

# STANDARD HIGH SCHOOL ZZANA

## S.3 CRE 223 NOTES 2020

### Instructions.

- **Read and write these notes please**

#### FAMILY LIFE

A family is a basic human community or unit of a society where members are born, loved and brought up.

It can also mean a social group of people consisting of parent(s) and their child or children together with some relatives.

It refers to the smallest human community or group where members live together as one. It is a group of people relating or interacting with one another as they live together.

#### ROLES OR FUNCTIONS OF THE FAMILY

- The family transmits life through producing children. This ensures that there is continuity in life.
- The family helps to preserve wealth such as land, houses and money for its members who may acquire them through inheritance.
- The family provides basic needs like food, shelter and education. This helps to improve the standard of living of the members.
- It is in the family where the members are provided with love and the affection they need.
- The family helps in transmitting values such as respect, discipline and humility which are important while relating with others in the community. This helps to create harmony in the community.
- The family introduces its members of firm religious beliefs and practices. This is important in the spiritual growth of the members.
- The family provides guidance and counselling to the members. This helps to direct the members towards living a better life.
- The family helps in creating unity in the social especially as different families are related to one another. This helps to bring about peace and stability in a community.
- The family helps to cater for the sexual needs of the members especially that of the parents.
- The family is a source of revenue to the government through paying taxes. This helps the government to provide social services like education and health.
- The family helps in protection of its own name and keeping secrets of the members. This helps to make the members fit among others without fear.
- The family works for the best of its members. This may contribute to the well-being of the members in terms of finance and other basic needs.

#### Guiding Question:

- Qn.1. **Explain the importance of family as a basic unit of a community.**



## TYPES OF FAMILIES

A family can be divided into various types using two major criteria. It can be based on the size or the number of people making up the family and on the headship.

Families can be categorized according to size:

1. Nuclear family.
2. Extended family.

### **Nuclear family**

This is a family of the parents and their biological children.

In other words, a nuclear family is where there is a married couple and their children only.

### **ADVANTAGES OF ANUCLEAR FAMILY**

1. The family members are well catered for in terms of basic needs like food and shelter.
2. It is possible for the family head to save income since the few members may not require a lot of expenditure.
3. It is easier to discipline the children in the family since they are all coming from the same parents.
4. There are better standards of living in a nuclear family. The few members can have access to quality facilities like accommodation and medical care.
5. Tension and pressure on the head of the family is reduced since he or she is dealing with a few members.
6. The family secrets are easily kept within the circle. This is important in protecting the image of the family.
7. The family is more stable. It is possible that the members can easily understand one another since they are basically the same.
8. It is easier to make decisions within the family i.e. the parents can easily agree on a common stand.

### **DISADVANTAGES OF A NUCLEAR FAMILY**

1. There is inadequate labour force in the family especially where parents are always in their places of work. This means that the domestic duties may be done with difficulties.
2. It is highly possible that the children may become selfish in future. This is because they are not used to sharing.
3. The family members may live in isolation from the rest of their relatives. This brings about loneliness.
4. The children are left on their own especially in the case of working parents. This exposes the young ones to a lot of risks like watching pornographic materials.
5. It may be difficult for the members to defend themselves in case of outside conflict or attack.

6. The cultures of the society may be difficult to be imparted onto the children especially if the parents are always busy.
7. In case of serious disagreement, it may be difficult for the family members to solve their conflicts without external assistance.
8. The children are easily cut off from the reality outside the family. This may make the children to be social misfits in the society.
9. It is possible that the problem of incest may occur if the children are not known by their relatives.
10. In the event of death, the family can easily be wiped out since all the members stay in the same house.
11. The parents are most likely to live a lonely life in the future especially as the children begin to live independent lives.

### **Extended family**

This is a family consisting of parents, their biological children and other relatives.

An extended family consists of a large number of dependents in one homestead.

### **ADVANTAGES OF AN EXTENDED FAMILY**

1. There is enough labour force in the family. This is because of a large number of dependents staying under the same roof.
2. It is easier to transmit the cultures of the society to the young ones. This can be done by grandparents who are always present at home.
3. It gives time for the parents to do their outside duties with ease and without any worry about how the children are at home.
4. It creates a sense of identity, solidarity and co-operation among the members of the community.
5. It allows interaction with other parents. This is important in promoting unity and love in the community.
6. The family can easily defend the members in case of any threat from outside. This is because of the many members living in the same house.
7. It helps in promoting strict discipline. This is because of the upbringing of the children in a collective responsibility.
8. It is easier to console and give comfort to the family members in case of the problems like death.
9. There is enough company given to each other with the family since they are many in number.
10. It tests the administrative ability of the head of the family. If the members can stay in harmony, then it means that the family head is a good administrator.

### **DISADVANTAGES OF AN EXTENDED FAMILY**

1. It is expensive to maintain the family members in terms of food. This discourages savings on the side of the head of the family.

2. It is difficult to make fast decisions in the family. The husband and the wife may have to consult the dependents before coming out with a decision.
3. Accommodation may be inadequate especially when they are too many relatives around. This means that privacy is lacking in such a family.
4. There is a lot of pressure on the head of the family in trying to cater for the needs of the different relatives.
5. The family secrets are easily exposed to other people outside the family. This may lead to loss of respect of the family.
6. Conflict or disagreement is common in an extended family. This is because the many people may fail to reach an agreement easily over a small issue.
7. There can be cases of indiscipline within the family. This is because it may be difficult for the head of the family to control the big population effectively.
8. The standards of living is generally poor in an extended family. This is because there may be too much pressure on the family facilities.
9. There is a problem of incest likely to occur in an extended family. This may be by allowing the distant relatives to share the same rooms.

### **REASONS TO EXPLAIN THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF EXTENDED FAMILY**

1. The influence of a strong cultural belief especially by the old people. The grandparents are interested in preserving the African cultures of all the relatives living together as a family.
2. Extended family is made to exist by the poverty level in another family. The relatives come in to assist because of the poor conditions in such a family.
3. Death has death it possible for extended families to continue existing. Another family is forced to give a hand to the relatives especially after losing the one responsible for providing the needs of the family members.
4. Extended family has continued to exist due to old age. The grand parents are always taken care of by their own children.
5. Some people take extended family as a source of prestige especially showing off that they can cater for all their relatives.
6. The working pattern today has supported extended families. The parents are always away from home thereby forcing them to bring their relatives to help them look after their children.
7. It is being supported by religious influence. This is especially the need to promote love and one family as emphasized by some Christian teachings.
8. In some cases, poor health has helped to ensure that extended families exist. The sick is always taken care of by their own relatives.
9. Extended family has continued to exist because of unemployment. Those without jobs are sometimes forced to stay with their relatives as they look for something to do.

## CATEGORIES OF FAMILIES

A family can be categorized in two ways basing on the headship;

- Matrilineal
- Patrilineal

### **MATRILINEAL FAMILY**

This is a family type headed by a wife or woman. In other words, it is a family where a woman takes care of the family affairs.

#### **CHARACTERISTICS OR FEATURES OF A MATRILINEAL FAMILY**

1. All the family property belongs to the woman or the wife and therefore she is the one to decide on how they should be used.
2. Authority in the family is shared between the wife and the husband before making decisions.
3. The woman or the wife is given more respect than the man or husband. This is because of the woman's role of providing for the family members.
4. Both the boys and the girls have the same rights when it comes to inheriting the family property like land and houses.
5. The family is always monogamous. The man can only stick to the wife and he has no right of bringing in another wife.
6. It is possible that the wife can discipline the husband. This can be through denying him food or denying him a bed.
7. It is the wife responsible for the provision of the family needs including food and accommodation among others.
8. There can be only a wife and a husband in the family as the woman cannot accept a co-wife.
9. The woman tends to marry a young man in order for her to have full control of him.
10. A woman tends to stay with a number of relatives from her side. This is always intended to give her protection.

### **PATRILINEAL FAMILY**

This is a family where a man or husband is the one heading the household.

#### **CHARACTERISTICS OR FEATURES OF PATRILINEAL FAMILY**

1. All the family property belongs to the man or husband and therefore he is the one to decide on how they should be used.
2. The husband is the final authority in the family. His decisions and the words are final and never questionable.
3. It is mostly the sons who have the right to inherit the family property especially land and houses.
4. It is possible for man to marry more than one wife as the woman has no say over the number of wives he should marry.

5. The man or husband is more respected than the woman or wife. The family members tend to listen to the man more than the woman.
6. The husband is the one officially responsible for providing the family needs like food and accommodation.
7. The husband has the right to discipline the wife in a way he feels like. This can be by rebuking her.
8. The relatives of both the husband and the wife can live together in the family.

### **CHANGING PATTERNS OF FAMILY LIFE IN AFRICA TODAY**

Many people prefer to have nuclear families. This is due to the bad economic situations like poverty and unemployment which cannot support extended family.

The parents prefer to have a few children whom they can cater for fully in terms of basic needs like food, accommodation and education.

Some people live single lives within a family. Different reasons can explain this including religious influence like being a priest or a Nun or health problems.

There is individualism in the family. The family members tend to live in isolation in respect to sources of entertainment and social ways of life.

The education of the children in a family is a responsibility of mostly the family members only. It is the family members to impart values like respect and obedience. The community is excluded from having a say in the upbringing of the children.

Men prefer to marry only a wife to form a family. Factors like poverty, women emancipation and Christian teaching can explain these new developments.

The family tends to employ others commonly referred to as house maids to do most of the domestic work like cooking, cleaning the house and washing the cloth. This is brought about by the working patterns where parents tend to be away in most of the time.

There is an increasing level of family instability. This is being caused by poverty, marital unfaithfulness and religious differences among others.

Intermarriages are common in African families today. The members have the freedom to marry from any tribe or race.

There is a wide generation gap. The parents and the children tend to lead different ways of life. Therefore, there is little understanding of the ways each group leads their lives.

Single parenthood is common in modern families. The family can have only one parent who may be a mother or father. A number of factors including death, domestic violence and divorce are responsible for this new trend.

All children in the family have equal rights especially to education, protection and the family property including land and houses.

The equality of all members in the family is emphasized and practiced. This is brought about by the Christian teaching of everybody being created in God's image and the woman emancipation.

There is also a changing pattern in family roles such as providing the family needs cooking food and cleaning the house. These roles are being shared by everyone in the family.

## **GENERATION GAP**

A generation refers to all people within the same age brackets. Therefore, the phrase "generation gap" refers to the differences between various age brackets especially between the young and the old.

The members in the same age brackets tend to understand each other better and share a lot of information.

The old and the young tend to put their ages into consideration in their social and economic ways of life.

## **CAUSES OF GENERATION GAP IN THE FAMILY**

The following are the causes of generation gap in modern African families.

1. The working patterns keep the parents away from home most of the time. This means that the children are left to grow on their own and mostly in the hands of house maids,
2. Some parents are conservatives (do not want change). They insist on doing things as they were during their old days. However, life keeps changing and therefore, their ways of life may prove to be irrelevant to the young.
3. The emphasis of children's rights is increasingly making it difficult for the parents to have full control over the affairs of their own children. This has tended to cause misunderstanding between the parent and the children.
4. Some parents are irresponsible to the point that they fail to provide for the needs of their children such as education and cloth among other. Because of this, their children grow to hate them.
5. Some parents ignore the views of their children. In such a case, the children feel neglected and develop an attitude of being less considered when it comes to making decisions.
6. The education system tends to cause generation gap. Among others, it keeps the children away from home most of the times and above all makes the children develop the "I know more attitude" and as a result, despise their parents.
7. Differences in the level of income are also causing generation gap. The adult who are always having much income compared to the young tend to lead different social and economic lives. This may create an impression on the children that their parents are not concerned about their welfare.



8. The permissiveness of our society today is responsible for generation gap. Because of the assumed freedom, some children think that they should do whatever they want regardless of their parents' views. However, the parents feel that they need to guide their children. This tends to bring them conflict.
9. The free media today has ended up causing generation gap. Some of the programs on television stations and in the newspapers, tend to draw a line between the parents and children. The waves of soaps common today in the television stations like "Don't mess with an angel", "Second chance" and "The two of us" etc. from the western world have tended to cause friction between the parents and the children.
10. The influence of the western culture is also responsible for the generation gap. Some parents leave their children to live independently at an early stage.
11. Peer influence is responsible for the generation gap. The children tend to listen more to their agemates than their parents.
12. Loss of African cultural values cause generation gap. Unlike in traditional Africa, some parents ignore their children. Besides, some children are indiscipline to the disappointment of their parents.

**PROBLEMS IN MODERN African FAMILIES  
(CAUSES OF FAMILY INSTABILITY OR RESONS FOR FAMILY BREAKAGES)**

The following are the problems in modern families. It is these very problems which are responsible for family instability and breakdown.

1. There is poverty within the families today. Many families are failing to provide basic needs adequately including food, accommodation and clothing. This has always resulted into poor standards of living.
2. Domestic violence is common in some families. The family members tend to beat or fight each other. This has always had disastrous ending bodily injuries and death among others.
3. There are cases of indiscipline among the children. The problem is made grave as the parents put blame on each other.
4. Some families have the problem of bustard children. This has always caused conflicts in between the parents especially as they tend to disagree on how to treat the bustard child or children.
5. There is also the problem of barrenness or infertility. The failure of one of the parents to produce tends to push the partner to misbehaving on contrary to their marital vows.
6. Some families are affected by alcoholism. The over drinking has always caused fighting and above all making it difficult for the family to cater for the basic needs.
7. There also cases of diseases especially the incurable ones like sickle cells and AIDS. This tends to lead to increased expenditure and misunderstanding especially as the members tend to blame each other.
8. Anti-social behavior like witchcraft exists in some families. It is associated with problems like fighting, bodily harms and death.



