longer since there is harmony.

A good marriage should be of people from a morally upright background. His helps to raise up disciplined children.

COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY.

Methods Of Choosing A Marriage Partner in ATS

In ATS ; parents of the would be partners especially mothers agreed that incase they produced children of different sexes they would get married it was called contract method .

In Ats parents could book partners for their children from specific families, where pregnant mothers would promise to each other that if they produced different sexes then they wouldmarry each other.

In. ATS During initiation rites like circumcision, boys and parents took chance to choose partners who showed hardwork, discipline etc.

In, ATSthere was Free choices where the boy identified the girl, talked to her and consulted the elders for advise.

Parents played a role of identifying and choosing partners for their children by looking at qualities they regarded as importantfrom specific families. .

Some societies acquired partners through sending gifts to the girl's family and if they were accepted it was allowed for the marriage to take place e.g. in Nigeria they used to send cola nuts to the girls family and they were broken then the girl would have accepted.

In ATS it was through capturing girls who had gone to fetch water or firewood by the boys e.g. among the Samya, boys pulled girls forcefully into their homes for marriage.

Excitement where the girl's parents got impressed by the dancing skills, talents and pledged their daughter for marriage e.g. among the Acholi theydanced "lakalaka" and a partner was chosen upon by the parents of the boys after seeing how skilled they were.

In. ATS they Used magic and charms. The boys would witch the girl and would apply some magic on the girl in order to seduce herinto marrying him.

In ATS intermediaries like relatives who looked for a girl on behalf of the boy and then brought the girl to the boys family for approval and arranged for payment of bride price.

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In. ATS during Beer parties. Parents could share words concerning the marriage of their children during the beer party later arrange for their marriage

.In ATS a man would wrestle the girl down to show strength and after which takes her for a wife e.g. among the karamojongs the boys were expected wrestle the girls down before taking them home to show that they were strong **enough**.

Qualities Of A Good Partner In African Traditional Society.

The girl had to be in position to produce for the man children were important in marriage since they helped in the expansion of the clan

One was supposed to **be sexually moral** to be able to celebrate marriage i.e the man was to be free from impotence.

One had to be in good health condition i.e free from diseases like asthma to control the spread of diseases to the children.

A boy was to be **brave enough** in order to give effective protection to the family and property.

Virginity was a valuable quality expected among the girls and it was tested on the day of marriage and rewarded.

One was expected to have gone through initiation rites. They were rites of passage from childhood to adulthood e.g. in mbale, all boys had to undergo circumcision as a sign of adulthood.

Girls were required to be hardworking. Hardwork was a sign of blessing and laziness was a sign of a curse.

Morally upright.(discipline). If a girl was morally upright even her future children would learn from her and behave well in society.

Partners had to be of the same tribe so as to reduce on the problems of taking long to adjust due to differences in language, customs , taboos.

Ability to pay bride wealth by the boy to the girl's family. failure to do so - showed that the boy was unable to look after the wife.

Parents had to do research and let their children marry from families which were free from witchcraft for the family to be upright.

Challenges Of Choosing A Marriage Partner

The rich men who had a lot of cattle denied the young boys who were poor a chance to marry the girls of their choice because they took over the young girls.

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There was a problem of **generation gap** where the young girl was forced to get married to the old ones because of wealth.

Parents were more influenced in their children's families especially girls knew that they were in such homes because of parents of the husbands.

There was a problem of **early marriage** where girls were forced to get married in order to get wealth for their parents.

Incase of death of the partners. The girl was forced to get married to another family member so that she looked after the children of the deceased.

Qualities to be considered before marriage were in favour of the parents not the prospective partners. This denied them of their individual choices.

There was a problem of **high bride wealth** because girls were looked at as commodities for parents to extract wealth.

In some societies, virginity of a girl was broken by the father in law e.g. among the banyoro, the father in law broke virginity because they believed virginity was painful to the boys.

Bride Wealth

These are gifts which are taken to the family of the girls or bride by the family of the bridegroom before marriage as a form of appreciation.

Importance Of Bride Wealth In African Traditional Society

Bride wealthy was a **sign of love to the girls** since it showed that the man's family was interested in the bride they intended to marry.

Bride wealth showed a **sign of appreciation or gratitude to the parents** of the girl for the work well done i.e upbringing of a child who was disciplined.

Bride wealth was a **form of compensation to the family of the girl** for the loss made for she had been offering services in the home.

Bride wealth helped to **cement and seal a marriage**. This is because once it had been opened then the marriage was bound and sealed.

Bride wealth enabled the brothers of the girls to get married, they would use the animals brought by the in-laws to also marry wives.

