

MOUNT OF OLIVES COLLEGE KAKIRI (MOCK)

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION.

SENIOR THREE.

THEME: MAN AND WOMAN.

SUB-THEME: SEX DIFFERENCES AND THE PERSONS.

UNEB QUESTION 11

The term SEX can be defined in two ways which are;

Sex as a gender refers to being male or female

Gender can also refer to socially constructed notions about masculine and feminine roles, social attributes and responsibilities associated with being male or female.

In other words, gender defines certain roles that men and women play in society. Therefore gender roles are not fixed but can and do change over time.

On the other side, sex refers to a person's biological category.

Sex also refers to the intercourse between male and female reproductive organs.

Question: *Distinguish between sex and gender.*

SEX DIFFERENCES IN THE PRESENT SITUATION

In the modern world, efforts have been made by organizations like the United Nations and its member nations to ensure that the interests, needs and priorities of both men and women are taken into consideration, recognizing the diversity of different groups of boys and girls, women and men.

GENDER EQUALITY TODAY

Gender equality refers to the equal rights and opportunities of women and men and of girls and boys.

Today there are indicators/elements that show that the interests, needs and priorities of both women and men are taken into consideration, recognizing the diversity of different groups of women and men. (UN Conference on women)

GUIDING QUESTION

Show how women have gained equality with men today?

Elements of equality between men and women today

- Today men and women are sharing the same jobs like being lawyers, administrators, doctors, teachers and accountants.
- Men and women head families and provide the needs of the family in form of food, medical care and accommodation.
- Men and women actively participate in the society politics with full rights to stand as leaders and to vote for each other. For instance women and men are mayors, MPs, chairpersons among others. For example Namboze the M.p for Mukono



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North.

- Women and men are taking active participation in the economic sector like tax payment and owning businesses.
- Domestic duties such as cooking food and cleaning the house, taking care of children are openly shared by men and women.
- Family property like houses today belongs to every family member. Sons or daughters have equal right to family property.
- There is equal access to education and it's now a right to everyone e.g. boys and girls study the same syllabus and do the same final examinations.
 - Today women have the right to demand for divorce in case of domestic violence.
- Both men and women are entitled to government protection during the time stability and instability.
- Children in the family belong to both the husband and wife unlike in traditional Africa where men claimed full ownership to children.
- Religiously, men and women are leading the church, establishing own churches and leading church services e.g. in the Anglican Church setting men and women qualify as priests, reverends, and bishops which is the same case with the Pentecostal churches.
- Women today have the right to demand for divorce in marriage in the event domestic violence threats posed by the men.
- Men and women are equal before the law. Everyone is protected by the law according to the 1995 Ugandan constitution.

REVISION QUESTION:

Mention the ways in which women are competing with men today.

GENDER INEQUALITY

- Sexual abuses like rape and defilement are still common against women and girls. This is so because women are still considered as sex objects that are meant to satisfy their sexual desires.
- Women battering is still rampant as men beat their wives as a way of disciplining them over small issues and failure to agree on some issues.
- Some women are entirely dependent on their husbands and consider them their sole provider centrally to the definition of equality according to United Nations standards.
- Women are still denied the chance of inheriting property of their deceased parents and husbands. Family property such as land are given to the boys at the expense of the girls and in case of a house wife, the husband's property is grabbed by the relatives.
- The continued existence of bride wealth undermines the position of women in the society. It gives men the reason to subject their wives to mistreatment and regarding them as part of their "property."
- Sex difference still exist in some religions and denominations. Men are the only ordained priests in the Catholic Church and the worst of all, women pray separately in the Islamic faith.
- The government is putting a lot of emphasis on gender equity especially on the girl-child education by awarding 1.5 points to girls when joining public universities like Makerere University among others to increase the enrolment of girls at the



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- university level.
- Widow inheritance is still practiced by some societies thus women are deprived of the right of making independent decision of whom to marry after the death of the husband.
 - Some men still claim ownership of children and so women simply respect every decision made on the children by men/fathers.
 - Men still hold the authority and power to divorce the wife without her consent or giving her an opportunity to resist divorce.
 - There are stereotypes about some professions which seem to be fit for a particular sex. Nursery teaching and secretarial work is taken to be feminine and being an engineer is suitable for men.
 - Forced marriage is still in existence especially done by the selfish parents who are greedy for material wealth.
 - The burden of domestic work is still covered by women mostly while men sit and devote their time to changing from one television channel to another.
 - In some societies men are considered to be superior compared to their counterparts hence women are expected to be submissive to men.
 - Men are still dominant in politics. The electorate tends to give their votes mostly to men because they think they are best suited for leadership compared to their female counterparts.