9. Some families suffer from the negative influence of the in - laws. Such people tend to give ill advise either against the husband or the wife. This has always resulted into domestic violence.
10. There are also cases of marital unfaithfulness, adultery and prostitution. This causes quarrels and fighting with some members killing each other.
11. There is a problem of generation gap in the families. The parents and the children tend to lead conflicting ways of life.
12. There are also political differences in the families. Multi – party politics tends to divide basing on the different parties.
13. Religious differences as a result of mixed marriages are evident in some families. The members are divided basing on religious lines.
14. Failure to satisfy the sexual desires especially that of the parents. This is responsible for marital unfaithfulness which in turn causes conflicts and fights.
15. Drug abuse like taking marijuana has always caused conflicts and violence in some families.
16. Parental negligence is a problem in some families. The children are left to fend for themselves. This is why some children abandon their homes and become thieves.
17. There are also cases of cultural clashes in some families with mixed marriages. It becomes difficult for family members to agree on a particular cultural aspect.
18. Individualism and selfishness in some families is a big problem. This brings about lack of sharing and it causes hatred among others.

### **Guiding Questions**

**Qn.1. Explain the problems common in modern families today.**

**Qn.2. Give reasons to explain why some families break today.**

**Qn.3. Explain the causes of family instability in your community.**

**Qn.4. How can the problems in the families be minimized?**

- Adequate courtship.
- Guidance and counselling.
- Engaging in income generation projects.
- Respect for each other’s unique personality.
- Strict laws against domestic violence.

### **PROBLEMS BEING CAUSED BY HIV AND AIDS IN MODERN FAMILIES**

- Poverty
- Discrimination
- Orphanage
- Divorce
- Poor health
- Suicide or death
- Family neglect
- Marital unfaithfulness

- Single violence
- Witchcraft
- Alcoholism
- Unemployment



## **HOW THE CHURCH IS HELPING FAMILIES WITH PROBLEMS**

- Providing health services at a fair price. This helps to improve on the health of the members.
- Providing employment opportunities to the family members as teachers and doctors.
- Providing homes for disadvantaged family members like orphans. For example, Watoto children's Home and Sanyu Babies Home.
- Acting as agents of forgiveness and reconciliation in the event of conflicts.
- Putting up income generating projects like through Centenary Bank, loans are provided.
- Providing basic needs like education and accommodation.
- Providing guidance and counseling services.
- Protecting marriage relationships by encouraging faithfulness and love.
- Providing education services through schools and sponsoring some family members especially the young ones.
- Formation and running of associations like mother's Unions which helps them through giving advice on how to run their families.
- Preaching the equality of every person.

## **FAMILY LIFE IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY (Understanding characteristics and patterns of the family)**

1. The family was extended in nature. The membership included the parents, their children and the relatives like uncles and grandparents. This is because of the communal way of life.
2. The man was the head of the family. The family authority and decision making rested in his hands.
3. Roles in the family were divided according to sex and age. The men had roles like hunting and digging while women mostly domestic duties like cooking, taking care of the children and collecting firewood. The children as well had different duties from the adults.
4. The children were very important in a family. They provided labour, wealth and ensured the continuity of the family line among others.
5. The education of the children was a community responsibility. Everyone had the responsibility of enforcing discipline among the children.
6. All the children in the family belonged to the man. He had his final say over the children.
7. Discipline was very strict. The children were taught morals and how to behave and relate with others. Respect in particular was highly emphasized.
8. Marriage was compulsory for every grownup member of the family. The family members put every possible effort to prepare their young ones for marriage.

9. There was the practice of inheriting widows. A woman married in that family belonged to all and therefore she could easily be taken over by another man in the family upon the death of the husband.
10. Inheritance of the family property like land and cattle was from the father's line. It was only meant for the sons. The belief was that the gifts would get married to another family.
11. The men were allowed to marry more than one wife. This ensured that many children were produced and it was a source of prestige among others.
12. Each family had a common burial ground. This was a sign to show the departed were still members of the family.
13. Each family had a shrine from which they could perform their religious rituals like offering sacrifices to the ancestors for purposes like receiving blessings.
14. Initiation rites were common in African communities. There were puberty rites to show that one was soon becoming an adult. These included circumcisions among the Bagisu.
15. Men were superior to women. The women were expected to be submissive to all the men in the family.
16. The family was built on a permanent basis. In case of any disagreement, the members were brought together on a round table in order to avoid the family from splitting.

### **Revision Questions**

**Qn.1. Explain the family life relationship in African Traditional Society.**

**Qn.2. What was the understanding of a family in African past?**

**Qn.3. Explain the characteristics of a family in traditional Africa.**

### **PROBLEMS COMMON IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL FAMILIES**

1. Women held the inferior status and were to be submissive to the men in the family. Their views were less considered in the family.
2. Domestic violence was a problem in some families. This was mostly against the women. It had associated problems such as bodily injuries and death.
3. Food taboos existed in African families. Women were forbidden from eating certain types of food such as chicken, eggs and liver.
4. Widow inheritance was a common practice that proved to be a problem. A woman could be forcefully taken over by the male relative of the deceased husband.
5. Divorce was another problem in some African families. Although it was not easily accepted, men were allowed to send their wives away without giving them the chance of defending themselves.
6. Poverty was also common in African families. In such cases, members lacked the basic requirement in life such as food. This rendered the family members vulnerable to diseases because of malnutrition.
7. Forced marriage was recognized and accepted in African families. This meant that such families were not built on love but. This was responsible for the later conflicts in marriages.

8. Early marriages existed in many traditional African families. Both boys and girls engaged in marriage affairs at early ages. This subjected such young couples to the burden of caring for their families at tender ages.
9. Diseases such as malaria, typhoid, small pox etc., caused suffering in African families. Many members had to lose their dear lives because of lack of proper treatment.
10. Marital unfaithfulness like adultery caused misunderstanding among the family members. To make it worse, it was only women who were punished for involving in adulterous practices. This gave men the opportunity to be unfaithful to wives.
11. Witchcraft was common in African families. The witchcraft took the form of poisoning food and casting evil eyes among others. This was responsible problems like death, conflicts and fighting.
12. There was witch hunting in some families. This was attributed to the belief that anything bad such as death and barrenness to happen had some one behind it. Thus, the innocent were victimized.

### **THE IMPORTANCE OF CHILDREN IN AN AFRICAN FAMILY**

The children played important roles in African traditional families. It was for this reason that a marriage without children was regarded useless.

The children prolonged to life span of the family. As the adult members continued to die, the children were left to continue with the family business. Therefore, producing insured against old age and death.

The children provided labour for the family. They were assigned lighter duties like grazing animals and cleaning the compound for boys and cooking food and fetching water for the girls.

Children were a source of security against external threats. The boys were trained how to defend the family from any intruder be it human beings or wild animals.

The children provided wealth to the family. The boys could bring wealth through cultivating crops and the girls contributed the family wealth through bride price wealth such as cattle and goats among others.

Producing children proved that the married couples were normal. Childlessness was an illness and an abnormality.

The children gave status to their parents in the community. Such parents were respected and could be given community responsibilities like leadership.

Children stabilized the family. Parents with disagreements or conflicts could easily forgive and reconcile because of their children.

Children expanded the bond of kinship. The people in the community are made relatives through marriage of their children.

The children provided and brought happiness to the family members. The parents were always happy to see their children play around in the compound.

The children gave company to their parents. This was especially to the mothers who were always left at home as the fathers were away on duties like hunting.

The children were taken as a source of blessings from the ancestors. This showed that the parents were in good terms with the ancestors.

The children were the heirs to the family. They were there to inherit and take over the family property in the events of old age and death of the parents.

The children provided the comfort and satisfaction to their parents. The parents were easily consoled in case of family wrangles.

The children cemented the love between their parents. The love for a woman kept on growing as she continued to produce children especially boys.

The children linked the living and the living dead. The dead were remembered through their children and others by their names being given to the new born.

### **Revision Questions**

- Qn.1. Explain the importance of children in African traditional families.**  
**Qn.2. Why was a childless marriage regarded as useless in African traditional family?**

### **THE EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA (VALUES PASSED ON TO THE CHILDREN)**

1. The children were taught to respect the elderly people. They had to respond to the parents with humility. They were also forbidden from calling their parents by real names. In Buganda, a father was referred to as “taata” and a mother “maama”.
2. The children were taught how to do domestic duties like cleaning the compound or cooking food. The boys were taught by their fathers and the girls by their mothers.
3. The children were taught the heart of sharing. This was based on the communal way of intended to help them avoid being selfish in the future.
4. The children were taught the names of the family, the clan and their language. This was to help them identify themselves and relate with other members of the community.
5. The children were taught to be self-reliant and to be creative. This was aimed at helping the children to be independent in the future.
6. The children were taught about their environment. They had to know and identify the names of the different trees and grasses some of which were used as medicine.
7. The children were taught the values of sex. Sex was shown as something holy. It was an adult duty and therefore emphasis was put on protecting and preserving one’s virginity till marriage.

8. The children were taught how to welcome visitors. They had to welcome them with smiles, respect and kneel down while greeting.
9. The children were taught to live as a community. Work like cultivation and harvesting were jointly done.

### **HOW THE CHILDREN WERE EDUCATED IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA.**

The following explains below the ways or methods through which the children were taught in African Traditional Society.

- (i) The children were instructed to imitate or copy the work of the adult. This could help to introduce them slowly into doing that particular task.
- (ii) The children were rewarded for anything well done. Praises or prizes were given intended to make the children keep up in the same direction.
- (iii) Punishments were also given for any wrong doing with the aim of eliminating the bad behavior shown.
- (iv) The Africans used proverbs in the teaching of the children. These were wise sayings with hidden meanings. Such sayings were always followed up without questions.
- (v) The Africans used riddles in educating their children. This involved asking questions or making incomplete statements that required quick response. This was intended to sharpen the thinking ability of the children and to keep them alert.
- (vi) Africans used plays or drama to educate their children. Such plays were intended to bring out real life situations in the community as the children grew and were like meet them.
- (vii) The Africans used stories to teach their children. The stories were related to particular events in the life history of the people. They were intended to link the past and the present in order to predict the future.
- (viii) The Africans used myths to educate their children. They were beliefs which were not proved either to be true or false but were carefully developed to help in the teaching and learning. This was with special reference to the community events.
- (ix) The Africans used threats in teaching their children. The children were made to believe that if they could behave in a certain bad way, something bad could equally happen to them.



## **FAMILY LIFE IN CHURCH HISTORY**

### **The Early Days of Christianity**

The following were the main teachings about family life in the early days Christianity.

This was immediately after the ascension of Jesus Christ.

- The married couples were called upon to love and give respect to each other in their family relationship.
- Emphasis was put upon monogamy in the family. The man was expected to marry only one wife.
- The Christians were encouraged to make their families permanent and live in unity with one another.
- The Christian families could marry the pagans. They believed that it was possible for the believers to change the non-believers into followers of Christ.
- They encouraged the family members to be faithful. Therefore, immoral behavior like prostitution was discouraged.
- There was no fixed marriage ceremony in the family that every member was expected to follow.

### **The Middle Age and after reformation**

The period was marked by great changes in respect to family life and married relationship.

It became possible for a person to remain single in a family. The people started practicing celibacy for the sake of the gospel of Christ.

Prostitution became common in the family set up. This meant that the family members became unfaithful.

Marriage laws came to be written down. These were intended to protect the family relationship from breaking up.

Re-marriage was accepted as something normal. It was possible for a family member to get married elsewhere after separation with another family.

The Christians came to look at marriage as a sacrament and something holy for them to achieve salvation.

## **MISSIONARIES AND AFRICAN FAMILIES IN THE 19th AND 20th CENTURY**

The coming of missionaries in Africa brought a number of changes in the family relationship as explained below;

- ✍ The missionaries introduced a nuclear type of family as opposed to extended type of the family Africans were used to.
- ✍ The missionaries encouraged some family members to live single for the sake of the gospel of Christ. They were the people they called the priests, brothers and sisters.

- ✍ The missionaries called for equality of all family members saying that they were created in God's image. This opposed the superior status of men over women in an African family setup.
- ✍ The missionaries took over the education of children. They built schools where the children had to go for formal education. This meant that the community played little role in the education of their children.
- ✍ The missionaries encouraged the widow to live on their own or choose to marry elsewhere. This was opposed due to inheritance of widows in an African family setup.
- ✍ The missionaries put emphasis on monogamy as the ideal type of marriage in the family. They said that this was because God created only a woman and a man to start up a family.
- ✍ The missionaries encouraged love and respect of each and every family member.
- ✍ They encouraged freedom of choice of marriage partners. This opposed the African traditional life where parents had a role of choosing for their children marriage partners.
- ✍ The missionaries encouraged their family relationship to be permanent as opposed to cases where divorce or separation could be allowed in African families.
- ✍ The missionaries discouraged bride wealth in African families. They looked at it as buying women into marriage.
- ✍ They encouraged family members to be prayerful. They had to come together as one family and communicate to God.

### **Revision Questions**

**Qn.1. Explain the changes that the missionaries introduced in African traditional families.**

**Qn.2. How did the families respond to the family life relationship in Africa?**

### **THE OLD TESTAMENT TEACHING ABOUT FAMILY LIFE**

By creating human beings both male and female, God instituted family life relationship.