Bride wealth showed seriousness of the husband and this capability as a responsible man who can take care of a wife.

Bride wealth boosted the economic status of the girl's family, since animals and food stuffs were taken/ offered to them.

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Bride wealth acted **as a certificate of marriage and a proof** that one was now married.

Bride wealth **accorded the boy respect and status** and the in-laws would give him respect and recognition as a capable husband.

Bride wealth showed that the man respected the wife to be so the more the bride wealth paid, the more the value of the wife.

Bride wealth **strengthen unity between the two families**, in that the two entered into a serious relationship and became in-laws.

Bride wealth encouraged the proper upbringing of the girl child. This is because girls who were morally upright would fetch more bride wealth.

Dangers Of Bride Wealth Today.

Bride,wealth has made Some **husbands to mistreating their** wives under the pretense that they paid too much Bride wealth so they overwork them.

Bride. wealth has made Some men turn to be polygamous because they have the ability to pay for more than one wife, yet God advocates for monogamy.

It has made **some parents to be greedy and selfish**, they look at the girl child in terms of material belongings not as human beings created in God's image.

It has **made some parents to force their children into** marriage , this is because desire for material wealth.

It sometimes **leaves the boy in a state of poverty** since he has paid bride wealth which is at times expensive.

It at times causes misunderstandings between the couple in that the wife might become insurbordinate to the husband because he paid less bride wealth.

It causes conflicts between the man's family and girl's family especially when too much is being demanded. It becomes a form of exploitation to the boy's family.

It has led to sexual immorality in that those who can't afford to raise the bride wealth to marry, resort to sexual abuse for sexual satisfaction.

It makes the man at times to use dubious ways of getting it like committing theft which leads to imprisonment.

It is expensive and therefore makes the young couple which cant afford it to elope which is a disguise to the to the parents.

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It denies one a chance to marry a person of his/her choice and resort to a cheaper one. this interferes with God's will of companionship.

Divorce.

This refers to the legal separation of wife and husband. It is permanent and the to partners can never come together again in life.

Separation is a temporary marriage disorder and the two partners are free to reconcile and stay together again.

Causes Of Divorce Today Modern Society.

Divorce is caused by Couples who cheat on each other when discovered usually divorce e.g. tiger woods the golfer was divorced by his wife after being found to have committed adultery.

Anti- social acts like witchcrafts, sorcery greed which brings about disharmony in society hence divorce.

Lack of sexual satisfaction, One is forced to get another partner who can satisfy her/him sexually causing divorce.

Long periods of separation by the couple which leads to sexual starvation hence temptations to commit adultery which leads to divorce e.g. former president of south Africa nelson Mandela was in prison for 27years which tempted Winnie Mandela to go sexually with their family lawyer. This ended up into a divorce.

Barrenness. This makes a man to divorce a wife in order to get one who can bear children.

Failure to pay bride wealth which makes the parents of the girl to initiate divorce in order to avoid making a loss.

Alcoholism which makes a man irresponsible and unable to provide the basic needs of life.

Women emancipation which makes women(some) to disrespect their their husbands and also makes them feel independent of man e.g. former vice president of Uganda speciozawandira Kazibwe divorced her husband engineer Charles Kazibwe that he slapped her twice.

Religious differences which makes the couple fail to harmonize their faith differences e.g. Daniella wife of joseph chameleon was threatening to divorce when he wanted to convert to islam from being catholic.

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Forced marriages by parents, this makes children fail to connect in marriage due to lack of love among themselves.

Poverty which makes the man unable to provide the basic needs of life.

Interference from in-laws. Some in-laws over interfere in their children's marriage which makes the life of one of the partners difficult.

Causes of divorce in African traditional society.

In. ATS Barrenness of the woman was seen as a hindrance to bearing children who were to ensure the continuity of lineag

In ATS If a woman was found not to be a virgin she would immediately be divorced since it was highly valued.

Women with misfortune / bad omen like killing children at birth they would be divorced for fear of continuity of bad omen.

In ATS Incase of marriage of a blood relative, divorce would take place because it was not allowed to marry a relative.

In ATS . One of the qualities of a good marriage partner is being hardworking soo laziness led to divorce.

In ATS Cruelly and violence on part of the man would lead to fights hence bodily injuries hence divorce

In ATS Continued cases of adultery on part of the woman. Women were meant to be faithful to their husbands.

In case of incurable diseases and hereditary diseases by the wife, in fear of further spread to children, the woman was divorced.

In case a boy got married without undertaking initiation rites. This would imply that the person is still a child e.g. among the bagisu, if one was discovered uncircumcised then he would be divorced.

Anti-social behavior like theft, selfishness and witchcraft, traditional society was based on solidarity and any behavior against this was punished.