ROLE/EFFORT OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PROMOTING EQUALITY OR LIFTING UP THE STATUS OF WOMEN

- The government established Universal education to give access to education to both boys and girls.
- The government observes/celebrates the International Women's day on every 8th March to appreciate, acknowledge and recognize the achievements of women.
- The government is giving full support to women organizations such as organization of women's effort to support orphans (UWESO), Action for Development of Women (ACFODE), FIDA (The Uganda Association of Women Lawyers) among others to protect the operation of women in families.
- The government is putting a lot of emphasis on the girl-child education e.g. the 1.5points given to all girls joining public universities like Makerere, Gulu, and Mabarara. This is to help women compete with men favorably.
- The government has organized seminars, workshops, and conferences to sensitize the public about the rights and role of women in nation development.
- The government has empowered women economically through giving them loans at a low interest to startup income generating projects.
- The government has always put special emphasis on recruitment of women for jobs in order to transform their status.
- The government has provided equal opportunities in leadership to both men and women.
- The government has enforced the implementation of policies like equal division of family property in case of divorce.
- The government has put in place universal education of UPE, USE to enable

boys and girls attain literacy and compete favorably.

- Employed women are given maternity leave. This enables them to recover from the difficulties faced during the period of pregnancy.
- The government has given support to adult women education through equipping them with basic technical skill like tailoring, weaving and also provide them with required tools, machines to enable them earn a living.
- Strict laws have been put up and enforced to protect women from abuses like domestic violence, sexual harassment, and kidnap among others.

REVISION QUESTION:

What is the government doing to promote equality between men and women in Uganda?

EFFORT OF THE CHURCH IN UPLIFTING WOMEN'S STATUS

- The church has ordained women as priests, reverends and bishops just as men e.g. the Anglican Church ordains women as reverends to give women a chance to serve God.
- The church has organized workshops, seminars and conferences to sensitize the people to recognize the rights of women e.g. At Bethel healing centre, pastor Irene Manjeri has always organized women conference to empower them spiritually, economically, and physically.
- It has operated and maintained girls schools e.g. Gayaza High School, St. Mary's college Namagunga to teach the girls child and compete with the boy child in society.
- Church leadership is for both men and women e.g. Pastor Imelda Namutebi of Liberty worship centre, Irene Manjeri of Bethel healing Centre Church in Kitende, Kajjansi.
- The church has set up organizations/associations to support men and women in families like the mothers and fathers unions in the catholic and Anglican churches in which family and marriage issues are discussed.
- The church has employed women in church founded projects as teachers in schools, doctors in hospitals, financial institutions like Centenary bank under the Catholic church among others.
- The church has promoted monogamous marriages as the suitable marriage relationship to bring love and harmony for a husband and wife as opposed to polygamy.
- The church provided counseling and guidance to both men and women with problems hence creating equality of all persons.
- The church has extended financial assistance to the disadvantaged men and women in order to empower them and put them on the same level e.g. the "send the cow project" operated by the Anglican Church.
- The church is giving sacraments to both men and women e.g. baptism, Holy Communion and Marriage especially in the Anglican Church.
- The church delivers the same sermon for both men and women. They sit in the same church and receive God's message at the same time.
- The church has organized social clubs for young people in which life skills are taught to them e.g. YMCA and YWCA
- The church has organized Sunday schools where both boys and girls are taught Christian principles.



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REVISION QUESTION

What steps has the Church in Uganda taken to improve on the status of women?

WOMEN EMANCIPATION/ WOMEN LIBERATION MOVEMENT (WLM)

This refers to an effort to raise or recognize the rights of women in the male dominated society.

It is an attempt or struggle by women to free themselves from all forms of oppression in various aspects of life i.e. social, economic, religious and political.

Women liberation movements started in the US in 26/08/1970 and featured political activities such as a march demanding legal equality for women in the United States.