Equality in the family is emphasized. God created both the human beings as male in his likeness.

Sex is a divine gift between a man and a woman in the family for God created human being with unique sexual features.

By commanding the man and the woman to multiply and fill the world, God intended that children had to be produced in the family.

Monogamy is the ideal type of marriage in the family. God created the human beings as a male and a female.

In the family, the man and a woman are dependent on God. He provided some grains for Adam and Eve to eat for their survival.

The man and the woman were companion in the family. This was shown by the loneliness that Adam suffered before the creation of Eve.

The man and woman were complete in the presence of each other. Adam felt that he could not do much without Eve.

In the family, the man and the woman were expected to live in joy and harmony. This was proved by the happiness that Adam felt when God created a woman out of his rib and brought her to him.

It was right for a man to leave his father and mother and get united to his wife. This meant that unity is called for in a family.

Children were a sign of blessings in a family for God blessed Abraham and Sarah with their first borne.

Jealousy in the family caused instability. In the family experience of Elkanah, his wife Peninnah became jealous of her co – wife Hannah who was loved despite her barrenness (1 Samuel 1:1ff).

Among the Israelites, the children were expected to respect their parents so that they would live together (Exodus 20:11). God later rejected the two sons of priest Eli because they had disrespected their father (1 Samuel 2:35-36).

God echoed the role of parents in the upbringing of their children. He urged the Israelites were to teach their children the Ten commandments and about their history (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

The Israelites were instructed to bring up their children properly as one way of fulfilling their parental obligations.

The children were called upon to listen to their parents. God punished the sons of Eli for their failure to listen to the advice of their father.

The parents were expected to discipline their children. Eli was rejected as a priest because of his failure to discipline his two sons.

Barrenness in the family was a curse. Hannah – the infertile wife was bitter that she was unable to produce a child of her own.

The family was expected to be a centre for the children’s education. The parents had to teach their children social and moral values (proverbs 22:15).

The basis of family relationship was both extended and nuclear. Abraham stayed together with his family and his nephew Lot.

Marriage within a family was expected to be permanent (Malachi 3:13-26).

## THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ABOUT FAMILY

Jesus Christ encouraged the family members to stay permanently in their relationship. He said “what God has put together no man has the right to separate”. (Mark 10:9).

Jesus encouraged the parents to respect the unique personality of their children. At the age, twelve he challenged his parents as to why they had to look for him yet he was doing his father’s work (Luke 2:49ff).

Jesus said that all the righteous belonged to the family of God. He said that such people would live with God in his Kingdom (Mark 3:31-36).

Jesus encouraged reconciliation and forgiveness among the family members. He gave the example of the prodigal son whose father gave him a warm welcome after he had spent all the shares of his riches but which made his brother unhappy (Luke 15:11-32).

Jesus advised the family members to live in joy and be happy like a joyful mother who has given birth (John 16:21).

Jesus said that it is right for a man to leave his father and mother and get united to his wife (Mark 10:5-6).

Jesus encouraged the family members to look onto him in times of their troubles or hardship.

Each family member was encouraged to fulfill his or her duties in order to satisfy the needs of others (1 Corinthians 7:2-5).

Husbands and wives were advised to love each other creatively and unselfishly. St. Paul emphasized that the body of woman belongs to a man and that of a man belongs to a woman.

Saint Paul advised the parents to make their children happy all the time. They should not be annoyed with them (1 Corinthians 3:12).

On the other hand, Saint Paul advised the children to obey their parents. He said that obeying the parents pleases God (I Corinthians 3:20).

Saint Paul advised the family member to obey the state. He pointed that God is the giver of authority (Romans 13:1-7).

Jesus encouraged the parents to treat their children equally. He emphasized that they are all the same since they belong to the same parents.

Jesus called upon the parents to tolerate the behavior of their children and guide them accordingly.

Jesus showed the children of how they have to help their parents with domestic duties. He showed this by helping his father Joseph with carpentry work.

Jesus advised the parents to discipline their children using their God - given authority.



Parents were encouraged to teach their children moral values of the society like honesty, love and humility among others.

Jesus encouraged the parents to be responsible for the welfare of their children. He advised them to fulfill their obligations or responsibilities.

Widows in families are to be given respect and comfort they need (1 Timothy 5:3-16).

Saint Paul advised the wives to be submissive to their husbands in order to change their personalities.

The family members are advised to be united to each other just like Christ is united to the church.

### **Revision Questions**

**Qn.1. Explain Jesus' teaching on the ideal family relationship.**

**Qn.2. Wat is the New Testament teaching about family life?**

## **SEX DIFFERENCES AND THE PERSON**

The word “sex” can be defined in two ways which can either be as a gender or as a ritual or practice.

As a gender sex refers to being a male or female. This is masculinity and femininity of an organism. The distinction in the human characteristics takes into consideration whether the individual is a man or a woman.

Sex also refers to the intercourse between male and female reproductive organs. This definition looks at the physical interaction of male and female sexual organs. This is the conjugal relationship.

## **SEX DIFFERENCES IN THE PRESENT SITUATION**

In the present situation, emphasis is being put on equal treatment of each other and everyone. There are areas and practices to show that all people are being treated as equal.

### **EQUALITY BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN**

1. Today men and women are sharing the same jobs. There are men as well as women who are doctors, teachers and accountants among others.
2. There is equality of everyone before the law. Everyone is protected by the law according to the Uganda constitution (1995).
3. Both men and women are heading families. They provide the needs of their families such as education, food and medical care.
4. There is active participation of both men and women in the political affairs of the country. Everybody has a right to vote or to be voted for as long as he or she is above 18 years.
5. Women and men are taking active participation in the economic sector like paying taxes and establishing businesses.
6. Domestic duties such as cooking food and cleaning the house are shared.
7. Women now days have the right to demand for divorce in an event of domestic violence.
8. The family property like houses belongs to every member. The children be it sons or daughters have equal rights to the family property.
9. There is equal access to education and it is now a right to everyone. With the introduction of universal primary and secondary education, all children are entitled to go to schools.
10. Both male and female are entitled to government protection during the times of stability and instability.
11. Children in the family belong to both the husband and the wife unlike in traditional Africa where the man claimed the ownership of children.
12. Today women play active roles in the church as leaders just as men. In the Anglican church, women are ordained as reverends.
13. Both women and men are protected by the government from anything that puts their lives in danger.

14. Emphasis is put on monogamy as ideal type of marriage. The church is taking a leading role in this direction.

### **INEQUALITY BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE SEXES TOADY**

Although the idea of gender balance or equality is the talk of today, there are instances where sex inequality is still evident;

1. Roles in some families are still assigned according to sex. For example, cooking food mainly done by women and cleaning the compound by men.
2. Some women still feel that men are the sole provider of their needs being it basic or luxurious. Therefore, such women sit back and wait for their husbands to do everything for them.
3. Polygamy still exists in some families. To some men, it is prestigious reasons while others think that it is traditional rights to marry as many wives as they can.
4. Battering of women (terrible beating) is till common today. Men have repeatedly beaten women as a way of disciplining them.
5. Inheritance of widows is still practiced in some communities. Such women are denied the chance of making independent choices after the death of their husbands.
6. Sexual abuses like rape are common against the women. This means that there are some men having the thinking that women are there to satisfy their sexual desires at any time they feel.
7. Women are still denied the chance of inheriting the property of their parents in the event of old age and death. Property such as land, houses and vehicles are given to sons only at the expense of girls.
8. There are some professions which are seen to be more fitting and specific to a particular sex. For example, being a secretary is taken to be feminine and being an engineer is seen as better for men.
9. In some religions, sex differences still exist. Men and women pray separately in the Islamic faith and in the Catholic church, only the men are ordained priests.
10. The government is putting a lot emphasis on the girl -child. For example, girls are awarded 1.5 points when joining universities.
11. Some parents still force their daughters into marriages. This is done with selfish aim and agreed for wealth like cows and money.
12. Men are still dominant in the politics. The electorate tends to give their votes mostly to the men because they think that they are the best suited for it.
13. The continued existence of bride price undermines the position of women. It tends to subject them to mistreatment.
14. Women are still divorced by their husbands unnecessarily. The majority of these women are not given the opportunity to resist the divorce.
15. Some men still claim the ownership of children. They think that the children belong to them and therefore expect their wives to respect what they say about them.
16. In some places, the cultural activities still favour men. The women are expected to be submissive to the men and give them due respect.



## **THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT IN PROMOTING EQUALITY OR LIFTING THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

The government is taking the following measures in order to uplift the status of women:

1. The Uganda government is keen on observing the international women's day. On every 8<sup>th</sup> of March, an annual celebration is held to recognize the achievements of women today.
2. The government of Uganda has given full support to Women's Organizations such as Organizations of Women's Effort to Support Orphans (OWESO), Action for Development of Women (ACFODE), FIDA and others.
3. There are strict laws to protect women's rights against abuses like domestic violence, defilement and rape which is punishable by imprisonment of not less than 7 years.
4. The government has put emphasis on girl – child education. The girl – child is given 1.5 points when joining the public universities such as Makerere, Gulu, Busitema and Mbarara among others. This is aimed at increasing literacy level among the women in order for them to be independent.
5. The Uganda government has always emphasized seminars, workshops and conferences. This is done with the aim of sensitizing the public about the rights and the constitution of women in development.
6. The Uganda government has also created women's post at all levels of leadership. Among others, there are special seats for women in parliament and local councils.
7. The government established a whole ministry, which is responsible for ensuring equality between the two sexes. For example, the ministry of gender, labour and social development.
8. The government has further encouraged and given full support to the adult community education for women. This aims at giving basic skills to the women so that they can earn a living without depending on men entirely.
9. The government has always put special emphasis on recruitment of women for jobs. This is to help them earn some wage or salary and help transform the position of women from doing domestic duties to doing public duties.
10. The government has taken the initiative to empower women economically by giving loans. It has also gone ahead to advise women to use the loans to set up projects that are income generating.
11. Employed women are given leave before and after giving birth. This allows them to recover from the period of difficulties during pregnancy and enable them have time with the new born.

## **THE EFFORT OF THE CHURCH IN UPLIFTING WOMEN'S STATUS**

1. The church has always preached equality of all. Everyone is encouraged to treat the other in the same way showing that all are equal before God.
2. The church is encouraging the education of the girl – child. This is by offering sponsorship and having schools which are only for the girls like Rubaga girls

- secondary school and St. Joseph's Girls' Nsambya. This can help the girl – child to live independent lives in the future.
3. The church has recognized women's leadership roles. In the Anglican church, where women are ordained as reverends.
  4. The church regularly organizes workshops, seminars and conferences at national and international levels. This is aimed at sensitizing the masses about the need to recognize the rights of women among other issues.
  5. The church encourages monogamy as the ideal type of marriage as opposed to polygamy where women are exploited.
  6. There are some women organizations set up and supported by the church to help uplift women's status. Among others, mothers Unions, Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) have been instrumental giving some basic skills and training to the women in order for them to earn a living.
  7. Women are being appointed as headmistresses in church founded education institutions.
  8. The church has also setup or funded some projects in its effort to uplift women's status. Some of these projects extend assistance to the women in the form of loans.
  9. The church provides guidance and counselling services to women and even to men. This has been an eye opener to the people to realise and understand that all human beings are equal.
  10. The church gives physical assistance like shelter and food to the disadvantaged women like the widows and the poor.
  11. The church has always organized workshops, conferences and seminars. On such occasions, the roles of women are discussed in order to sensitize the public about the rights of the women.
  12. The church has always established income generating projects like poultry keeping hence helping women with a source of living.

### **Revision questions**

**Qn.1. Explain the contributions of the church in uplifting of the status of women.**

**Qn.2. What role is the church playing in the emancipation of women.**

## **THE WOMEN EMANCIPATION (LIBERATION MOVEMENT)**

Women's emancipation movement is an effort to raise or recognize the rights of women in the masculine dominated society.

It is the attempt by the women to free themselves from all aspects of oppression and exploitation by the men in the different spheres of life.

This emancipation movement has its root from the western countries. It aims at uplifting the status of women such that they may realise their full human rights.

### **REASONS FOR THE RISE OF THE WOMEN EMANCIPATION MOVEMENT**

There are historical reasons for the growth and development of this movement in Uganda and Africa as a whole. This movement insists that women must choose to behave, as they want without reference to and restrictions from their sexual partners.

1. Women are subjected to domestic violence in a form of beating among other. This has seen very many women lose their lives and others left with injuries.
2. Women are treated as an inferior and submissive group of people. Therefore, they are expected to respect men.
3. The men find and tend to marry many wives without due consideration of their feelings.
4. There is a tendency of under looking at the roles and contribution of the women in the development of the society.
5. Some men still believe that women are a source of misfortune in the community. They tend to associate women with bad things in the community.
6. The women have limited opportunities for employment. This leaves such women idle and therefore unable to live independently.
7. The women are given limited opportunities to participate in the politics of the community.
8. They suffer from lack of respect in marriages. They are constantly abused and insulted. It makes their lives difficult.
9. In some communities, widows are inherited after the death of their husbands. This makes it appear that such widows cannot decide on their own.
10. Most domestic duties are left in the hands of the women. These include cooking food, mopping, washing and the man simply looks as he waits to be served.
11. Some men look at women as sexual object and therefore they expect their sexual desires to be fulfilled according to their way.
12. The payment of bride wealth exposes women to a lot of exploitation including beating.
13. Women are still being divorced against their will and yet the men feel they cannot be divorced by the women.
14. Women still have limited opportunities for education as compared to men. This explains why a greater number of women are illiterate.