Incasing intermarriages, marriage was encouraged between people of the same tribe to reduce on misunderstandings between the couple.

Reasons Why Marriages Were More Stable In African Traditional Society Than Today/ Why Divorce Was Rare In African Traditional Society Than In Modern Times.

Parental involvement as opposed to personal choice. Parental involvement assisted in solving marital problems of counseling partners.

Time was taken to study a partner. Parents took time whereas today the young people are taken up by infatuation.

In African traditional society women were submissive to their husbands and loyal whereas today there is women emancipation which makes them to disrespect men.

Marriage was for production of children which stabilized marriage while today couples choose to be childless which leads to easy divorce.

Divorce was regarded as a shame in African traditional society whereas today because of permissiveness people feel free to act as the way they want.

The problem of barrenness was solved by polygamy whereas today because of monogamy in case of barrenness a couple can easily divorce.

Bridewealth sealed marriage in African traditional society whereas today some of the couples just elope and in case of disagreement divorce arises.

In the past, it was hard to get a wife involved a long process whereas today women can easily be hand picked in dance halls, towns and church.

In African traditional society women owned almost nothing in the past they depended on men whereas today women own assets and can live independently.

Christian advice to those considering divorce.

They should pray to God to enable them to overcome their marital problems e.g. Hannah prayed for a child and God blessed her with a son Samuel.

The couple should have self control over their emotions, lifestyles like taking of alcohol which causes conflicts in homes.

The couple should love each other so as to satisfy one another sexually and avoid temptations.

The couples should be faithful to one another by sticking to the vows which they made. This will help to do away with adultery.

The couple should work hard to provide the basic needs of life to their family, this will help to do away with poverty.

Couples should forgive one another whenever they go wrong. this will help reduce on domestic violence e.g. prophet Hosea forgave his prostituting Gomer.

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Wives should submit and have respect for their husbands. This will create peace in a home hence stable marriages.

The couple should satisfy themselves sexually. This will help to reduce on sexual temptations of adultery.

They should stick to the principal of permanency in marriage, this will create harmony in a home and help them endure all problems in a home.

COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE IN CHURCH HISTORY

Early Church Of Apostolic Ages

Christians regarded marriage as earthly and useless therefore they devoted most of their time to God because Jesus had told them he is coming back soon.

Those who were to marry, marriage was supposed to be monogamous because God created one man and one woman.

They thought that marrying / marriage was supposed to be built on the principal of love and care because the wife and husband were created for companionship..

They also preached that in a family the husband was the head of the family therefore he was supposed to be respected by the wife and children.

Early Christians put emphasis on forgiveness and reconciliation for the married to make their marriage survive.

Marriage was supposed to be permanent since divorce promoted adultery and emphasis on what God has put together no man should separate.

They believed that marriage was to be official before the elders of the church so that the partners could get blessings.

Each partner was supposed to satisfy the sexual desires of the other because the body of the husband belongs to the wife and the wife belongs to the husband.

They also encouraged that marriage should be between people of the same faith so that they are able to train their children in a Christian way.

Courtship And Marriage In The Old Testament.

It teaches that every man must leave the father's home and marry a wife e.g. God said that a man shall leave his parents and be joined to his wife and the two shall become one.(genesis 2;24)

It teaches that adultery is a sin before God and it is punishable so people should remain faithful to their partners (Leviticus 18:1-23) (lev 18:20)

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It teaches that marriage is intended for producing children that is why God told Adam and eve to be fruitful, multiply and subdue the earth. (Gen 1:28)

It teaches that a man is to pay dowry or bride wealth in order to get a wife as an appreciation for the parents e.g. Jacob worked for 7 years to get dowry for racheal and 7 years for leah (Gen 29:15-28).

It teaches that married men should be given enough time with their wives in Deuteronomy 24:5 the newly married soldiers would be given time and excused from duty for one year so that they make their wives happy.

It teaches that married partners should be faithful to one another. Hosea married Gomer whom he loved but was unfaithful to him.(Hosea)

It teaches that a man and woman are equal, both were made in God's image

It teaches that married people should show love to each other just like Hosea insisted on loving Gomer. (Hosea 3:2).

It teaches that although marriage is highly valued, it is one human relationship in which people suffer, they experience misery, pain and selfishness. (1 sam 1:9-20).

It teaches that a man and a woman are made to live together, they are to become partners united by mutual respect and love.

It teaches that marriage is intended for companionship that is why God said that it is not good for man to live alone that I will make him a suitable companion (gen 2:18)

It teaches that marriage is meant to be permanent, there should be no divorce e.g. Malachi 2:16 God says " I hate divorce"

It teaches that virginity is highly cherished. A virgin girl brought a lot of respect to her husband and family(parents) deut 22;13-20.