The Uganda Women Liberation Movement is known as the *Uganda Feminist Forum*.

REASONS FOR THE RISE OF WOMEN LIBERATION MOVEMENT.

There are historical reasons for the growth and development of liberation struggles in Uganda and Africa as a whole. This movement proposes and insists that economic, psychological and social freedom are necessary for women to progress from being second-class citizens in their societies. Below are the aim/objectives or factors that led to the rise of Women liberation movements/ feminism.

Guiding question:

What reasons do women give for their liberation struggle?

- To protect women against domestic violence inform of beating which may lead to loss of lives and others left with injuries.
- To protect women against sexual abuse since men considered them sexual objects to fulfill their sexual desires.
- To promote women participation in the politics of the society since women were considered as kitchen material with nothing to add on the community.
- To promote women respect in marriage against constant insults from the husbands, lack of oppression for the domestic work done.
- To address the issue of teenage marriage which were so rampant due to the parents selfish interests.
- To promote girl child education since many women were and are still unable to read and write.
- To promote women`s rights in case of inheritance of property in the family the fact that the boy child had full rights of inheriting family property.
- To counteract the issue of bride wealth which exposed women to domestic violence and as leverage which hindered them from divorcing thus they had to suffer the beatings locally.
- To promote employment opportunities for women since husbands left them idle at home only to do domestic work yet majority of them were highly educated.
- To achieve equality between men and women on the basis of the fundamental human rights like right to life, education, association among other virtues of human rights.
- To achieve free competition with men in society in education, employment and leadership.
- To address the issue of forcing girls into marriage by their parents with intentions of getting bride wealth.
- To address the issue of denying women certain food stuffs which were enjoyed by only men in different societies.
- To seek recognition and appreciation of the roles and efforts of women in the



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development of families and society.

- To allow women participation in religious issue since they were considered unholy in some societies and could not lead public worship.
- To protect women from being regarded as sources of misfortunes in many of the societies around the world.
- To counteract the issue of regarding women beasts of the burden.
- To address the issue of blaming women for childless marriage yet in some causes it could be as a result of the man's sterility.

POSITIVE IMPACT/CONTRIBUTION OF WOMEN LIBERATION MOVEMENT

GUIDING QUESTION:

Explain the effect of the women liberation movement on the Ugandan society.

- It has enabled women to have public employment and have a chance to earn salary hence becoming economically independent.
 - There is increase number of women in politics and this has led to making of laws for the benefit of everyone in society.
 - It has increased the number of girls in schools and institutions of learning through sensitizing parents about the importance of the girl child education.
 - Women's opinions on bride wealth are highly respected. They determine what is to be paid by husband to be. They even go an extra mile and contribute financially.
 - Women are fully recognized and appreciated for their contribution in various development arenas. For example the ministry of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries celebrated the engagement of women in coffee on 4th October 2018.
 - Both men and women have equal rights over their children contrary to the earlier patrilineal attitude where children belong only to the father.
 - There has been erosion of the rigid and inhuman cultural practices like female genital mutilation among the Sebei of Uganda.
 - It has increased family incomes and national income through employment opportunities given to women.
 - Women are in position to pay fees for their children and other basic needs of life hence contributing to societal development.
 - It has promoted family stability due to some men fearing to lose their properties in case of divorce where property would be shared equally.
 - Women have succeeded in establishing recognized organizations to coordinate women activities, National Association of Women's Organization (NAWOU) founded on the 29th January 1992.
 - Women have established income generating activities like piggery, poultry which enables them to earn income. Like Mbabazi a university student who lays bricks to pay her tuition.
 - It has helped women to work hard for their families since they are now stake holders of their families.
 - It has enabled women to talk in public and hold political rallies sensitizing the public on socio-economic and political issues.
 - Women's sex rights have been respected by their spouses. They have a right to accept or refuse to engage in sex thus no longer regarded as sex objects
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- It has increased the tax base to the government as a result of allowing women to participate in productive employment and investment.



