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Analysis Of The Effects Of Perceived Consequences Of Early Marriage On School Enrolment, Completion, And Academic Performance Of Female Students In Jigawa State

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Abstract: This paper is one (1) out of the series of documents intended for publication, as outcomes of research carried out on "the analysis of the effects of perceived consequences of early marriage on school enrolment completion and academic performance of female students in Jigawa State, Nigeria". This part will focus on the general background of the subjects (girl-child), in terms of educational attainment/level, social and economic status, in their perspective. One thousand and seventy-five (1,075) subjects were sampled, based on pre-research tailored questionnaire responses. The modified questionnaire tagged 'Girl-Child Status Inventory Questionnaire (GCSIQ), was administered, and analyzed using one of the most basic statistical operations (i.e., percentage). However, this paper is limited to the description of subjects' status concerning enrollment and completion of an educational level, although some elements detailing the status of the subject have been introduced briefly. With caution, negativities were paramount as expressed by the subjects, towards early marriage. However, the hope of prosperity was brought forward as a result of further analyses of inferences obtained from subsequent responses of the subjects themselves, family members, community members, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and government officials

Keywords- Marriage, early marriage, Girl-child, enrolment and completion of educational level

I. INTRODUCTION

a) Some Definitions Of Marriage

Anthropologists have proposed several competing definitions of marriage in an attempt to encompass the wide variety of marital practices observed across cultures. (*Gough, 1959*).

Edvard Westermarck defined marriage as "a more or less durable connection between male and female lasting beyond the mere act of propagation till after the birth of the offspring." (*Westermarck, 2003*)

Two (2) essential definitions of marriage will serve this journey, viz:

Wikipedia, in its page last edited on 31 December 2022, at 10:12 (UTC). "Marriage, also called matrimony or wedlock, is a culturally and often legally recognized union between people called spouses (*Marriage, n.d*) It establishes rights and obligations between them, as well as between them and their children, and between them and their in-laws (*Haviland, Prins, McBride, and Walrath 2011*). It is considered a cultural universal, but the definition of marriage varies between cultures and religions, and over time (*Marriage, n.d*). Typically, it is an institution in which interpersonal relationships, usually sexual, are acknowledged or sanctioned. In some cultures, marriage is recommended or considered to be compulsory before pursuing any sexual activity. A marriage ceremony is called a wedding (*Marriage, n.d*).

The United Nations reaffirmed and updated its definition of marriage and states that "marriage is the act, ceremony or process by which the legal relationship of husband and wife is constituted. The legality of the union may be established by civil, religious, or other means as recognized by the law of each country." "Principles and Recommendations for a Vital Statistics System Revision 2, Sales No. 01.XVII.10, 2011

To provide the scope of the term legality, The UN has declared marriage as a Human Right and ushered for Universal direction, through Article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), which states that, 'Men and women of full age, without any limitation due

to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during the marriage, and at its dissolution.
Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses" (*UN General Assembly, 1948).*

b)Types and variants of marriage in Nigeria

A broader classification of marriages in Nigeria as reported by is that "Marriage exists in different forms and, indeed, under the Nigerian legal system, there are two broad kinds of marriage; namely, the statutory marriage and customary-law marriage. Statutory marriage, denoted as Christian or court marriage, is strictly monogamous and governed by the provisions of the Marriage Act 2004 [MA 2004] and Matrimonial Causes Act 2004 [MCA 2004]. The customary law, which is mainly polygamous, is divided into strict customary-law marriage and Islamic-law marriage. While Islamic law is concretized in a written form, the customary is predominantly unwritten" **(***Ijalana & Agbana, 2021*)
The above can be further classified based on four major types of marriage that can be conducted in Nigeria. These include statutory marriage; customary marriage; church marriage; and Islamic marriage **(***Research Clue, 2019*).
Similarly, marriage in Nigeria can be viewed along variants across the ages as reported by (*Olomojobi, 2016*), as listed below;

- **Statutory**

Lord Penzance in the English celebrated case of Hyde v Hyde38 declared statutory marriage as: ―The voluntary union for life of one man and one woman to the exclusion of all others. In other words, a statutory marriage is a monogamous marriage.

- **Customary**

Unlike statutory marriage which is a union of one man and a woman to the exclusion of others, customary marriage is a union of one man and one woman or more than one woman and also between the two families involved.