15. Some men are still taking themselves as the natural heads of a family. In such a case, the women are treated as submissive.
16. Some men claim the ownership of children. In such a case, the women are denied the right over their children.

### **ACHIEVEMENTS OF WOMEN EMANCIPATION MOVEMENT**

The women liberation movement has registered some achievements. This is especially based on the changing roles and status of women today. In particular, women have been able to realise some freedom as a result this struggle and are, therefore, enjoying their full rights as summarized below.

1. Women have been able to acquire equal opportunities for public employment and are therefore, having the chance to earn a wage or suffering. This has transformed the role of women from doing domestic work to public duties.
2. Women nowadays have the right to terminate marriage. In other words, women are now free to bring their marriage relationship to an end without interference.
3. There is also freedom on food. Women can now eat any type of food including fish, chicken, eggs, pork, etc. which they were being denied before the emancipation movement.
4. Women nowadays have the freedom to own the property. They also have the freedom to inherit property from their parents.
5. Women nowadays have the right to determine their choices of marriage. Parental interferences are now reducing. This has given the women the right to determine whom and when to marry.
6. Women also have some rights over their children. The laws in Uganda emphasizes that children belong to all parents and that a child must not leave the mother before it is above seven years.
7. There has been a change in the attitude towards the girl child. All children are nowadays treated in same way.
8. On the religious front, women have scored highly. Some are being ordained as reverends in the Protestant church. The Catholic has also promoted sisterhood.
9. There has also been the recognition of women in the political fields. Women now Have the right to vote, to be voted for and also make important decisions in the society.
10. Women nowadays have the freedom to engage in business. This has resulted into a number of women becoming economically powerful. This has enabled them to support themselves in all ways.
11. There is equal access to education by both boys and girls. In other words, the education system treats both boys and girls equally.
12. Women nowadays have some say over bride price. They can now determine how much to be paid. In some cases, the women or even the pride contributes part of the bride price.

13. In some cultures, women are cultural leaders like queens, princesses and head of clans among others.
14. Women also have some sex rights. They can now determine whether to engage in sex or not. Because of this, they are no longer seen as sex objects whose work is to produce and take care of the family.

### **WHAT CAN BE DONE TO IMPROVE ON THE POSITION OF WOMEN**

1. Discouraging or eliminating some cultural practices which undermine the status of women in the society. For example, the payment of bride wealth and female genital mutilation (F.G.M).
2. Giving respect to and acknowledging the contribution of women in development of the society.
3. Encouraging or supporting women groups in order for them to be independent.
4. Women should be encouraged to be confident and regard themselves as important and as equal to men.
5. Priority should be given to the education of the girl child. This can promote literacy among the women.
6. Priority should be given to the employment of women. This becomes a source of income to the women and therefore a step towards living independent lives.
7. Women should maintain self-respect. This can make others particularly the men to respect them as well.
8. There should be strict laws to guard the rights of women and in case of any violation, severe punishment should be given.
9. Women should be appointed as leaders in a community. This helps other women to be fully protected from any kind of exploitation.
10. Giving soft loans to women. This can make the women to become economically independent.
11. Training women in the same way everyone expects to be treated. This can help to bring about respect and a positive attitude towards women.
12. Organizing workshops, conferences and seminars with the aim of sensitizing the public about the rights of women.
13. The women should be encouraged to speak out their minds in public without fear or intimidation.

### **SEX EDUCATION IN THE PRESENT SITUATION**

There are great changes in the way sex education is conducted today. It is no longer considered an affair of the community. Below is how sex education is being carried.

1. Some parents still play great roles in teaching children sexual issues. Though some have failed, it has always been in the interest of most parents that children have to serve good manners while relating to their sexual behaviors.
2. Close relatives like uncles, aunts, brothers, sisters and grandparents are also involved in imparting sex education on to the young ones.



3. The churches are equally involved in sex education today. Very often, the church teaches partners preparing for wedding about good sexual behaviors in their marriage lives. The church also points out that sex is a divine gift from God during the process of preaching. This eventually creates sexual awareness among the youth.
4. Peer influence is also an avenue through which sexual awareness is created among the youth today. These are people of the same age group. It is a very common practice among the peers to engage in sexual stories. This gives the chance for the others to learn about sexual matters.
5. Some subjects in schools like Biology and Christian Religious Education are playing great roles in sex education. The contents of these subjects are sex oriented. This creates sex awareness.
6. In some community, cultural practices such as circumcision are still being held. These practices create sexual awareness among the young ones at an early age.
7. Sex awareness today is caused by the various television programs, which are related to sexual issues. For example, western soaps common in television stations today are much treasured by the youth because of their captivating sex related issues.
8. Sex education is also being conducted through various radio programs. Radio stations are always carrying out talk shows related to sexual matters. Among others, Capital FM is famous for its programs such as Capital Doctor on every Tuesday at night, Late Date that begins from 9:00pm daily.
9. Some written literature like novels and magazines has information related to sex. This is the main source of information about sex among the youth.
10. Some drama shows are also responsible for creating sexual awareness today. The acted stories tend to expose a lot of facts on sex.
11. Songs, both at the local and at the international levels contain a lot of information about sex. Emphasis is put on finding love, loneliness and disappointment.

### **PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH SEX EDUCATION TODAY**

Although sex education is an important aspect in the life of the community, there are a number of problems associated with it. This has made conducting sex education very difficult. These problems include;

1. Some parents are too irresponsible. They have left the education of children to schools only. Such parents falsely believe that everything including sex education is to be taught in the school.
2. Decline in African cultural values have also made it difficult for sex education to be conducted. To the young ones, cultural practices like circumcision common among the Bagishu are considered out of date. Because of this attitude, they pay no attention. This is a hindrance in educating the population about sexual issues.
3. The popular belief that “practice makes perfect” or “you learn by doing” especially among the youth makes it difficult for the sex educators to do their work. People with this belief tend to put in practice whatever they have learnt. This creates the fear of being agents of immorality among the educators.



4. The influence the mass media is also a problem to the running of sex education. This media contains pornographic materials, which the youth are more attracted to. Because of this the learners cannot listen to the educators. In Uganda, newspapers such as the Red Pepper, straight Talk, Bukedde, and some films like “Blue movies” contain information that hinders the process of sex education.
5. Some young ones tend to be influenced by their peers about sexual matters. Such youth do not listen to and respect advises from their elders.
6. Some educators have inadequate knowledge about sex education. Such people teach sexual issues that are not relevant to the learners.
7. The youth today claim to be more educated than their elders. Such youth have a feeling that the “educated” elders cannot guide them. Because of this “I know more attitude,” the youth tends to minimize the roles of sex educators.
8. The existing generation gap between parents and their children in another great problem in sex education. The youth think that their parents’ ideas are old fashioned and cannot therefore listen to them.
9. Some sex educators are too shy to discuss sexual matters. Such people may even try avoid coming face-to-face with the learners in the process of their discussions. This renders the whole process less effective.
10. Some youth are too materialistic. They can easily offer themselves for luxuries with false belief of survival. Even when they attend sex education, they tend to ignore the teaching.
11. Sex education has also been commercialized. Most of the educators are influenced by the ability of the learners to pay some money. This has denied the poor learners the chance of being educated. The educators are also driven by the need for money, but not helping the learners.
12. Redundancy by most youth renders them adaptive to situations that encourage premarital sex. This may be done with the false belief of being occupied.
13. Permissiveness also makes the process of sex education less effective. This mostly affects the youth who tend to behave in whatever they could imagine because of the assumed freedom.
14. The youth have become vulgar and obscene. This makes them indisciplined to follow what they are being taught.
15. Some parents think that their children know about sex thus they ignore educating them. This deprives them of the opportunity to learn something about sex.
16. There is a problem of inadequate knowledge about sex issues by some of the educators especially the youth. This makes them give wrong information to the children.

### **SEX DIFFERENCES IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA.**

In traditional Africa sex was an important aspect of social life. This was reflected in the daily activities of the community. There profound evidence to show that sex differences existed in the traditional African way of life as shown below;





1. Men and women had different roles to perform. Women were assigned lighter roles like cooking, digging and collecting firewood. However, men had roles such as grazing animals and cleaning the compound.
2. Women were considered inferior to men. They had to be submissive to the men. For example, they were required to kneel when greeting men as a sign of respect.
3. Men dominated the affairs of the community. Making decision rested entirely in the hands of men.
4. Some women were associated with misfortune and bad omen like childlessness. A man could even abandon his duty or journey if he could meet a woman as the first person his way because of fearing bad results.
5. Men had the right to have as many wives as they wished without considering the feelings of the wives already at home.
6. The family property such as land, cows and goats belonged to the man. For this matter, the sons were the ones to inherit such property upon the death of the father.
7. Women were subjected to food taboos. Certain food stuff like chicken, eggs and liver were reserved for men only.
8. In many African cultures, children belonged to the man. In the event of separation, she could leave all children with their father.
9. A man was compensated if his wife was caught in adultery. However, if the man could be caught in the same act, his wife was instead blamed for her failure to satisfy the husband sexually.
10. Men were permitted to initiate divorce against the will of their wives. However, the women were denied this chance even when they were being mistreated.
11. Women were traded for items like cows, goats and chicken in meeting the requirement for bride wealth. To make it worse, men remained masters over this wealth to decide the fate of the women who were always given a smaller share.
12. The men were the natural heads of families. Women just like children were required to obey and follow their decisions.
13. Approaches to sexual issues such as virginity was only stressed to the girls. If a girl was found to have lost her virginity, she was seen to be immoral without due consideration of the man she could have had sex with.
14. Domestic violence like beating, affected mostly the women. Some men could beat up the women as a way of disciplining them.
15. In some African community, people were less troubled by the murder of a woman. However, greater concern was shown towards the murder of a man.
16. There was the practice of inheriting widows. This made it appear that the women could not make independent decisions about their marriage lives.
17. In some cultures, men preferred producing boys to girls especially as their first born. Much love was extended to the woman giving birth to boys.
18. Men and women ate separately. In some cultures, women, girls and the uncircumcised boys had separate fire and pot for cooking. At times, their foods came from separate gardens.

19. Women were looked at as sex objects. A woman was not supposed to show any tendency of sickness or inability if the husband could demand for sexual intercourse. However, the woman had no right to demand for it if the husband was not interested.

### **SEX IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA.**

1. In African Traditional Society, sex education was an affair of the whole community. The parents in some cases, played a relatively passive role.
2. It was done to majority by the elderly members in the community including the aunts, the uncles and the grandparents.
3. Sex education was also aimed at preparing the children as future adults and marital roles.
4. The girls were taught by their aunts on how to look after themselves and how to care for their husbands in their future marriages.
5. The boys were taught by the uncles on how to handle their wives especially in a polygamous marriage.
6. The education was conducted at the puberty and adolescent stages. It was aimed at preparing the children for their future marriage relationship.
7. Sex education was deep-rooted in the roles to be performed by a particular sex as male and female. Therefore, roles were assigned according to sex.
8. The girls were taught domestic duties such as peeling, fetching water and cooking. The boys taught duties including gathering food, grazing animals and building huts.
9. The girls were exposed to motherly experiences like menstruation, child birth and breastfeeding.
10. Sex was taught to be sacred (holy) and only meant for the adults mostly done at night when everyone was sleeping. Pre-marital sex was, therefore highly punishable.
11. The privacy of sex was highly upheld. Individuals were taught to respect and safeguard their sexual parts through being told to sit well, to cover them and not to call them using their real names. Among the Luo, the sexual organ is referred to as “Nyim” meaning the front part, in Buganda it is referred to as “Akasolo” meaning the small animal.
12. The values of virginity were emphasized and respected particularly among the girls. In some cultures, there could be a return of bride price if after marriage the girl was found to have lost her virginity. Among the Banyankole, a coin with a hole or an empty match box could be sent to the girl’s parents as a way of informing them about the loss of the virginity of their daughter. The aunt was there after expected some fine in the form of a goat for her failure to teach the girl public manners. Where the girl was virgin, the aunt was rewarded.
13. In some cultures, sexual rituals were performed. Among the Bagishu, the boys were circumcised to show that they were ready for adult life.
14. The boys and girls were exposed to sexual taboos. Having sex during such periods as menstruation and morning was forbidden.

15. The boys and girls were taught to play separately. This was aimed at preventing sexual temptations.
16. The girls and the boys were also made to sleep in separate rooms. This was to avoid the possibility of incest.
17. In some cultures, the aunt was a witness to the first sexual intercourse between the newly marriage couples. The aunt could sleep under the bed and listen attentively. If any of the two partners could fail to perform the expected duty, the aunt had the responsibility of giving the practical lessons.

### **HOW SEX EDUCATION WAS CARRIED OUT IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY**

- Assigning different roles to boys and girls.
- Through sexual rituals like circumcision.
- Using threats. The girls were threatened that climbing trees could lead to the death of their mothers.
- Separating the boys and girls during playing times or while sleeping.
- Through traditional dances some of which were specific to a particular sex and reflected courtship, kindness and tolerance.
- Through stories which were related to sexual issues.
- Through punishment especially on grounds of sexual abuses.
- Through rewards especially after behaving in a desired sexual way.
- Through superstition connected to sex.
- Through proverbs.
- Through riddles.
- Through games like wrestling.

### **SEX DIFFERENCES AND THE PERSON IN CHURCH HISTORY (WITH EMPHASIS ON AFRICA)**

Before the introduction of Christianity in Africa, the behavior of the people was shaped by their sexes. These, however, started declining on the arrival of the missionaries as discussed below.