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- It has promoted women participation in religious affairs. Women are ordained as priests in the Anglican Church and Pentecost churches. Like Pr.Manjeri of Bethel Healing center church.
- It has enabled to own property inform of land and access to bank loans hence leading to increased investment for family and nation development.
- It has promoted peace in families without domestic violence due to sensitization of women rights.
- It has increased security in the country through women participating in security organs such as ISO, UPDF, Police, and Prisons.
- It has promoted the leisure industry due women participation various public leisure activities like singing, dancing, hand craft.
- Promoted respect for women and their activities hence earning of income for their families and the nation at large.

NEGATIVE IMPACT OF WOMEN LIBERATION MOVEMENT

- Has increased divorced and separation due to women demanding equal rights with men e.g. coming home very late and their husbands opening for them.
- It has resulted into child negligence since working women leave in the morning and come back late
- Has increased sexual immorality especially to women who refuse to get married and end up in prostitution, lesbianism and cuncubinage.
- Women have lost respect due to the need to behave like men eating while standing, indecent dressing.
- Some husbands have ended up marrying their house girls due to little care, attention and love from their wives as compared to the house maids.
- Has led to moral degeneration among children due to women spending little time with their children.
- Has made men to fear to marry educated women leading to a good number of educated women remaining unmarried.
- Women have used women liberation movement platform to steal from men as they get married to various men divorcing them with intentions of sharing the family property.
- Marriage has turned to be more of a burden to some husbands due to the torture exerted on them by their wives.
- It has increased cases of domestic violence as women tend disrespect their husbands and always struggle to steal from them leading to organized murder case in families.
- Has led to loss of culture as women fight for equality with men in all aspects of life yet men were superior to women in African societies.
- It has increased the rise of female headed families due to divorce as a result of the anti-social behavior among women.
- It facilitated the increase of single parenthood due to the ever cropping disagreements in the family brought in the women's urge for equality.

SEX EDUCATION IN THE PRESENT SITUATION

How sex education is carried out today?



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Sex education is the process through which sex related information is imparted into the young to prepare them for future marriage responsibilities. There is no special arrangement for teaching young people issues of sex; however it is extended to them in the following ways;

- Through group influence where young people share, discuss sexual stories hence teaching each other different issues about sex.
- Through parents who teach young ones to observe good sexual behaviors in society.
- Through close relatives like uncles and aunts, brothers and sisters who guide young one on sex related issues.
- The church organizes sex talks for intending partners especially Anglican and catholic churches where special lessons are organized for all those preparing to wed in church.
- Through cultural initiations where young people are taught sexual values like circumcision of boys among the Bagishu, bush visiting among the Baganda.
- Through NGOs which give free sex education to the youth e.g. TASO, Aids Information Centre (AIC) which extends information on abstinence and HIV/AIDS.
- Through both local and international songs which contain a lot of sexual information with emphasis on love, loneliness and disappointment. Like You and me by Lydia Jazimine and Daddy Andre, How deep is your love by Calvin Harris.
- Through written literature in which special sexual information is extended to young people like magazines, novels and simple texts.
- Through television programs which are related to sex issues targeting all adults and youths like the Saloon talk on Urban T.V. Western soaps on various stations revealing sex information. Like Passion Monera on Urban T.v.
- Through government youth programs like PIASCY which teaches young people about life skills intended to overcome HIV/AIDS.
- Through radio programs where sex talk shows are conducted like Late date on Capital radio.
- Through subjects in schools like biology and CRE which have related topics and hence helping to impart sex education to the young.
- Through responsible cultural leaders who organize cultural programs e.g. Lady Sylvia Naginda of Buganda has always organized special sessions for youths through the Kisaakaate Program.

CHALLENGES FACED IN PROVIDING SEX EDUCATION

There are a number of problems associated with the extension of sex education in modern times and include the following;

- Influence of peers about sex matters which makes them to under rate the sex educators because they feel that they know a lot and cannot be educated.
- Influence of mass media which exposes a lot of pornographic materials and thus influence the attitudes of young ones e.g. internet, newspaper like red pepper, onion, kamunye...
- The popular false sayings like “practice makes perfect” and “we learn by doing” have failed sex education to go on hence young one do whatever they want.
- Too much redundancy among young ones has made them to engage in pre-



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marital sex so as to keep them occupied.