- **Islamic**

Islamic marriages are marriages conducted under Islamic law.
Islamic marriage like customary marriage is a polygamous one in nature and therefore allows the man to take up to four wives if he so desires. It possesses most of the features of customary law marriage already discussed

- **Double – Deck**

There is no specific definition in the Marriage Act regarding the double-decker marriage. Simply defined, a Double Deck Marriage is the celebration by the same couple of marriage under one system and their subsequent marriage under another system. The most prominent double-deck marriage in Nigeria is the celebration of customary marriage before the celebration of statutory marriage which is marriage under the Act. Though under section 35 of the Marriage Act, a person married under the Act is precluded from subsequent marriage under customary law, there are cases in Nigeria where people ignored this provision.

Nigeria's recent legal framework on marriages got its clue from The African Charter on Human and People's Rights (Ratification and Enforcement) Act, CAP A9, the Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 provides for the protection of family life. This is achieved principally by the sanctity of marriage. Nigerian law envisages 3 types of marriage namely; Traditional/Customary marriage; Church/Islamic marriage and Statutory marriage (*The Different Types Of Marriage In Nigeria, 2022*.)
All marriage laws in Nigeria mandate the union of the opposite sex.

The provision above marriage (*The Different Types Of Marriage In Nigeria, 2022*.), states the different regulations for the various types of marriage, like; The principal legislations regulating statutory marriages in Nigeria are listed below;

- The Marriage Act;
- Matrimonial Causes Act Cap M7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004;
- Matrimonial Causes Rules made under the Matrimonial Causes Act.

c) Matters arising: Age limit to Marriage

Article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 has set a certain criterion by which both parties to the marriage are expected to attain. The words 'men' and 'women' in the resolution consequently attached age limitation to marriage legality. As such, children are exempted and legally banned from marriage.
Age is defined as age at the last birthday, that is, the difference between the date of birth and the date of the occurrence of the event, expressed in completed solar years, as provided in The Principles and Recommendations mentioned above (*https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/DYBNat/NotesNatStatTab04.htm*)
According to United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), child marriage refers to any formal marriage or informal union between a child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child (*Child Marriage, 2022*)
Recalling further that the General Assembly of the United Nations declared, by resolution A/RES/843(IX) adopted on 17 December 1954, during the 514th plenary meeting, that certain customs, ancient laws, and practices relating to marriage and the family were inconsistent with the principles outlined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Without mincing words, a marriage of girls below a certain age is among (*Child Marriage, 2022*; and *http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/instree/o1ccmar.htm, n.d*.)
"Reaffirming that all States, including those which have or assume responsibility for the administration of Non-Self-Governing and Trust Territories until they achieve independence, should take all appropriate measures with a view to abolishing such customs, ancient laws, and practices by ensuring, inter alia, complete freedom in the choice of a spouse, eliminating child marriages and the betrothal of young girls

before the age of puberty, establishing appropriate penalties where necessary and establishing a civil or another register in which all marriages will be recorded"

The UN followed with its instrument to buttress the above, during The UN Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage, and Registration of Marriages, The General Assembly adopted resolution 1763 A (XVII) 07 November 1962 with Entry into force set for 9 December 1964 (*Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948)*

Article 6 of The Resolution states as follows:

"States Parties to the present Convention shall take legislative action to specify a minimum age for marriage. No marriage shall be legally entered into by any person under this age, except where a competent authority has granted a dispensation as to age, for serious reasons, in the interest of the intending spouses" (*Definition of Forced and Child Marriage, n.d.*; *Child Marriage, 2022*; *http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/instree/o1ccmar.htm, n.d.; and https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/DYBNat/NotesNatStatTab04.htm, n.d.)*

II.LITERATURE REVIEW

a) Early or Forced Marriage

The Convention on the Rights of the Child states that "a child is defined as anyone under the age of 18 years of age unless the law states that maturity is reached at an earlier age (Art. 1). As a child under the age of 18 is not capable of giving her valid consent to enter into marriage, as such child marriages are considered to be forced marriages (*Marriage - World, 2019*).