Courtship And Marriage In The New Testament

It teaches as that couples should satisfy each other sexually to avoid temptations in marriage like adultery.(1 corinthians 7:3).

It teaches that marriage should be permanent because it is God's original plan e.g. Jesus told the people that what God has put together no one should separate.

It teaches that people should support each other's marriage ceremonies e.g. Jesus attended a wedding at Cana where he supported the wedding by pertaining a miracle of turning water to wine. (john 2:1-11)

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It teaches that marriage is optional. There is a possibility of people exposing their love for God and others through celibacy (I corinthians 7:1-7, matthew 19:7-12).

It teaches that wives should be submissive to their husbands just as the church is subjected to Christ. (eph 5:21-35)

It teaches that husbands should love and respect their wives just as Jesus (Christ) loves the church. (eph 5:25).

It teaches that marriage should be monogamous e.g. in mark 10:7-8 Jesus said a man shall leave his father and mother and unite with his wife and the two shall become one.

It teaches that the man is the head of the family in the marriage institution. Therefore marriage should be characterized by love and care of the father,

It teaches that marriage was initiated by God and Jesus confirmed it in matthew 19:4-6. He said God created man and woman and the man leaves his father and stays with his wife and they become one.

It teaches that Jesus offered people the power to love unselfishly and in this way he brought healing to the marriage relationship.(eph 5:21).

It teaches that there should be respect in marriage between a wife and a husband e.g. Sarah respected her husband Abraham and called him master.(1 peter 3:5).

It teaches that faithfulness is important in marriage. In matthew 19:9-10, Jesus says any man who divorces his wife for any cause other than unfaithfulness, commits adultery if he marries another women.

Marriage In African Traditional Society/ Understanding /Features Of Marriage In African Society.

Marriage was very important and highly valued as a central aspect, of society. It was much necessary for the existance and continuity of the society.

Marriage was compulsory, everybody was expected to marry as a way of showing belongingness to a particular society.

There was no room for a single life; it was seen as a betrayal of the society e.g. in Buganda, they were referred to as “ endigayamutomela”. Meaning he was knocked by a sheep.

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Polygamy was highly valued because it was one way of showing status and being able to manage many women and also prestige.

Marriage was meant for producing children, and if you had no child you were a nobody e.g. okotpb'tek in his book song of lawino says you may be a giant of man, full of age and grey hair but if unmarried and without children you are nothing.

Marriage was an avenue for sex enjoyment. Sex outside marriage was forbidden and highly punished.

It was the only source of prestige and respect. It was the only way people become recognized as adults and given position of responsibilities like hers and clan leaders.

Bride wealth was a seal of marriage. It made it stronger and permanent e.g. in tororo a boy's family would pay about 5 cows and some goats to the family of the girl.

Parents played a significant role in choosing marriage partners for their children, this helped to avoid incest.

Virginity was highly valued at the time of getting married and virgins were respected and honoured.

Sex education was carried out to prepare the couple for the institution of marriage, this helped to strengthen their marriage.

The unmarried were treated with a lot of disrespect because they regarded them as children e.g. in Buganda, if one died, while unmarried his body was passed in the back door.

Barrenness was blamed on the woman and barren women were despised. Rachel Jacob's wife was unhappy because she was barren and was jealous of her sister Leah (Gen 30:1-8).

Women were considered inferior to men and were prohibited from playing an official role (Exodus 19:15).

In the Old Testament, men always had an upper hand in the social, political affairs of the community. They took up most of the posts of leadership like kingship and judges (Exodus 29:1-9).

SEX DIFFERENCES AND A PERSON IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Biblical Teaching Of Sex Differences In The New Testament.

It teaches that Jesus is the savior for both man and woman because he died for man's sins (John 3:16)

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It teaches that for one to enter the kingdom of God he/she must accept Jesus Christ therefore going to heaven is not by sex but accepting Jesus Christ as a personal savior.

It teaches that the judgement day , both man and woman will be affected e.g. the righteous will see God and sinners will go for destruction.

It teaches that Jesus socialized with both men and woman e.g. in the book of matthew he had friends Mary, martha and Mary

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It teaches that Jesus had a concern for everyone , he cared for everyone in terms of help e.g. Jesus healed a woman who had a flow of blood for 12 years when she touched his cloak.

It teaches that Jesus instituted the second greatest commandment of love the Lord your God will all your strength, mind and soul and love your neighbour as you love yourself, it applies to all people.

It teaches that the resurrection, Jesus appeared to the women and those were the first apostles of the good news. He first appeared to Mary Magdalene (mark 16:19-25)