1. The missionaries taught that the human beings are equal. They emphasized that both male and female were created in God's image.
2. The church encouraged education of the girl child by constructing schools including Gayaza High School.
3. The women were trained with some basic skills in life like knitting in order for them to fend on their own.
4. The church showed that the under privileged were normal and important human being by building schools for the deaf, the blind and the dumb.

5. Some of the women were trained to offer services to the general public. For example, Hana Kageye of western Uganda was trained as a teacher in the Anglican church. She was in charge of teaching women and children.
6. The missionaries encouraged monogamy among the Africans as opposed to polygamy which only favored men.
7. The missionaries discouraged inheritance of widows. They emphasized that such women could make independent choices.
8. Among the Anglicans, the women were ordained as reverends and were therefore important in the ministry of the church.
9. The women were encouraged to take up key positions in the church and participate in its activities like choir.
10. The church involved a number of women in the work of preaching the gospel. The Roman Catholic ordained girls as Nuns commonly known as sisters. This was an ideal aspiration for the equality since it recognized the role of women as leaders in the church.

### **Revision questions.**

**Qn.1. Explain the response of the missionaries to the sex inequality in Africa.**

### **EXAMPLES OF AFRICAN LEADERS TRAINED BY THE MISSIONARIES**

#### **1. HANA KAGEYE**

- Hana Kageye was a widow of the chief of Toro in western Uganda. She became a Christian in 1896.
- She was trained as a teacher in the Anglican church and assigned the responsibility of teaching women and children in Ankole and the neighboring kingdoms.
- She was later put in charge of the girls who were in boarding mission schools.
- She was responsible for teaching the girls some traditional crafts such as weaving baskets and making pots.

#### **2. YOHANA KITAGANA**

- He was a Catholic who worked in various parts of western Uganda.
- He lived a saintly life. He was always exemplary in his daily activities.
- He took care of the orphans by spending the little money he had on him.

### **SEX DISCRIMINATION IN CHURCH HISTORY**

Sex inequality existed in church history. The missionaries who came to Africa preached the equality of all with the reason that all were created in God's image.

1. The work of preaching was majorly for men and therefore no woman was expected to take part in such.
2. Missionary work was only for men. The men used the excuse of leaving to the women the responsibility of caring for homes.
3. In the Anglican church, it was tradition only for men to be enrolled in the church choir. Among the Catholic, the office of priesthood was strictly reserved for men.

4. Women were not given a chance to pray for the church congregation and not even for the families.
5. Men treated the women unfairly as though they did not deserve spiritual food.
6. Men also dominated fellowship in the earlier days of Christianity. Such gatherings were only seen to be fit for the men.
7. Among the Corinthians, the women were expected to wear veils before going to places of worship or in any public gathering.
8. Among the Corinthians, the men were allowed to divorce their wives and the woman left with no objection.
9. The women were expected to first confess their sins before the men could do so. In some cases, the women could confess their sins to the men who could in turn present their sins to God.
10. Men appeared to be highly considered as saints in the early days of Christianity. There were more male saints than the women.
11. The women were discriminated particularly during their menstruation. During such a period, they were made to stay away from others.

### **SEX DIFFERENCES AND THE PERSON IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

Many events in the books of Old Testament are revelations of God's plans for His creatures particularly the human beings. He cared about and expected them to respond to Him with faith.

1. God created the human beings both female and male in His own image at the same time. Therefore, this means that everyone is equal before God (Genesis 1:26).
2. God blessed human beings both male and female to multiply and fill the world. This means that both the man and the woman were pro-creators.
3. God gave everyone the control of the beings of the world. He commanded the human beings to bring the world under their control. This was a call for the man and woman to work together.
4. All human beings are dependent on God. God provided the first human beings with everything they needed to eat for their survival.
5. Human beings are companions. God realized that it was not good for a man to stay a lone. For this reason, he created a woman from the man's rib.
6. Human beings are complete in the presence of one another. This was the reason Adam felt lonely and incomplete before the creation of Eve.
7. God called for unity between man and a woman in marriage. He expected the man to leave his father and mother and gets united to his wife.
8. In the story of the fall of man, God punished both the man and woman for having disobeyed His command and eaten the forbidden fruit (Genesis 3:1ff).
9. God called Abraham to begin the salvation process of all human beings. In doing so, he intended to bring the fallen human beings nearer to Him (Genesis 12:1ff).
10. In the call of Moses, God showed that He was concerned that the Israelites were being treated harshly and cruelly by the Egyptians (Exodus 3:1ff).

11. God called upon all the Israelites to obey all His commands if they were to be blessed (Leviticus 19:19).
12. Besides, everyone in Israel had to worship only God in showing their obedience to Him. By doing so, they were to remain his children.
13. God urged all the Israelites to love their neighbors in showing love for Him. For this, God promised to continue loving them (Leviticus 19:18).
14. The Israelites were required to treat their slaves properly and with human dignity. Accordingly, they had to give them generously what the Lord had blessed them with (Deuteronomy 15:12-14).
15. In their later history, the Israelites were called upon to repent their sins in order for God to forgive them.

### **Revision Question.**

**Qn.1. Explain the Old Testament teaching on sex equality.**

**Qn.2. Show that both man and woman are equal in the Old Testament.**

**Qn.3. What evidence is there in the Old Testament to prove that all human beings are equal?**

### **SEX INEQUALITY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

Sex inequality existed in the Old Testament. The following examples show that there were clear distinctions made male and female.

- 1) In the story of the fall of man, the man put the blame of eating the forbidden fruit on the woman (Genesis 3:12).
- 2) Besides, the woman was made subject and submissive to man following the fall of man. Accordingly, she was to have a special desire for the man (Genesis 3:16).
- 3) The payment of bride wealth was accepted. Jacob was made to work for seven years in order to marry Rachel (Genesis 29:19-28).
- 4) Among the Israelites, a woman appeared to be part of a man's property. Accordingly, the Israelites were forbidden from admiring another man's property including his wife (Exodus 20:17).
- 5) Among the Jews, a man was allowed to write a letter of divorce and give it to the wife (Deuteronomy 24:1ff).
- 6) Some services like the military and the institution of priesthood were served only for men.
- 7) Among the Jews, a woman was deemed unclean for thirty-three days after giving birth to a son. However, she was unclean for sixty-six days after delivering a daughter (Leviticus 12:1-8).
- 8) There were cases of sexual immorality like rape and adultery among the Jews. King David committed adultery with Bathsheba who was married to Uriah (2 Samuel 11:1ff).
- 9) Only the men were subjected to forced labour. King Solomon drafted a total of 30,000 men into forced labour during the building of the Jerusalem temple.



- 10) Polygamy was practiced among the people of Israel. King Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines (1 Kings 11:1ff).
- 11) In a national census, only the men were counted among the people of Israel. This was done by king David who wanted the number of men who could be subjected to forced labour (2 Samuel 24:1-9).

### **THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ON SEX DIFFERENCES AND THE PERSON**

Jesus was born in the Jews society where inequality and discrimination characterized the people's ways of life. It was based on sex, possessions and ranks. However, Jesus' teachings and the way of life showed that all human beings are equal as seen below.

1. For the love of all human beings, God sent His only son in order to die for their sins so that everyone could achieve salvation (John 1:14-16).
2. He advised his follower to love one another as they love themselves. He showed that love is the foundation of all relationship. He went on to say that he was willing to sacrifice His own life (John 13:34-35).
3. Jesus advised his believers to believe in him so that they could be put right with God his father.
4. Jesus identified Himself to all the believers as the way, the truth and life for one to go to the father.
5. Jesus said that judgment would be for everybody. He pointed out that it would be based on one's relationship with his others and him.
6. Jesus called upon all the believers to treat each other with dignity whether slaves or not, they deserve better treatment.
7. According to Saint Paul, all human beings are sinners and have fallen sort of the God's glory.
8. Saint Paul urged the believers to be open to each other and forget about their individual differences (Philippians 2:3-5).
9. Jesus associated with both sexes during his ministry. He had male and female friends like Mary, Martha and Lazarus.
10. Jesus associated with those considered to be the outcasts (sinners) like Zacchaeus who was a tax collector.
11. Jesus defended those who were weak including the defenseless woman caught in adultery.
12. In his feeding miracles, Jesus showed the need for feasting together. He fed men as well as women after finishing His preaching.
13. Saint Paul called for unity among the believers. He said that unity in Jesus Christ is stronger than physical barrier (Galatians 3:27-28).
14. Jesus showed to his believers that everyone is equal in his father's kingdom. In doing so, He denied possession, status and ranks as being important and necessary in the heavenly kingdom.



15. Jesus conversed with the Samaritan woman. The Samaritans and the Jews hated each other but Jesus showed that racial discrimination was not necessary before God (John 4:1-10).
16. Jesus was friendly even to the women. He associated with Martha, Mary and their brother Lazarus as friends without discriminating against them (Luke 10:38-42 and John 11:1-5).
17. Jesus equally loved the children. He allowed them to play freely in His arm. In the Jewish society, children were not allowed to be with important and elderly people (Mark 10:13-15).
18. Jesus helped the leper to show His concern for the welfare of all mankind. The lepers in the Jewish society were considered outcasts and social misfits (Mark 1:40-45).
19. Jesus also allowed the sinful woman (the prostitute) to anoint and kiss him. Such sinful people were not allowed to be closer to the righteous, especially a person of Jesus' caliber (Mark 14:3).
20. Saint Paul urged the believers to love each other by the acts of mercy, kindness and forgiveness among other moral virtues (Romans 5:5ff).
21. Jesus' death and resurrection is a sign of hope and strength to both man and woman. Each of the two would receive salvation through His death and immediate resurrection (John 11:25).

### **Revision Questions**

**Qn.1. Show how the New Testament promotes the equality of all persons. Qn.2. How did Jesus show that all people are equal in the heavenly kingdom?**

## **COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE**

Courtship refers to a close or the intimate relationship between a man and a woman who are mutually attracted to each other with the intention of getting married.

It may also be used to mean the friendship developed between a man and woman attracted to each other.

In other words, courtship refers to the period of interaction between a man and a woman who are attracted to each other.

Today, many people refer to courtship as dating. This is characterized by constant visits, sharing of ideas and exchange of gifts among others.

Note should be taken that in courtship sex is not part of it especially in Christian and traditional setting.

On the other hand, marriage is a union of an adult male and female living together as husband and wife.

It can also mean an agreement between a man and a woman to live or stay together as husband and wife.

In other words, marriage is a long-life relationship established between a man and a woman as a husband and a wife.

### **MERITS OR IMPORTANCE OF COURTSHIP**

1. It gives time necessary for the partners to know each other properly before deciding to marry.
2. The man and the woman are able to discover each other's dislikes and likes. This enables the partners to appreciate their differences and accept one another the way they are.
3. It enables the partners to know the strength and weakness of one another. This makes it possible for one partner to accommodate the other's weaknesses.
4. It gives time necessary for the man and the woman to prepare for marriage in the future. They can use such a time for to put together the requirement necessary for their marriage including the bride price.
5. It enables the partners to make proper choices. This is because marriage is arrived after a long interaction.
6. It tests the love that each partner has got for another. This lays a strong foundation for a future stable marriage.
7. It helps the partners to adjust their behavior or character in order to accommodate the incoming behavior or character.
8. It gives the opportunity for the partners to grow into a mutual understanding and give respect to one another.
9. It enables the partners to know each other's character. This helps the partner to decide whether or not they can be together with the identified character in future.

10. Courtship helps to reveal the family background of each partner. This is in respect to their character and financial status among others.
11. It helps to guard against life crisis which may arise as a result of knowledge of the partner. This could be problems related to fertility. It is, therefore, easier to reconcile with each other in the future.
12. It allows each partner to introduce each other to the relatives. This enables the partners appreciate their family differences.
13. It enables the man and the woman to come together in order to establish a firm relationship in preparation of future life together.

### **DISADVANTAGES OF COURTSHIP**

1. It can easily lead to fornication especially if it is prolonged. Fornication has its own problems like unwanted pregnancy and acquisition of sexually transmitted diseases like AIDS.
2. It is possible that people with ill intentions can ruin the partners through rumors. This can easily bring their relationship to an abrupt end thus leaving the partners heartbroken.
3. It can make some youth to become rebellious towards their parents and their relatives. This is especially if such relatives disapprove their relationship.
4. It may not necessary lead the man and the woman into marriage. This is especially after one has realized the weaknesses of the other.
5. Some partners may be attracted to each other because of material benefits. Therefore, in the absence of such benefits like money, the relationship is most likely to come to an end.
6. It is possible that the partners may disagree in small issues as a result of being close to one another every now and then. This can lead to frustration.
7. It may lead to breaking of cultural values. Young people tend to choose their own partners independently.
8. It is also difficult for the young partners to find the ideal and suitable partner. Because of this, they may be forced to keep moving in search of a better relationship.
9. The love between a man and woman can easily be destroyed. If the courtship becomes too long, an impatient partner may lose interest in the relationship.
10. It may be difficult for each partner to identify whether or not the other one is true and committed to the relationship or simply pretending.