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) echoed relatively that "Child marriage threatens the lives, well-being and futures of girls around the world (*Definition of Forced and Child Marriage, n.d.*; and *Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages - Google Search, n.d.*)

Similarly, Child marriage refers to any formal marriage or informal union between a child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child (*Child Marriage - World, 2019*)

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals call for global action to end this human rights violation by 2030 (*Child Marriage - World, 2019*; *Definition of Forced and Child Marriage, n.d.*; *Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages - Google Search, n.d.*; *https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/DYBNat/NotesNatStatTab04.htm, n.d.*; and *http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/instree/o1ccmar.htm*, n.d.)

b) Implementation by Regional Bodies and States

➢ **Accelerate Actions to End Child Marriage and Early Unions in Latin America and the Caribbean**

In 2017, the Accelerate Actions to End Child Marriage and Early Unions in Latin America and the Caribbean acknowledged in its forward that, "the agencies of the United Nations System came together in 2014 to support national legal reform processes to raise the legal age for marriage by international standards." (*UNICEF, 2018*)

➢ **Campaign To End Child Marriage In Africa: Call To Action**

The overall objective of the campaign is to Accelerate the end of child marriage in Africa. The campaign was initially to run for two (2) years whereby, the aim will be to enhance the implementation of related AU policy and legal instruments (*Campaign To End Child Marriage In Africa: Call To Action, 2013)*

➢ **The National Strategic Plan to End Child Marriage in Nigeria**

The premium edition of the National Strategic Plan to End Child Marriage in Nigeria 2016 – 2021, states that "Child Marriage is defined as a formal or informal union before the age of full maturity, usually, 18, is a multi-faceted sociocultural and endemic harmful practice that adversely impacts the personal development and future opportunities of Nigerian children. (Federal Government Of Nigeria, n.d.; and *Child Marriage: A Violation of Child Rights*, n.d.)

c) Consequences of Child Marriage

The UNICEF (South Sudan) foresees the consequences of early marriage and its devastating effects, as "taking a child for early marriage when she is still young may lead to a lack of health, lack of care, unwanted pregnancies, and might be overburdened with domestic work (*UNICEF West and Central Africa Regional Office - Google Search, n.d.)*

While Save The Children in 2023 says it all and emphasizes the negative perceived consequences of child marriage, inclusive of educational draw-down as:

"Child marriage is formal or informal union before age 18. It is a violation of children's human rights and a form of gender-based violence that robs children of childhood. Child marriage also disrupts their education and drives vulnerability to violence, discrimination, and abuse(*Child Marriage: A Violation of Child Rights, n.d.;* and *Federal Government Of Nigeria, n.d.)*

Again, according to (*Child Marriage: A Violation of Child Rights, n.d.)* "early marriage has devastating consequences for a girl's life. Effectively, child marriage ends her childhood (*Child Marriage: A Violation of Child Rights, n.d.)*

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Child marriage is a violation of children's human rights and a form of gender-based violence that denies children of their childhood. There is a concern that these young girls are forced into adulthood before they are physically and mentally ready. They are far less likely to stay in school, with lifelong economic impacts. At the same time, there is a high probability that they no longer have a voice in expressing their

opinions and concerns, which is a universal right (*Child Marriage: A Violation of Child Rights, n.d.; Federal Government Of Nigeria, n.d.; Child Marriage - World, 2019; Definition of Forced and Child Marriage, n.d.; Convention on Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age for Marriage and Registration of Marriages - Google Search, n.d.; Child Marriage, 2022.; http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/instree/o1ccmar.htm, n.d.;* and *https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/DYBNat/NotesNatStatTab04.htm, n.d.)*

Child brides are frequently deprived of their rights to health, education, safety, and participation. What's more, an arranged marriage often means a girl is forced to wed an, at times significantly, older man (*https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/products/dyb/DYBNat/NotesNatStatTab04.htm, n.d.)*
Child brides are often isolated, with their freedom curtailed. They are at higher risk of physical and sexual violence. Child brides are also at greater risk of experiencing dangerous complications in pregnancy and childbirth, contracting HIV/AIDS, and suffering domestic violence." (*National Domestic Violence Hotline, n.d; and http://hrlibrary.umn.edu/instree/o1ccmar.htm, n.d.)*

On the consequences of child marriage, The African Union equally says "Child marriage is a harmful practice, which severely affects the rights of a child and further deprives the child of attaining other aspirations like education."

d)Prevalence of Early Marriage

According to UNICEF, the prevalence of child marriage has decreased worldwide – from one in four girls married a decade ago to approximately one in five today – the practice remains widespread. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 100 million girls were expected to marry before their eighteenth birthday in the next decade. Now, up to 10 million more girls will be at risk of becoming child brides as a result of the pandemic (*Child Marriage, 2022.; Child Marriage: A Violation of Child Rights, n.d.; Child Marriage - World, 2019.;* and *On This International Day of the Girl Child, a Crucial Reminder: Marriage Is Not for Girls, n.d.; and More Children at Risk of Child Marriages Due to COVID-19 - Khmer Times, 2021*)