- Many young ones are very materialist especially girls who accept to exchange sex for money in order to make ends meet/survive and thus sex education becoming irrelevant to them.
- Decline in African cultural values where young people consider practice like circumcision, bush visiting as outdated yet proper sex education is passed through such practices.
- Permissiveness where young people have too much freedom to take on any behavior they want without anyone stopping them.
- Young people assume that they know much about sex because they have many sources like friends, pornography, hence ignoring the work of sex educators.
- Some parents are too shy and so they fear to open discuss sex related issues with their children.
- Some other parents are too busy with work which makes it difficult for them to talk with their children about important life issues.
- Influence of pornography which is proved by young ones as the most reliable source of sex tricks hence desiring to do what they watch and hence ignoring the work of sex educators.
- Some people have very limited knowledge on sex education which makes young people to receive wrong information.
- Sex education is currently paid for/commercialized and so only those who can are the ones to receive the service and other are left out.
- There is a wide gap between the young and the elders and thus young ones think that parent's ideas are outdated and irrelevant today.

SEX DIFFERENCES IN THE AFRICAN TRADITIONAL RELIGION

THE POSITION OF WOMEN IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA

In African traditional, men had both positive and negative attitude towards women and status of women was generally low and incomparable to that of men.

NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS WOMEN.

Guiding question

What was the status of women in traditional African society?

- They were considered beasts of burden, had to do all work in the garden and at home under the supervision of men.
- They were treated as sex machines; to provide sexual pleasure to men and for they never enjoyed it themselves
- They were factories for manufacturing children and children belonged to me and on separation, she could leave them behind.
- Women had an inferior position to that of men in the society. Women rights never existed, but men`s rights.
- They were expected to respect men and remain submissive to them even though men were young than women.
- Women were prohibited from eating some foods as were preserved for men only e.g. fish, chicken and eggs as among the Banyoro.



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- Men enjoyed a God-given duty to discipline their wives anytime and women were brought up knowing that.
- The mourning for a dead woman was shorter to that of the man, an aspect of little regard for women in the society.
- Women were known by their parents` or husband`s names not their own names.
- They were blamed for all the wrongs and misfortunes in the family and society
- They were forbidden from assuming any leadership position in the society, but only men.
- They were forbidden from participating in any decision making process and no opinion was expected from them
- Girls were expected to preserve their virginity till marriage.
- Only men had rights to initiate divorce in the marriage relationship and women had to accept such decision.
- They were subjected to polygamy without their knowledge.
- All property belonged to the man, and no woman was allowed to own property.

Revision question:

Explain the inequalities that existed between men and women in the African traditional society.

POSITIVE ATTITUDE

- Women were doctors and nurses of the society, making syrups and medicine to cure diseases.
- They were respected and saluted for helping prepare the adolescent girls for marriage
- They shaped the moral values of the children from one generation to another
- They were credited for producing children and contributed to the expansion of the clan and the family
- They were considered important because they and their children brought respect to the man and his family on the society
- They were considered mothers of society for fed the family even when things were hard in the society.

Revision question

Using your knowledge of the African traditional society, explain the part women played in the community.

SEX EDUCATION IN ATS

This was the imparting of sex values and roles to children and other members of the society. It was communal and therefore everyone was responsible for extending sex education to the young in the community.

METHODS OF TRANSMITTING SEX EDUCATION TO THE YOUNG.

- Through parents like father, mother, uncle and aunt who guided and counseled the children about the life skills and sex values
- Through food taboos which revealed the do`s and don`ts of a particular society e.g. Among the Baganda, incest was highly discouraged and boys and girls were



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separated during adolescence.

- Through hard punishments to act as examples to society members e.g. Among the Congolese a girl who got pregnant before official marriage was tied in the mid of the forest to be eaten by animals.
- Through traditional schools and secluded places e.g. among the Baganda, the aunts would conduct pulling rituals in the bush to prepare the girls for satisfying their husbands in marriage.
- Through witnessing the first sexual encounter of the couple by the elders/aunt e.g. among the Baganda, the aunt could sleep under the bed to listen attentively to whatever was taking place.
- Through valuing the virginity of girls e.g. among the Baganda, a-she goat would be sent to the family of the girl in appreciation of keeping the girl pure.
- Through valuing the privacy of sex e.g. sexual organs were given special names like among the Banyoro, the man`s genital was referred to as “mango” the Baganda referred to it as “Akasolo”.
- Girls were taught motherly roles e.g. aunts guided them on what to do during menstruation, breast feeding, after birth care, extra.
- Through practical work where practical skills passed on to the young e.g. hunting, grazing to the boys, and cooking to the girls.
- Through songs and poems that had relevant information to the young about the role of men and women in the family.
- Through exemplary life of the elders i.e. way of dressing, sitting, talking in public and good sex styles.
- Through stories and myths which had rich information about sex values passed to the young especially in the evening.