## **IMPORTANCE OF MARRIAGE**

1. Marriage fulfills God's plan for human kind. God commanded the first human beings to multiply and fill the world and this is only made possible through marriage.
2. It creates unity not only between the two families but in the whole society. This is brought about by the fact that the community members become related to each other.
3. It provides wealth to some families especially that of the girl. This is through payment of bride price which may include cattle, goats, furniture, money, etc.
4. It ensures that there is sexual satisfaction between the man and the woman. This helps to cement the love between the two.
5. In marriage, the man and the woman are able to give comfort and support especially in the times of stressful situations.
6. Marriage helps to give status to both the man and the woman in the society. The two can be recognized and respected as legally married people.
7. Marriage helps to control social evils including rape and defilement. This is especially true if the partners are faithful to each other and are able to satisfy their sexual urge.
8. Marriage shows that the man and the woman are more mature enough to make independent decisions and live an adult life.
9. Marriage breaks social barrier in the society like race and class differences. This is especially if the marriage is arrived at because of love.
10. Marriage shows that the man and the woman are responsible. The partners' agreement to come together as husband and wife means they are ready to fulfill their obligations.
11. It promotes the sense of belonging and identity between the man and the woman. The community can identify each partner as the wife and the husband of the other.
12. Marriage helps promote the cultures of a given society like the culture of keeping domestic animals like cattle. Such animals are the cultural requirements that have to be met as part of the bride wealth.
13. Marriage is a source of blessings to the man and woman. During the occasion, blessings are received from the community members and the religious leaders.

## **FACTORS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING A MARRIAGE PARTNER**

1. One should consider beauty involving the skin color, height and body size among others. This ensures that one is happy and satisfied with his or her choice.
2. The age of a person should be considered when choosing a marriage partner. It is better if one is relatively younger than the other.
3. Love should be considered. This forms the foundation of a strong and stable marriage for the partners in the future.
4. The health status of a person should be highly considered. One should choose someone with a better health status.
5. The cultural background of the two partners should be considered. There should be some similarities in their ways of life. This is important in creating harmony and understanding in the marriage.
6. One should also consider the family background. This can help the partners to assess whether they can easily fit in that particular family.

7. The financial status of a person should be considered. A partner should at least be in position to support the other by providing the basic needs like food and clothes.
8. One should consider the character of a person. Virtues like politeness, humility and honesty should form part of the partners' personality.
9. The profession of a person should also be considered. The jobs should give enough time to the partners to enjoy the presence of each other.
10. The level of education of the partners should relatively be the same. This helps to promote a better understanding and communication between the partners.

### **TYPES OF MARRIAGE**

There are three types of marriage:

- Customary or traditional marriage.
- Religious marriage.
- Civil or state marriage.

### **CUSTOMARY MARRIAGE**

This is a type of marriage which take place within the established customs of a given community.

In other words, it is a marriage arrangement where the customs or the cultures of a given community or a particular group of people are followed. This is a type of marriage common in an African setting.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF CUSTOMARY MARRIAGE**

1. The marriage is carried out following the customs or the cultures of a particular group of people.
2. The man intending to marry follows the cultures or the customs of the woman. This is because it is the family of the girl giving her a way to the family of the man in an official visit.
3. The marriage ceremony takes place at the ancestral home of the woman. The parents and the relatives of the man pay an official visit to the family of the girl pre-arranged. It is on this day that the woman is handed over officially.
4. It involves the payment of bride wealth and in some cases, exchange of gifts. This is where the family of the man moves along with some items including animals like cows, goats and beers and give them to the family of the girl.
5. In this marriage, the man hold a superior status and therefore, the head of the family.
6. The parents and the rest of the family members can choose the marriage partner or approve the choice made by their children.
7. The community members are involved in the marriage arrangement. They are involved through giving sex education to the children, contributing towards the payment of bride wealth or even making choices among others.

8. Virginity of the girl is valued and respected in this type of marriage. A girl found to be virgin earns respect for her family and an additional gift could be given in appreciation for her moral uprightness.
9. Marriage is between people of different clans. This is because people of the same clan are considered brothers and sisters.
10. In this marriage, polygamy is recognized, accepted and respected. A man is allowed to marry more than one wife depending on his ability to take care of them.
11. There are rituals performed during marriage ceremony. Such rituals include praying, dancing and eating food among others.
12. The marriage is associated with taboos particular to community. Among others, having sex during funeral rites is forbidden.
13. Widows are inherited in this marriage arrangement. This is based on the ground that a woman married to the family belongs to everyone. Therefore, upon the death of her husband, either the brother or uncle of the deceased is allowed to take the responsibility as the husband.
14. The marriage is built on a permanent basis. Therefore, the marriage is a life time affair.

### **ADVANTAGES OF CUSTOMARY MARRIAGE**

1. The marriage is relatively cheaper. Being a community affair, everybody contributes especially in the payment of bride wealth. This eases the tension associated with the payment of bride wealth.
2. It caters and provides solutions for unforeseen problems in marriages like infertility of the woman. This is because it allows polygamy.
3. It encourages and promotes sexual morality in marriage since virginity is highly valued and respected.
4. There is enough sex education given to the partners before and even after being joined together. This enables the partners to know their roles as husband and wife.
5. The marriage promotes the cultures of a particular group of people like keeping animals.
6. The marriage is long lasting since it is built on permanent basis. This enables the partners to enjoy their marriage relationship.
7. The marriage promotes unity not only between the two families but in the family community since everyone is expected to be part of it.
8. The marriage is more stable especially after the payment of bride wealth. This is also brought about by the continuous guidance given to the couple.
9. There is enough freedom given in this marriage since restrictions like religious differences are not considered.
10. This marriage is flexible. It gives room for polygamy and divorce in extreme cases like over beating of one of the partners.
11. This marriage considers that proper choice of a partner is made. The parents also are allowed either to choose or to approve the choices made by their children.

## **DISADVANTAGES OF CUSTOMARY MARRIAGE**

1. It tends to promote inequality in a marriage since the man is considered to be superior and the woman inferior and submissive.
2. It may be expensive especially when they over demand the bride wealth like money and domestic animals including cattle and goats. This may make the groom's family poorer.
3. The interest of the community appears to be more important than interest of the couples. This means that the couples may not enjoy their marriage relationship.
4. It is also possible that one can marry a wrong choice. This is because the parents are allowed either to choose or to approve the partners for their children.
5. A lot of time is spent before marriage arrangement. Many steps are involved like identifying the partners, informing the parents, waiting for the parent's approval and the sex education.
6. The marriage can easily break. This is because it gives room for divorce in cases like infertility and marital unfaithfulness.
7. There is no evidence or legal document like certificates to show that the man and woman are husband and wife.
8. It is possible that the marriage can be unstable especially where the marriage is polygamy. Conflict arising from disagreement between co-wives can easily disrupt the normal family life.
9. It limits the freedom of the wife. This can be after the death of the husband where she is supposed to be inherited by another man within the same family.
10. The marriage can be affected by evil traditional practices and beliefs like witchcrafts.

## **RELIGIOUS MARRIAGE**

This is a marriage arrangement where the religion or the faith of the couple is followed. It is a marriage conducted following the religious beliefs or practices of the couple.

## **CHARACTERISTICS OF RELIGIOUS MARRIAGE**

1. The marriage ceremony takes place in a church premise or building.
2. The marriage is presided over by the religious leaders like pastors, priests and the reverends.
3. There is exchange of matrimonial vows between the partners. They do promise to stay together as husband and wife permanently in all circumstances.
4. Monogamy is the ideal type of marriage recognized and accepted. The man must marry only one wife.
5. Certificates are given after the marriage. This is to prove that the man and woman are legal husband and wife. These certificates are signed by the couple, best man, matron and the religious leader.
6. The couples are supposed to be of the same religion and in some cases the same religious denomination.



7. The marriage ceremony is done before a group of believers or congregation. They are therefore witnesses to the marriage.
8. There is exchange of wedding rings during the marriage ceremony. These rings act as a physical sign that the couples are legally married.
9. The marriage intention is announced in the church for a given period of time say two or three months.
10. The marriage is built on a permanent basis. It is only death that can separate them.
11. The couples are treated as equal in the marriage since both are created in God's image.
12. The traditional or customary marriage is supposed to have been conducted before going to the church.

### **ADVANTAGES OF CHURCH MARRIAGE**

1. The marriage is relatively stable. This is because it is based on Christian values like love, humanity and faithfulness among others.
2. The marriage encourages and promotes equality between the husband and wife. This can enable the couples to enjoy their marriage life.
3. It enables a couple to give enough time for each other since it is one man and one woman in the marriage relationship.
4. The marriage is built on a permanent basis and therefore it lasts forever until death.
5. There is enough guidance and counseling before and after the marriage. The couples are required to attend counselling sessions in the church under the guidance of religious leader.
6. The marriage is more public. The congregation witnesses to the marriage ceremony.
7. This marriage is made more legal since certificates are given after to show that the two are husband and wife.
8. The couple receive blessings from God through the religious leaders. This means that the couples have a place in the heavenly kingdom.
9. It fulfils God's command of pro-creation. Through it, the couple can produce children in following God's command of multiplying and filling the world.
10. It checks against marital unfaithfulness like adultery and prostitution among others. This can make the marriage more enjoyable.
11. The couples are given enough respect by the community members as legal husband and wife.

### **DISADVANTAGES OF RELIGIOUS MARRIAGE**

1. The marriage is very expensive. A lot of money is spent during the preparation for the marriage ceremony. Requirements which should be bought include the clothes, cakes and rings among others.
2. The marriage restricts one's choice of a partner. This is because the couples are expected to be of the same religion or religious denomination.
3. Some couples are very shy and therefore it becomes very difficult for them to stand and make promises before the congregation.



4. It can make one become a slave in marriage. This is especially in the event of difficult moments like fighting, poverty and constant illness of the partner. This makes the life of a partner very difficult since the marriage is meant to be permanent.
5. The marriage takes a lot of time especially in its preparation. The couples are required to first get letters of approval from their parents and keep on going for marital guidance and counselling before the actual date for the marriage.
6. Some people who marry in church tend to undermine other forms of marriages.
7. Some unforeseen problems like infertility in marriage are likely to destabilize the couples in future.
8. Some people with ill-intentions can easily destroy the marriage. This is because the marriage intention is open to the public to give their views during announcement in the church.

### **CIVIL OR STATE MARRIAGE**

This is a marriage arrangement conducted following the law of the land as provided in the constitution of a given government.

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF CIVIL MARRIAGE**

1. It is presided over by an official government representative. In Uganda, it is either the Chief Administrative Officer or the Resident District Commissioner.
2. The intention of the marriage is displayed on a public notice board. This is to enable the public to give their views on whether or not the couples can go ahead and marry.
3. The couples are required to get letters of permission from their parents in order for them to marry.
4. The couples are required to get the letters of introduction from the local council leaders. This is to prove that they are the residents of where they claim to live.
5. Certificates are given after the marriage. This acts as a legal document to show that the man and woman are husband and wife.
6. It officially recognizes monogamy as the ideal type of marriage. The man is allowed to marry only a woman at a time.
7. It gives room for couples to divorce especially in extreme cases like over fighting and marital unfaithfulness.
8. Family property belongs to both the husband and the wife. This is because they have equal rights in their marriage relationship.

### **ADVANTAGES OF CIVIL OR STATE MARRIAGE**

1. The marriage is more legal. The certificates given by the government can prove that the two are husband and wife.
2. The marriage is flexible. Among others, it gives room for separation and divorce in case of continuous misunderstanding in the marriage.
3. The marriage saves a lot of time. It does not require a lot of preparation.



4. The marriage is relatively cheaper. Only the two can even present themselves before the government representatives during ceremony and besides it may not require expenses like hiring cars and the after parties.
5. The marriage is protected by the laws of the land. This enables the couples to enjoy their marital rights.
6. It reduces unnecessary interference before the parents and the relatives. This is because the couples are subject to the state.
7. There is freedom of choice in this marriage. One is free to choose from any religion, tribe and race as long as there is love.

### **DEMERITS OF CIVIL OR STATE MARRIAGE**

1. The marriage can be delayed especially if the government representatives are too busy with the state duties.
2. It is possible for the marriage to break easily since it gives room for separation and divorce.
3. The marriage can be destroyed by people with ill intentions. This is because the marriage intention is displayed on the public notice boards.
4. There can be cultural confusion in the family since the partners are allowed to marry from any culture.
5. The parents are denied their full rights over their children's marriage relationship. This means that the parents are detached from the affairs of their children.
6. There can also be religious confusion in the family since the partners are allowed to marry before any religion.
7. There is no marital guidance and counseling given to the partners. This may mean that the partners can easily make mistakes in their relationship.

### **MARRIAGE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION (Its Pattern, Characteristics and Understanding)**

This concerns the way in which courtship and marriage are being conducted today. It also takes into consideration the different views expressed by different people on courtship and marriage.

1. Courtship and marriage are considered personal affairs. The parents are no longer involved in choosing marriage partners for their children. The roles of other members of the community.
2. Courtship and marriage requires the consent of both partners involved. The two must agree if there is to be any progress in the courtship and marriage.
3. Monogamy is preferred as the ideal type of marriage. The men prefer to marry only a wife.
4. However, polygamy still exists in some communities. Some men tend to marry more than one wife especially in the Islamic faith.