Save The Children considers consider "child marriage as a global problem and is compounded by poverty. Child marriage is a problem that cuts across countries, cultures, religions, and ethnicities. Child brides can be found in every region of the world (*Douglas & Walsh, 2010.; Raj et al., 2011.;* and *Stewart & Arnull, 2022*)
Major factors that place a girl at risk of marriage include poverty, especially in rural areas, as well as weak laws and enforcement, the perception that marriage will provide "protection," customs or religious laws, and unequal gender norms (*Child Marriage: A Violation of Child Rights, n.d.; Definition of Forced and Child Marriage, n.d.; Child Marriage - World, 2019.; Violence Against Women: Child Marriage, 2020.;* and *Purnamasari, 2021*)

African Union reported that an estimated 12 million girls are still married each year. Despite worldwide progress in reducing child marriage and pregnancy, countries with the highest child marriage rates include; Niger, Central African Republic, Mali, Mozambique, and South Sudan (*Purnamasari, 2021.; Baxter, 2018.; Douglas & Walsh, 2010.;* and *(Raj et al., 2011)*

The Union also estimated that; "Every year, about 14 million adolescent and teen girls are married, almost always forced into the arrangement by their parents. In 2012 UNICEF estimated that globally, almost 400 million women aged 20-49 (or 41% of the total population of women of this age) were married or entered into a union while they were children (i.e., before 18 years old). It further noted that, although the proportion of child brides has generally decreased over the last 30 years, in some regions, child marriage remains common, even among the youngest generations, particularly in rural areas and among the poorest. Among young women worldwide aged 20-24, around 1 in 3 (or 70 million) were married as children, and around 1 in 9 (or 23 million) entered into marriage or union before they reached 15 years of age. If the present trends continue, by 2030, the number of child brides marrying each year would have grown more than 14% annually from 14.2 in 2010 to 15.1 million. Although the largest numbers of child brides are in countries of South Asia, countries with the highest rates of child marriage are in Africa. Of the 41 countries worldwide with a prevalent rate of 30% or more, 30 are from Africa (*Koski et al., 2017; Mutyaba, 2011; Pauli & van Dijk, 2016; Mwambene, 2018.;* and *National Launch of the African Union Campaign to End Child Marriage Freetown, Sierra Leone, n.d.)*

A partnership of UNFPA and UNICEF regional offices covering West and Central Africa in its publication "Child Marriage in West and Central Africa: At a Glance, laments the prevalence of child marriages in Nigeria and asserts that Nigeria: "As the most populous country in the region (West Africa), Nigeria has the highest number of child brides. An estimated 22 million child brides live in Nigeria, which accounts for 40 percent of all child brides in the region (*UNICEF West and Central Africa Regional Office - Google Search, n.d.; and Brody, 2019*)

Save The Children in a new report of 16th November 2021, highlighted that:
"Seventy-eight percent (*Tunau et al., 2009; Ogbe, 2020; Unterhalter et al., 2013.; Ogbe, 2020; and Ekanem, n.d.;* and *78%) of girls in the Northern region of Nigeria marry before the age of 18*)

The "State of the Nigerian Girl Report - An Incisive Diagnosis of Child Marriage" explains, "the current and prevailing socio-cultural norms and practices in Nigeria around child marriage to capture the approximate state of Nigerian girls. It shows that child marriage is more prevalent in the northwest and northeast of Nigeria, where 48% of girls were married by age 15 and were married by age 18 (*Ekanem, n.d.)*

Furthermore, it states that "evidence shows there is a clear and strong link between Child Early Forced Marriage (CEFM) prevalence and endemic poverty, poor education outcomes, school dropout rates, a high rate of out-of-school children, and poor access to basic social,

economic, and healthcare services. Despite the Compulsory Free and Universal Basic Education Act of 2004, lack of access to quality, free, safe, uninterrupted, and inclusive education for girls remains a big driver of child marriage (*Ekanem, n.d.)*

e) Jigawa State Peculiarities

In Jigawa State, 78% of women, aged 20-49 were first married before age 18. 25% of women aged 15-19 are presently married or in a union and 63% of women dropped out of school to marry. Only 8% of women who married before age 18 are gainfully employed and earn above the National Bureau of Statistics (2020) national poverty line. 65% of fathers, mothers, and mothers-in-law approve of Child Early Forced Marriage (CEFM)" (78% of Girls in the Northern Region of Nigeria Marry Before the Age of 18, a New Report by Save the Children International Reveals | Nigeria, 2021) Early marriage hurts the girls' education and is a distraction for the future of young girls -educationally, socially, and economically (*Saima and Abdul, 2020)*