CONTENTS OF SEX EDUCATION IN ATS

- Courage and brevity among boys in order to protect their families.
- Moral and sexual values like descent dressing, respect for elders and for sex at all times
- Values of tolerance, patience e.g. Baganda girls were supposed to greet while kneeling
- Virginity until marriage was highly emphasized among girls
- Hygiene and beauty tips were taught e.g. among the Batooro, special cow ghee and herbal perfumes were applied by the girl in order to be beauty looking.
- Boys and girls were taught how to please their partners sexually
- Emphasis on the respect of sexual organs that is why pet names were given to them
- Boys were taught about the wet dreams and girls-their monthly periods and how to cater for themselves

- Traditional birth control methods were taught to girls e.g. prolonged breast feeding, use of herbs...
- Young ones were separated from sleeping together to avoid incest
- Certain medicines were provided to cater for sexual disorders, body odor, and partial impotence. Like "ebombo".

SEX DIFFERENCES IN THE CHURCH HISTORY

Outline the sex inequalities that existed in the church history

- The office of priesthood was entirely for men and no woman would serve as a priest especially in the Catholic Church.
- It was only men who were given a chance to pray for the families and for the church congregation, women were denied that chance.
- Only men became saints and up-to-date very few women are in the history of sainthood.
- Women in menstruation period were made to stay away from others until they had recovered from the monthly illness.
- Woman had to confess their sins first before men could do so. Sometimes women confessed their sins to men who presented them to God.
- Christian missionary work was only for men and women were left at home to do domestic work.
- Men dominated fellowship since they had a belief that such gatherings were only fit for men not women.
- Women were expected to cover their heads with veils during public worship and public gatherings e.g. in the Corinthian church veiling had become a problem but St. Paul solved it in his letter to them
- Men were allowed to divorce their wives and women were to accept such decision.
- Talking in public was only for men and so it was a disgrace for woman to make public arguments with a man

HOW MISSIONARIES RESPONDED TO THE CASES OF INEQUALITY IN THE AFRICAN TRADITION SETTING

- Missionaries taught that human beings are equal and were created from God's image.
- The church encouraged the education of the girl-child by establishing girl's schools like Gayaza High School.
- Women were trained with basic skills in life like knitting in order for them to be self-reliant.
- They catered for the disadvantaged children like orphans, lame and blind by building special schools for them.
- Some women were trained to offer services to the general public e.g. Hana Kageye worked as a teacher in Ankole for the Anglican Church.
- They called for monogamous marriage among Africans to bring love for the husband, wife and children.
- They emphasized independent choices as opposed to widow inheritance which was practiced by the African families.
- In the Anglican Church, women were ordained as reverends and were therefore



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important in the ministry of the church.

- Women were encouraged to take key positions in the church and participate in its activities.
- The church involved a number of women in the preaching of the gospel e.g. the Catholic Church trained many girls as sisters who helped in expansion of the church and raising their status.

SEX DIFFERENCES IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

ELEMENTS OF EQUALITY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Guiding question:

Using your knowledge of the Old Testament, show that man and woman are meant to be equal.

What is the Old testament understanding of equality between men and women?

- God created both male and female from His own image and likeness hence both are equal (Gen 1:26-28)
- Man and woman were created for companionship purposes i.e. Eve was created from the Adam`s rib after failing to get a suitable companion.
- The woman was created out of the man`s body and so both are of the material and are equal. (Gen 2:8-9)
- God gave both male and female the power to continue with the work of creation in form of co-creation and pro-creation.
- God punished both male and female for fearing the forbidden fruit e.g. they were sent from the Garden of Eden after sinning against God.
- God gave the Ten commandments/Decalogue to guide both male and female in their relationship with God and fellow man.
- God called Moses to liberate both male and female from the Egyptian slavery.
- During the time of Noah, God punished and saved male and female when He floods due to their sinful nature.
- God provided food to both male and female during the Israelites travel in the wilderness e.g. he gave them manna and quails and water after a long time of hunger.
- God called Abraham to begin the salvation plan and process for all mankind.
- God called both men and women to serve Him as leaders e.g. Deborah who was a judge and Samuel who was a judge and a priest.
- Both require faith to move God`s hand e.g. Hannah and Abraham prayed faithfully and God gave them children.
- God entered into a covenant with both men and women at Mount Sinai and had to live by it.