5. Living single lives is respected and accepted as normal. It is fashionable to some people. However, some people live as singles because of their faith or religion. For example, the priests and the Nuns.
6. Equality between the husband and the wife is emphasized in a marriage relationship.
7. The marriage choices are made by the partners themselves. However, there are cases where friends are used to help in the choice of a partner. Besides, the parents still have some roles to play like giving advises on the choice made.
8. Intermarriages are common today. The man or the woman can choose to marry between any tribe and race among others.
9. Church marriage preferred to any other type of marriage including customary and state marriage.
10. Women are playing active roles in courtship and marriage. They can choose marriage partners and can as well contribute towards bride wealth.
11. Marriage is increasingly becoming an affair for the rich. Some people tend to organize expensive introduction and wedding ceremonies. Besides, some of the parents tend to over demand for bride price.
12. For the marriage relationship to be successful two partners must agree to stay together as husband and wife.
13. Divorce is common in marriages today. The man and woman are allowed to stop interacting as a husband wife caused by domestic violence and marital unfaithfulness among others.
14. Some couples tend to produce few children. This is attributed to the influence of modern education and the high cost of living.
15. There is a debate of abolishing bride wealth. It is urged that bride wealth enslaves the woman and it makes some men to undermine the women.
16. Some partners tend to engage in sex before marriage (fornication). This may be due to peer pressure and the influence of pornography among others.
17. Sex education is ignored in modern marriages. This is due to generation gap and the fear that some children may put into practice what they have been taught.
18. Cases of marital unfaithfulness like adultery and prostitution are common in some marriages. This is one of the causes of domestic violence.
19. The widows have freedom to decide on how they can lead their lives. Some may choose to remain single while others to marry a person of their own choices.

## **MONOGAMY**

It refers to a marriage arrangement where there is only a man and a woman relating and interacting as a husband and wife.

In this marriage, the man is committed to only a woman or a sexual partner. It is a form of marriage where there is a husband and a wife.

### **ADVANTAGES OF MONOGAMY**

1. The couples have enough time for each other. It is possible that the two to be there for each other at any time. This can help to cement and make their love to grow stronger.
2. The children are given enough parental care and love. This is because parents provide them with the needs like shelter, clothes and medical care.
3. It is easier to make decisions in a monogamous marriage. There being only two adults with authority, it is easier to consult one another.
4. It is easier to discipline the children in a monogamous marriage since they belong to the same mother and father.
5. it is possible that the couple can sexually satisfy one another. This helps to control the sexual behavior of both the husband and of the wife.
6. Monogamous marriage is relatively stable. The husband, the wife as well as the children can easily understand each other.
7. Monogamous marriage helps to control population pressure. The partners in this marriage tend to produce few children.
8. Monogamous marriage can be long-lasting and therefore can be permanent. This is especially if there is a better understanding and harmony between the husband and wife.
9. There is greater unity among the family members in a monogamous marriage. The members can easily realise that they are one and understand each other.
10. It is cheaper to maintain a monogamous marriage. This is in respect to the provision of the basic needs like food, clothes and medical care among others.
11. The members in a monogamous marriage can be in happiness, peace and harmony. It is possible that there can be understanding among the members.

### **DISADVANTAGES OF MONOGAMY**

1. There can be sexual starvation. This is especially on the side of the man in the events of the wife's pregnancy or immediately after the woman has given birth and during menstruation. This can push the man to have sex outside the marriage.
2. There can be limited labour force in such a marriage. This can be due to the few members.
3. It limits a great number of women from getting marriage. This can be a source of marriage instability elsewhere especially if the unmarried women can mess up with the married men.
4. It may not provide solution to the unforeseen problems in marriages like infertility of the woman. This can become a source of conflict in the marriage.



5. A monogamous marriage is easily threatened by external aggressions. The few members may not be able to defend themselves in case they are attacked by the outsiders.
6. It limits the expansion of the bound of kinship like having many relatives from different places.
7. It may be difficult to console each other especially during difficult moments like sickness and death among others. The few members can easily be taken up by the problems around.

## **POLYGAMY**

This is a marriage arrangement where a man is committed to more than a wife as their husband.

### **REASONS FOR POLYGAMOUS MARRIAGES TODAY**

Polygamy has continued to exist in the present situation because of the following reasons:

1. Inability or failure of the first wife to produce children yet the man desires to have children of his own. Such a man may be forced to bring in the second wife who can give him children.
2. Some religions encourage polygamous marriage. This is true with Islamic faith where a man is allowed to marry up to four wives.
3. Some men marry more than a wife because of the influence of their wealth like money and land. Such men are driven by the thinking that they can take care of their wives with the wealth available.
4. The desire for a man to be sexually satisfied can force him to marry more than a wife. This is especially if the first wife is sexually weak.
5. Some men marry more than a wife due to prolonged sickness or poor health of the first wife. This is especially if the wife cannot carry on with the family business properly because of the sickness.
6. To some men, polygamy is a source of prestige. They feel proud of it especially if they can provide for them all their needs. This is a case of men who feel that they are respected by the community because of what they are doing.
7. The cruelty or intolerable behavior of the first wife may force a man to bring another wife. Such men are driven into marrying the second wife because they are looking for peace and happiness in a marriage.
8. To some men, marrying more than a wife is a way of maintain and preserving African culture. According to an African marriage, polygamy is the preferred type to some men.
9. Some men are caught up with the thinking and feeling of having made the wrong choice by marrying the first wife. Such men can only be happy and feel satisfied after getting their desired choices.
10. Some men think that they would have alternative sex of children after marrying another wife. This is especially if the first wife would have been producing either only boys or girls.

11. Some men are influenced by their peers to marry more than a wife. Such is a case with a man whose friends are having more than a wife. For him to fit among the friends, he is forced to be exactly like them so that there would be some understanding.
12. To some men, their first wives may become too old and unattractive. Therefore, for them to be joyful in their marriages, they end up bringing another one.
13. Unwanted pregnancy is also responsible for polygamy today. This is closely connected to having illegal sex outside the marriage resulting into unplanned pregnancy. A responsible man is obliged to accept the fact to the point of bringing the woman as his wife.

### **ADVANTAGES OF POLYGAMY**

1. It ensures that the husband is sexually satisfied especially if one wife is weak sexually or in the event of pregnancy and during menstruation. This can make the man to be faithful in his marriage.
2. It ensures that there is abundant labour force in the family. This is through producing children by the wives thereby easing work.
3. It gives chance for a greater number of women to get married. This can result into marriage stability especially if all the women are married.
4. It promotes the African culture of producing many children in a marriage relationship.
5. The members are able to defend themselves in case of any outside aggression.
6. It ensures that the bond of kinship is promoted. Many people become related and this can promote harmony in the society.
7. The many members in the family can easily console each other especially during difficult moments like death.
8. It provides solutions to unforeseen marital problems like the infertility of the woman.

### **DISADVANTAGES OF POLYGAMY**

1. The women in the marriage may be starved sexually as they have to wait to be served by the same man. This may lead to marital unfaithfulness especially adultery.
2. There is disunity in a polygamous marriage. The children tend to follow and give respect only on their real mothers.
3. It is always difficult to make decisions by the head of the family. The wives may fail to agree easily on a particular issue. This leaves some problems may be left unsolved. Consequently, it may lead to family instability.
4. It is expensive or costly to maintain a polygamous marriage. This is in respect to provision of basic needs including food and shelter among others.
5. It is also difficult for the husband to divide hi love equally to his wives and their children. This can be a source of conflict in the family.



6. The marriage is always affected by anti-social behavior especially the practice of witchcraft. This has always resulted into the feeling of insecurity with some of them becoming mad or losing their lives.
7. The children in a polygamous family can be indisciplined. It becomes difficult for the man to control the children and make them behave like one people especially if they tend to side with their mothers.
8. Polygamous marriage is against God's original plan for marriage. By God creating only a man and woman, God initiated monogamy as the ideal type of marriage.
9. A polygamous marriage is associated with a of domestic violence. The wives tend to fight each other and so do the children. This has always caused bodily injuries and death.
10. This marriage usually ends up in divorce especially if many wives cannot agree with each other.
11. It is also difficult to distribute and share the family resources equally to the wives and children. This can cause jealousy and envy which may lead into quarrels and fights.
12. The children in a polygamous marriage can easily be ignored especially by the father. This can lead to hatred towards the father and disrespect in the family.

### **FORNICATION**

This refers to the sexual intercourse between a man and a woman before marriage. It is having sex before getting married.

### **CAUSES OF FORNICATION**

1. Peer pressure can lead to fornication. This is especially if all the friends are involved in such an act. Therefore, for one to fit in the group, he or she is forced to behave in the same way.
2. Others have sex before marriage because of curiosity. They are driven by the desire to discover the secret behind sexual intercourse especially after being told.
3. Poor dressing code can lure a person into having sex before marriage. Dressings like mini-skirts, "see-me-through" and body tight among others are so revealing that they can arouse the sexual feeling of people.
4. Some people are forced into sex before marriage so that they can protect. They think that having sex with another can keep them permanently in the relationship.
5. Fornication is caused by the thought of trying to prove love the partners have for each other.
6. Fornication is caused by the influence of pornographic materials like blue movies. Such materials tend to create the desire for having sexual intercourse.
7. Some people are influenced by the presence of contraceptives like pills and condoms. They feel protected from sexually related problems like unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases including AIDS.
8. Some people have a high libido (sexual drive). This tends to force them into sexual intercourse.

9. Some people have the attitude that practice makes perfect or that they can learn by doing. For them, it is only by engaging in sexual intercourse that they can gain experience needed in their future marriage.
10. To some people, sex before marriage is a way of testing one's fertility for future use in marriage.
11. Inadequate sex education can cause fornication. In this case, it becomes normal for such people to engage in sex because of ignorance.
12. It can also be caused by permissiveness. Too much freedom can be misused for having sexual intercourse.
13. Some people with such strong desires for material things like money can easily be taken advantage of especially if such materials are availed to them through sexual intercourse.

### **DANGERS OR PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH FORNICATION**

1. It is highly possible that it can result into unwanted pregnancy with its associated problems like abortion.
2. It exposes the person to the risk of acquiring sexually transmitted diseases including HIV/AIDS and gonorrhea. This can leave a person in a state of poor health and consequently, he or she might not be able to do his normal routines.
3. It can lead to parental rejection especially if the parents have disapproved that behavior. Such a person may not be able to cater for his or needs properly.
4. It is sinful before God. This is because it is against the divine intention for sex which ought to be for pro-creation, mutual love and comfort.
5. It can make one lose respect and self-dignity in the community. This makes a person to become a social misfit.
6. It can make one to become a second-hand partner in future marriage. Such a person may not be able to enjoy his or her marriage and this can become a source of conflict.
7. It is also possible that one may not be settle down as husband and wife in the future. As a result, a person is only used as a tool for having sexual intercourse.
8. There can be misunderstanding between the partners especially as one fails to satisfy the needs of the other. This is one of the root causes of violence in a such a relationship.
9. It can lead to school drop outs of young children. This may leave them in a state of illiteracy and inability to cater for their needs in the future.
10. It leads to loss of virginity in young boys and girls. This may leave a traumatic experience on such young children. This may create fear of the opposite sex.
11. It can lead to imprisonment. This is especially after having sex with the under aged.

### **DIVORCE AND MARRIAGE INSTABILTY**

Divorce refers to a legal termination of a marriage relationship between the husband and the wife.

In other words, it is legal dissolution of marriage where the husband and the wife stop interacting as it was before.



In short, divorce means bringing a marriage relationship to an end.

Divorce is different from separation because the relationship is permanently dissolved. However, separation is a temporary break up in a marriage relationship and therefore, it gives room for reconciliation.

### **CAUSES OF DIVORCE**

The following are the causes of divorce or marriage instability in the present situation.

1. Poverty causes divorce. It makes difficult for the couples to provide the basic needs including shelter, food thus leading to poor standards of living.
2. Domestic violence is responsible for divorce today. Such kind of violence is associated with problems like bodily injuries and sometimes death. Therefore, in a situation where one cannot contain it anymore, the two are forced part ways.
3. Excessive drinking of alcohol can cause divorce. Drinking excessively leaves a person sickly, makes one a social misfit and some become violent and thus a danger to one's partner.
4. Parental interference or negative influence of the relatives from either side can result into divorce. Such in-laws keep on criticizing either the husband or wife and if one of the two can take side with the relatives, the marriage is deemed to fail.
5. It is caused by marital unfaithfulness in the form of adultery and prostitution. This makes a partner to feel betrayed especially if he or she has been committed to the marriage.
6. Barrenness or childlessness causes divorce. This is especially if one partner desires to have a child of his or her own but the other cannot give. This makes such a partner to begin looking ways to have a child or children outside the marriage. This situation is made worse if the partners begin blaming each other.
7. Having bastard children in a marriage can cause divorce. It is possible that the couples can easily disagree when it comes to the discipline of the bastard. Above all a partner can decide to ignore the child while providing for other biological children to the disappointment of the other. This becomes a source of conflict in the marriage.
8. Divorce is being caused by the advanced technology and the use of mass media including internet with the social network like Facebook and twitter. Besides, the use of cell phones is ruining many marriages. Some form of communication through such networks is destructive to marriages.
9. Political differences can also cause divorce. The couples get divided a long side their political parties. This can cause quarrels and misunderstanding with the result being divorced.
10. Differences in the level of education can lead the couples into a divorce. It tends to create barrier in the level of communication between the couple. It is possible that a partner can undermine the other.
11. The emancipation of women is causing divorce today. It has empowered the women to lead independent lives. However, some husbands feel threatened by such developments as they think they should have full control of their wives.