On 30th December 2021**,** UNICEF lauded the signing into law of the Jigawa State Child Protection Bill, saying it was another achievement for children's rights in Nigeria. The bill was signed into law on 22 December 2021.
But The UNICEF observed that "children in Jigawa State continue to face numerous challenges including lack of access to formal education, adequate primary healthcare, good nutrition and protection from violence – especially girls and the situation becomes worse for children in street situation."
However, The Chairperson, of the House Committee on Justice and Judiciary of the State House Of Assembly told journalists that the technical committee on the Bill had expunged child marriage. Saying 'The issue of underage marriage is expunged in the Bill is no longer part of the law" The lawmaker added: "It is very difficult to determine the age of a girl that is ripe for marriage, thus, because of the controversial nature of it we expunged it totally from the bill".
This stand as poised by the lawmakers is to the most, a stimulus for this research: how do the girl-child pair in terms of enrolment, completion, and achievement in the educational sphere?

III. METHODOLOGY

a) Population and Sample

The population of this study was supposed to be all married female students currently attending Senior Secondary Schools in Jigawa state, Nigeria. However, after the pre-pretest questionnaire was analyzed, much fewer subjects were available than anticipated.
As such, the population base was broadened to consist of all girls/women married below the age of 18yrs, who were willing, able, and to some extent allowed/permitted to participate, across the twenty-seven local government areas (LGAs).
Thus, the sampling accommodated a comparatively large number of subjects, wide age ranges, and educational backgrounds (enrolled or otherwise).
One thousand and seventy-five (1,075) subjects were identified, as the sample of the study.

b) Data

The primary data captured was from the subjects' responses to the items in the needed information-tailored Girl-Child Status Inventory Questionnaire (GCSIQ), while, the secondary data captured were from the subjects' affinity and/or consanguinity relations, who are aware

c) Data Analysis

For this write-up, the analysis was the profiling of subjects' current status, according to how they perceived their being married early and the consequences of it, on their enrolment, completion, and academic performance, while in school and presently which includes a statistical description of subjects' current status, presently and/or as when married.

d) Classification of Categories and Sub-Categories

An alphabetical categorization was used to capture a wide range of ages, educational backgrounds, and achievements, together with the number of subjects, as listed below;

- Category A = 19-24yrs; 84 subjects
- Category B = 25-30yrs: 96 subjects
- Category C = 31-35yrs: 139 subjects
- Category D = 36-40yrs: 211 subjects
- Category E = 41-45yrs: 228 subjects
- Category F = 45yrs and above: 317 subjects

However, for ease of comparison, the categories were grouped in twos: Enrolled and Not enrolled, as subcategories. Thereby, making the total subjects with various statuses be separated and analogy derived from therein.
Below is the sub-categorization:

- Category A; enrolled are 26 subjects, and not enrolled are 58 subjects
- Category B; enrolled are 41 subjects, and not enrolled are 55 subjects
- Category C; enrolled are 63 subjects, and not enrolled are 76 subjects
- Category D; enrolled are 74 subjects, and not enrolled are 137 subjects
- Category E; enrolled are 72 subjects, and not enrolled are 156 subjects
- Category F; enrolled are 26 subjects, and not enrolled are 223 subjects

Enrolled in the research will be those subjects that have ever been enrolled or have completed an educational level, be it Primary School alone or to up-to-the Secondary School level.
The descriptive analyses will assume, the following comparisons:

- Percentage of category among the total subjects.
- Percentage of enrolled/completed subcategories among the total subjects.
- Percentage of enrolled/completed subcategories in the category.
- Percentage of enrolled/completed in subcategory between the total subjects.