ELEMENTS OF INEQUALITY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Guiding question:

Explain the elements of inequality in the Old Testament.

- Polygamy was allowed and men married more than one woman e.g. King Solomon had 700 official wives, Elkanah had Hannah and Peninah.
- It was only men who were subjected to forced labour e.g. King Solomon used 30,000 men to do forced labour during his developmental projects.
- There was payment of bride wealth in order to get a wife e.g. Jacob worked for



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- 14 years in order get Rachael and Leah as wives.
- The nakedness of a woman made the man to sin against God e.g. King David had lust for Bathsheba after seeing her nakedness.
- Men were allowed to divorce their wives by writing a divorce letter to the wife and letting her go away which chance was denied to the woman. (Deut 24)
- In the national census carried out by King David, only men were counted.
- Women were taken as men`s property e.g. the Decalogue state that; "Don't admire another man`s property inclusive of his wife.
- The woman became a subordinate of the man and she had to have great desire for the man after the fall of man.
- Some institutions like priesthood was specifically for men since women were considered unholy.
- On giving birth, a woman was unclean for 33days if she gave birth to a boy and in case of a girl, she was unclean for 66days and she had to go for purification.
- Women were to sit behind, remain quiet and covered their heads during public worship.
- Women became second before the law e.g. women did domestic work on the Sabbath day as men rested.

EXAMPLES OF ISRAELITE WOMEN WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THEIR COMMUNITY

GUIDING QUESTION

Give examples of the Israelites women who contributed to their community.

DEBORAH

She served as a judge and prophetess at the time when the Israelites were threatened.

ESTHER

She pleaded to the king to reject the killing of Jews.

Hannah,

She dedicated her own Son Samuel for the service of God.

Judith

She killed the King Holofernes who was oppressing the Israelites (Judith 12:13)

Miriam,

She was a prophetess

Woman of Tekoa

She convinced King David to forgive his son Absalom (2samuel 14:1-24)

Ruth

She was a very hardworking woman in her community

NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ON GENDER EQUALITY

GUIDING QUESTION

How did Jesus` life and teachings reconcile the differences between men and women?

- He went to prepare rooms in Heaven for both men and women.



ASIIMWE MOSES

- He promised the Holy Spirit to both men and women to guide them in their day to day life.
- Jesus catered for the physical and spiritual needs of both men and women e.g. he healed the blind beggar and crippled woman in the synagogue on the Sabbath.
- Jesus loved both men and women, rich and poor, adult and young equally without discrimination.
- Jesus befriended both men and women e.g. he loved Mary, Martha and Lazarus as friends and this helped him to get close to the ordinary persons.
- Jesus appreciated the role of women during his ministry e.g. he appreciated the woman who anointed him with expensive perfume and the woman's offering in the synagogue.
- He interacted with both men and women e.g. He had a special talk with the Samaritan woman, Nicodemus and Zaccheaus.
- He preached the gospel to both men and women during his ministry.
- He raised both men and women from the dead e.g. Jairus' daughter, Lazarus and the widows son.
- Jesus taught that men and women shall face final judgment regardless of sex and status.
- Jesus' resurrection and ascension to heaven brought hope to both men and women.
- Jesus died for the sins of both men and women.
- He forgave both men and women e.g. those who crucified Him, those who opposed him and adulterous woman were forgiven by Jesus.

ASSIGNMENT

1a) Explain how education has put both boys and girls at the same level in Uganda today?

b) In what ways has the society benefited from the improved status of women?

2a) What are the changing roles of women in Uganda today?

b) What Biblical teaching can help boys and girls regard themselves as equal?

3a) Give reasons for the changing roles between men and women in Uganda.

b) Using the Bible knowledge, show that man and woman are meant to be equal.