IV. RESULT

Out of the 1,075 subjects in this research, those in category A (84) constitute 7,8% are now aged between 19-24yrs, those in category B (96) account for 8.93% are between 25-30yrs, category C (139) account for 12.93% are between 31-35yrs, category D (211) accounts for 19.62% are between 36-40yrs, category E (228) accounts for 19.21% are between 41-45yrs, and category F accounts for 29.49% are 45 and above years, as in Table. 1.
Enrolment or completion of an educational institution between the categories is; category A with 24 subjects is 2.42% category B with 41 subjects is 3.81%, C with 63 subjects is 3.82%, category D with 74 subjects is 6.88%, category E with 72 subjects is 6.70%, and category F with 94 subjects is 8.74%. The average of enrolment/completion between all the categories is 5.74%, as in Fig 1.

Table 1: Total number in a category, enrolled and completed

Age Ranges	Number In Category	No. Enrolled In Category	No. Enrolled In Primary School	No. Enrolled In Secondary School	No. Completed Primary School	No. Completed Secondary School
A	84	26	16	10	16	0
B	96	41	32	9	25	1
C	139	63	52	11	19	1
D	211	74	66	12	26	1
E	228	72	67	5	16	3
F	317	94	72	22	26	2

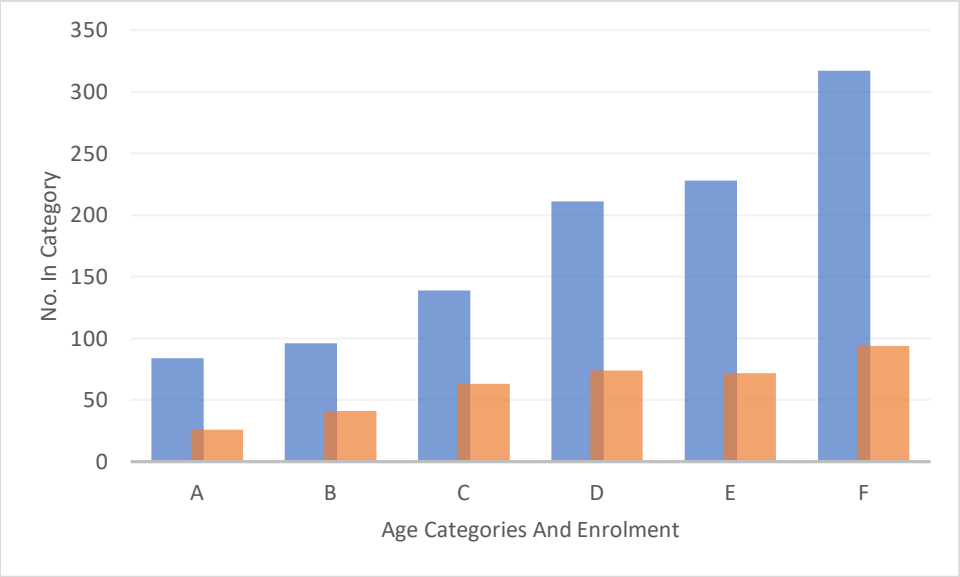

Fig 1: number in categories and enrolment to/or completed an educational level

The average age of the subjects when married between the categories is; 16yrs, 16yrs, 16yrs, 16yrs, 15yrs, and 15yrs, respectively. Also, the average at which subjects have their 1st babies, between the categories is; 17yrs, 18yrs, 16yrs, 16yrs, 15yrs, and 15yrs. The average number of children those subjects have between the categories is 2, 3, 3, 5, 5, and 6. The average matrimonial family size of the subjects, between the categories is 4, 7, 8, 6, 8, and 9. All subjects depended on their family/relatives as the sole/major sponsors before marriage. Reason(s) for early marriage between the category is due to family/relatives' influence, love/self and the peer is, 15.05%, 1.41%, and 0.20%, respectively.

Enrolment at an educational level, when married between the categories for Primary School is; 1.48%, 2.98%, 4.83%, 6.14%, 6.23%, and 6.69%, for the categories respectively. The average enrolment is 4.73%as in Fig 2.

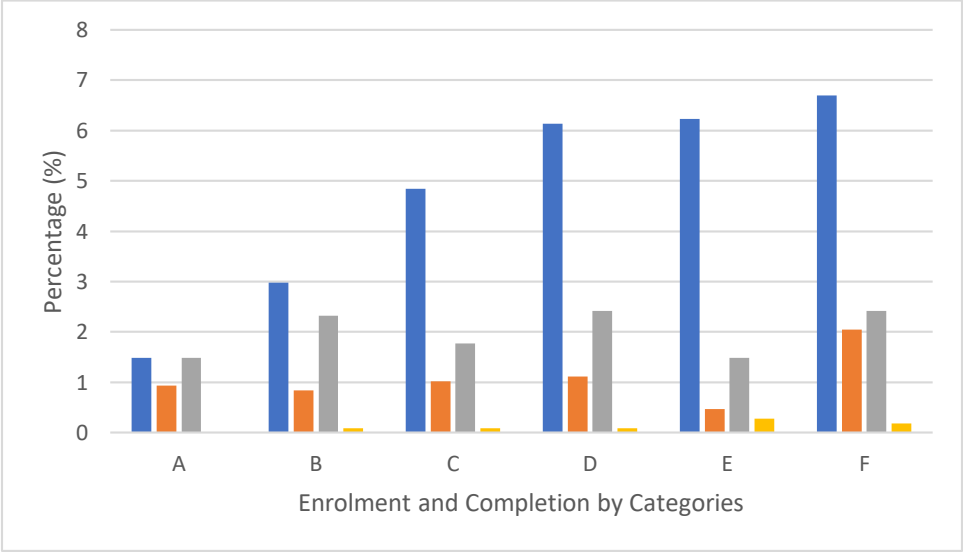

Fig 2: Percentage enrolment/completion of primary and secondary schools by categories among the total subjects

Completion of this level (Primary) as at the time of this research, between the categories, is; 1.49%, 2.32%, 1.76%, 2.42%, 1.49%, and 2.42%, respectively. The average completion of this level is 1.98%, as in Table 2.
Similarly, enrolment into Secondary (O' Level) Schools is; 0.93%, 0.83%, 1.62%, 1.12%, 0.47%, and 1.86%, respectively. The average enrolment is 1.40%.
Completion of this level (Secondary) between the categories is; 0%, 0.09%, 0.09%, 0.09%, 0.28%, and 0.19%. The average completion of this level is 0.12%.
No enrolment or completion of Tertiary institution(s) is captured in this research.
Academic performance as acknowledged by the subjects between the categories admitting average and above average performance is 9.82%, 12.5%, 15.83%, 13.74%, 9.21%, and 11.99%. while those with below average performance is; 90.48%, 87.5%, 84.17%, 86.26%, 90.79%, and 88.01%.
Specifically, enrolment into or completion of an educational level(s) within the groupings is 26 of 84 in A, 41 of 96 in B, 63 of 139 in C, 74 of 211 in D, 72 of 228 in E, and 94 of 317 in F, was used for the description, hence.
The total number of subjects found to have been enrolled/completed an educational level among the 1,075 is 370, in this research. Their distribution between categories is; A=26 (7.27%), B =96 (11.08%), C = 139 (17.03%), D = 211 ((20%), E = 228 (19.46%), and F = 94 (25.41%)
Based on this, now the number of subjects who were enrolled/completed any educational level, in any category will be used as a sub-category to describe the completion and performance of each category.
Enrolment into Primary School at the time of marriage, between the sub-categories, is; 61.54%, 78.05%, 87.2%, 89.19%, 93.06%, and 76.60%, respectively. Average enrollment in this level is 80.16%, as in Fig 3.

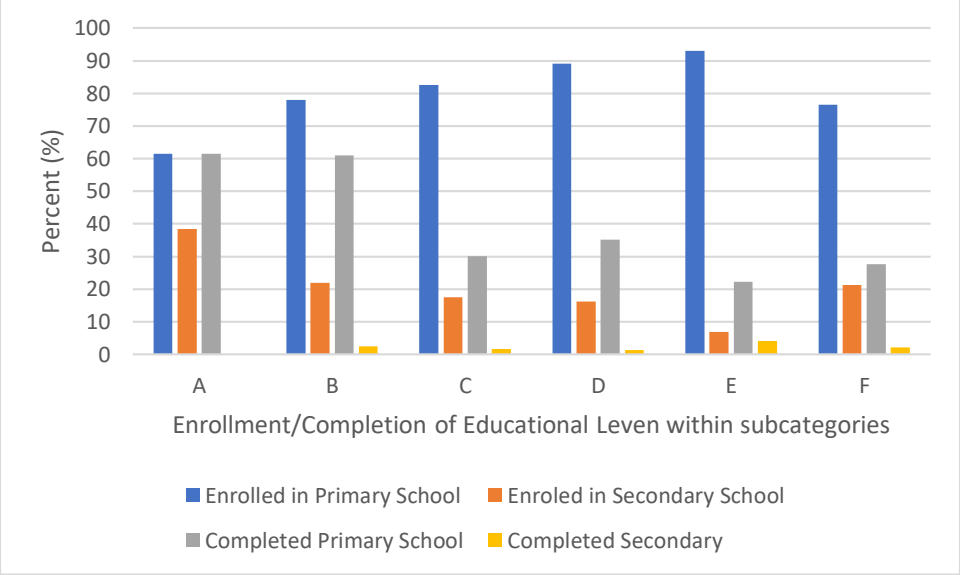

Fig 3: Enrolment/completion of primary and secondary schools between the enrolment/completion sub-categories.
Completion of this level (Primary) within the sub-categories is; 61.58%, 60.96%, 30.16%, 35.14%, 22.22%, and 27.66%. The average completion of this level is 39.62%, as in Fig 3.
Similarly, enrolment into Secondary (O' Level) Schools is; 38.54%, 21.95%, 17.46%, 16.21%, 6.94%, and 21.28%, respectively. The average enrolment is 20.39%.
Completion of this level (Secondary) between the sub-categories is; 0%, 2.449%, 1.59%, 1.35%, 4.17%, and 2.13%. The average completion of this level is 1.95%.
Academic performance as acknowledged by the subjects between the sub-categories with average and above average is 69.23%, 87.80%, 77.77%, 81.08%, 86.11%, and 67.02%. While those with below-average performances are; 30.77%, 12.20%, 22.22%, 18.92%, 13.89%, and 33%. The average of average and above average is 78.17%, and the below average is 21.83%.

V. DISCUSSIONS

As a descriptive part of the whole research, here the status of the subjects was analyzed, in terms of (1) enrolment into Primary and/or Secondary Schools, before marriage; (2) completion of Primary and/or Secondary Schools; and (3) academic performances before and after marriage.
It was found that the followings were noticeable in terms of the subjects' status before and after marriage.

- The number of subjects who were enrolled or have completed any educational level, in any category will be used as a sub-category to describe the completion and performance of each category.
- The component averages are; the age of the subjects when married was 16yrs when the subjects have their 1st babies was 16yrs. And all subjects depended on their families/relatives as the sole/major sponsors before marriage. Reason(s) for early marriage due to families'/relatives' influence was the highest at 15.05% of the whole subjects 1,075, which is 61.67% of the total enrolled (370).
- Enrolment into an educational level, when married between the categories for Primary School, was highest at 2.42%, for category F.
- Completion of this level (Primary) was highest at 6.69%, for categories D and F Average completion of this level is 1.98%

Similarly, enrolment into Secondary (O' Level) Schools was highest at 1.86%, for category F. Average enrolment is 1.40%.
Completion of this level (Secondary) between the categories was highest at 0.28%, for category E. Average completion of this level is 0.12%.
Academic performance as acknowledged by subjects admitting average and above was highest at 15.83%, for category C, while below-average performance was highest at 90.79%, for category E.

VI. CONCLUSION

This research documents the influence of the age at which a girl/child is married, along with its perceived consequences on the enrolment, completion, and academic performance of subjects (research participants).
However, this paper is limited to the description of subjects' status with regards to enrolment and completion of an educational level, although some elements detailing the status of the subject have been introduced briefly.
Notably, average enrolment into an educational level, which is the number of subjects enrolled at all (370 out of 1,075) is as low as 34.41%. Indeed, only 4.73% have ever been enrolled in Primary School, and 1.03% in Secondary. As a point of notice, one has to complete Primary School before enrolling in Secondary., which means all enrolled in Secondary are also included in enrolment into Primary school.
In the same vein completion of an educational level was on average as low as 1.98% and 0.124% for Primary and Secondary Schools, respectively, among all participants (1,075)
Also, academic performance as acknowledged by the participants in a classification of average and above average ionone hand, and below average on the other is 12.13% and 87.87%. that is sympathetic, as amongst the enrolled 74,55% have indicated interest to continue or further their education. This is the subject of further discussions/publications.
Of course, early or child marriage defined as the age at which a girl/child was married, clearly contributes to their continued stay in the educational level they were or further levels.
However, there is a positive trend as per the reduction of early marriages, from 29.49% in category F to 7.81% in category A. The same applies to the minimum year at which girls are married from 15yrs to 16yrs.
Enrolment and completion between the categories are on the rise, for Primary School from 29.7% enrolment in F and 61.54% in A, similarly, it is from 6.94% in D to 38.46% in A.

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