12. Religious differences can cause divorce. This makes it difficult for the couple to come to a common stand on the religion to which their children should belong. This causes misunderstanding and division basing on religious line.
13. Cultural differences as a result of mixed marriages are responsible for divorce. It tends to cause clashes in the ways of doing things in the marriage. When the two cannot resolve their differences or come to a common understanding, they are forced to bring the marriage to an end.
14. The indiscipline of some children can cause divorce. This is true especially if the couple begin to point fingers and blame one another for the indiscipline of the children.
15. Prolonged illness or diseases especially the incurable ones like cancer, sickle cells and HIV/AIDS among the others are responsible for the breakages and instability in some marriages. Apart from making a partner incapable of contributing towards the development of the family, one may blame another for the acquisition of the disease.
16. Age differences between the couples can be a source of instability thereby resulting into divorce. A huge age difference can lead to misunderstanding because the two belong to different generations with different perception of life.
17. Ant social behavior like witchcraft can cause divorce. It creates the feeling of insecurity, mistrust and leads to violent behavior towards one another.
18. Failure to satisfy the sexual feelings of each other can cause marriage instability and divorce. This encourages cheating with its associated problems like fighting and continuous absence of a partner from another.

### **BIBLICAL TEACHING ABOUT DIVORCE** **(Christian advice to couples intending to divorce)**

1. God's origin plan for marriage was to make it permanent. He created human beings both male and female for them to be complimentary and companions.
2. It was God's will that man leaves his parents and is united to his wife. This means that the two are inseparable (Genesis 2:21-24).
3. Faithfulness was encouraged in marriage for permanency in the relationship. This was reflected in the symbolic marriage of prophet Hosea and his wife Gomer.
4. Forgiveness and reconciliation was encouraged in a marriage relationship like Hosea who forgave and reconciled with his wife Gomer.
5. God hates divorce to the point that he could not accept the sacrifices offered to him because the people of Israel were breaking their promises (Malachi 2:13-16).
6. A man who divorces his wife breaks his promise to her as a partner. This is a sign of unfaithfulness to one's wife and before God.
7. Marriage among the Israelites was a covenant which had to be long and everlasting. This was demonstrated in a marriage relationship between Hosea and Gomer.
8. Upon marriage, the husband and the wife become one body and spirit. Therefore, divorce violates the oneness of a couple.

9. According to Jesus, what God has put together should be permanent. He discouraged His listeners from separating a man and a woman from marriage. (Mark 10:2-12).
10. Jesus said that whoever divorces his wife and marries commits adultery against the first wife. This is a sin before God.
11. Jesus emphasized the law of love as a basis of all relationships including marriage.
12. Jesus considered marriage to an occasion of joy. He changed water into wine in a wedding at Cana in order to keep the couple and the guest joyful.
13. Saint Paul gave a description of love should exist in a marriage relationship. Accordingly, love is a patient, kind and does not keep record of wrongs among others. Therefore, a man who loves his wife has no reason to divorce her.
14. Saint Paul encouraged a husband and a wife to stay together for the sake of their children so that they are acceptable to God (1 Corinthians 7:16).
15. Saint Peter said that the marriage between husband and a wife is the same as the union between Christ and the Church. It should therefore, be permanent.

## **COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY**

### **(Understanding patterns and characteristics)**

1. It was a customary type of marriage conducted in accordance to the customs of a given society. The parents of the boy and the girl could come to a common understanding or agreement followed by the giving bride wealth.
2. Marriage was a communal affair. The parents and the relatives were actively involved in the marriage affairs of the children through offering sex education, making choice of a partner and contributing towards the bride wealth.
3. Marriage was heterosexual. It had to be between people of opposite sexes. They only accepted and recognized the marriage of a woman and a man.
4. Marriage was sealed by the payment of bride wealth. This meant that before its payment, the partners could stay from each other.
5. Marriage was exogamous. It had to be between people of different clans. Marrying from the same clan was sinful because the two were brothers and sisters.
6. Polygamy was highly practiced. This had a number of benefits like providing wealth, Labour and it ensured sexual satisfaction on the side of the man.
7. Marriage was a process. It involved a number of continuous activities before, during and after the marriage ceremony. Such activities included exchange of services and visit among.
8. Marriage was compulsory for every adult. Without getting married a person remained a child and therefore excluded from adult work.
9. Marriage was a social affair built on a permanent basis. The couples were expected to keep their agreement forever until death.
10. Marriage was taken to be a religious duty for every normal person. It involved blessings from the ancestors. This was done through offering sacrifices.
11. Marriage was a starting point for a personal immortality (living forever) through producing children.

12. It was only in marriage that sex was allowed. Virginity was therefore respected as one was getting married. This ruled out fornication.
13. Upon getting married, the woman had to leave her parents' home and stay with the family of the husband.
14. Marriage was protected by many customs, taboos and superstitions. This was at encouraging faithfulness among the couples.
15. Marriage was only allowed within the same tribe. Intermarriage was forbidden. Doing the contrary could lead to the couple being isolated for fear of diluting their cultures.
16. The widows were inherited. Some communities believed that a woman married to family belonged to everyone there. Therefore, upon death of the husband, one man would be allowed to take over her.
17. Marriage was a gateway to maturity. It showed that one was an adult and would therefore enjoy all the privileges associated with being an adult like respect.
18. Marriage was taken to be a way of promoting social bond. It brought people together and made them relatives. Therefore, it helped to expand and add on the already existing family of the husband.

### **CHOICE OF A PARTNER IN AFRICAN TRADITION**

The following was the ways through which marriage partners were chosen in African Traditional Society.

1. The children had freedom to choose their own partners. In such a case, it was a boy to show interest in a girl and make an approach.
2. The parents could also make choices on behalf of their children. This was by identifying a potential marriage partner for their children. Some could approach the family of the girl and declare their intentions.
3. However, the parents could not approve the choice made by their children. The children had to respect the views of their parents about their choices.
4. Some choices made include capturing the girl. This was arranged and organized by the boys after carefully identifying the girl. The bride wealth was taken later after the parents' acceptance.
5. There was also the use of a go-between or mediator. The boy intending to marry used someone or a messenger to declare the intention.
6. In some societies, choices were made by making the girl and the boy to have a fight (wrestling). The choice could only be approved upon the boy wrestling the girl down.
7. In some cultures, choices were made through elopement. The boy and girl could secretly begin living together.
8. Some people made choices out of excitement especially during beer party. In such a case, the parents of either the girl or boy could give away their daughter or son as a result of happiness.
9. In some cultures, there was a practice of booking pregnancy. The parents could agree to exchange their children for marriage in case fortune could allow them to be of the opposite sex.



## **QUALITIES CONSIDERED FOR A MARIAGE PARTNER IN AFRICAN TRADITION**

The following aspects were considered when choosing marriage partners in African tradition.

- (i) They considered the family background of either the boy or girl. They put their interest on morality of a family.
- (ii) The health status of a partner was a great concern. Attention was directed towards tracing whether some kind of disease like leprosy and sickle cells existed in the family lineage.
- (iii) Virginity was important aspect in choosing marriage partners. The girl was expected to be virgin. Virginity commanded respect and sometimes rewards to the family as it proved the proper upbringing of the girl.
- (iv) The African considered the character of the boy or girl. An ideal choice considered one with qualities like respect, honest and kindness among others.
- (v) The clan was also considered. The partners were expected to be of different clans as those in the same clan were brothers and sisters.
- (vi) The hospitality of the partner was one of the qualities taken into consideration. An ideal choice was person who was welcoming, generous and could get a long easily and freely with everyone.
- (vii) The beauty of the girl was a quality the Africans looked for. Those with waistlines and beads around their necks, arms and the waist were admired.
- (viii) The economic status particularly that of the boy was important when choosing a marriage partner. Wealth such as cattle and goats proved that the family was capable of taking care of the incoming wife.
- (ix) The cultural background of each partner was considered. There had to be some harmony and understanding in the two cultures.
- (x) The ability of each partner to work was considered. Each partner had to be active when doing domestic duties like cultivation and cooking among others.

### **PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE**

1. Preparing the young ones for marriage began at puberty stage. This was the period that the boys and girls appeared to be ready for marriage life.
2. The boys were taught by their uncles and the girls by their aunts. The teaching involved marriage related issues.
3. The girls were taught to keep their virginity. Virginity proved the moral uprightness of the girl.
4. The girl was also taught motherly experiences including menstruation, breastfeeding and giving birth.
5. In some cultures, there were initiation ceremonies like circumcision. Among the Bagishu, male children were circumcised to show their maturity and readiness for marriage.



6. The boys were encouraged to identify potential partners and inform the uncles or parents accordingly.
7. In some societies, the girls ready for marriage were kept away from the public. During this isolation, she was made to undergo the process of beautification.
8. The families of the boy and the girl were introduced to each other. This involved declaring marriage intentions.
9. The boy's family could arrange bride wealth and inform the family of the girl about their readiness.
10. The girl's family was expected to respond to the declared intention of marrying their daughter.
11. On the day of the marriage ceremony, the groom's family presented gifts to the family of the bride. Items like domestic animals, backcloth and alcoholic drinks were among those delivered.
12. In some cultures, the boy and the girl could be allowed to have the first sexual intercourse on that day under the supervision of the aunts.

### **POLYGAMY IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA**

Polygamy was valued and common in African Traditional Society because of the following reasons;

1. It provided a solution to infertile marriages. The man was encouraged to marry another wife in case the first was infertile.
2. Polygamy was prestigious. Men with more than one wife earned respect from the community for their ability to care and make the wives to live in harmony.
3. Polygamy guaranteed permanency in marriages. Instead of divorcing one wife, the man was encouraged to marry another wife as a way of disciplining her.
4. Polygamy catered for the problem of widows. After the death of her husband, the brother of the deceased was allowed to officially become her husband.
5. It ensured that there was sexual satisfaction on the side of men. In the events of prolonged illness, menstruation and pregnancy or immediately after giving birth, men derived their sexual satisfaction from the other wives. This helped to control the sexual behavior of the man.
6. To some men, polygamy ensured that children of both sexes were born. They tended to marry another wife in case the first wives were producing only single sex.
7. Polygamy provided enough labour force in the family. The many wives and their children eased domestic duties including cooking, collecting firewood and digging.
8. Polygamy ensured that all women were married. This promoted their cultures as marriage was compulsory for every grown up.
9. Polygamy was taken as the way of disciplining the intolerable behavior of the first wife. Therefore, marrying another wife was a way of teaching the first wife proper behavior.
10. Polygamy was a sign of wealth. It showed that the man had enough material wealth including land and animals like cattle, goats and sheep among others.

11. Polygamy ensured that the bond of kinship extended. Through it many people became related. This helped to create harmony in the society.
12. Polygamy provided security in the family. The many members were able to defend themselves against any threat.
13. Polygamy catered for unforeseen problems like prolonged sickness or death of one wife. The other normal wife could continue with the family business.

### **DIVORCE IN TRADITION AFRICA**

In African Traditional Society, marriage was a social affair built on permanent basis. This explains why cases of divorce were very scarce.

A number of steps were taken to protect marriages and this helped to make marriages permanent as people desired.

1. There was adequate sex education before, during and after marriage ceremony. These prepared children fully of their marital roles and it gave them insight on marriage relationship at tender ages.
2. There was serious punishment given to any form of sexual misconduct. This created fear and discipline in the sexual conduct of people.
3. Marriage was a communal affair. Therefore, anyone seeking divorce was required to consult all members involved in the marriage process. Such members provided guidance and counselling in the event of marital problems.
4. Marriage was compulsory in African tradition. This made the people to aim at keeping the marriages well in order to avoid being divorced.
5. Polygamy was a normal practice in African tradition. Therefore, instead divorcing a wife for any reason, the man was allowed to marry another wife as a way of disciplining the first or the other wife.
6. There were superstitions, taboos and customs that protected marriage. People feared to break these taboos because they associated with curses.
7. Careful choices were made for married partners. The parents helped their children with choices. This ensured that the best choices were made.
8. Women were brought up to feel submissive and inferior to men. This made the women to respect the men. This helped to rule out the possibility of quarreling between the husband and the wife.
9. The basic needs of the family like food and shelter were catered for by the whole community. The grandparents and other relatives were always there to assist the family in the times need.
10. Bride wealth legalized marriages and guaranteed its permanency. The people respected bride wealth and some feared to return it in the even of divorce.
11. Marriage was a religious duty which involved blessings from the ancestors. To maintain the good relationship with the ancestors, the people aimed at and did everything possible to make their marriages permanent.

12. Marriage was a social built on permanent basis. Everybody grew up to respect this idea in order to maintain social harmony.
13. Marriage was purposely for producing children. Once children were produced, the couple's love was cemented.
14. The elders served as living examples for their children. They lived in their marriages until natural causes like death could interfere. This was a source inspiration to the children.

### **CIRCUMSTANCES THAT LED TO DIVORCE IN TRADITION AFRICA**

The following were the circumstances under which divorce was allowed in traditional Africa.

1. Barrenness or infertility of the woman led to divorce. To the Africans, children ensured continuity of family lifespan. Besides, they were important in providing wealth, labour and happiness in the family.
2. Loss of virginity especially on the side of the girl could later cause divorce. She was disrespected and considered immoral. Quite often the husband could use that excuse to insult his wife and her family.
3. Prolonged illness like bleeding of the woman could cause divorce. Such a partner seemed useless as he or she could prove to be costly to keep.
4. Evil practices including witchcraft and murder caused divorce. Having such a partner threatened the lives of the family members. Therefore, he or she was allowed to leave the marriage.
5. Failure to meet the requirement of bride wealth led to divorce. In some cultures couples were allowed to live together for a given period before effecting bride wealth.
6. Laziness could lead to divorce. A lazy partner became a burden to the family as feeding was concerned.
7. Failure to satisfy the sexual urge of a partner could lead to divorce. This was responsible for marital unfaithfulness like adultery with its associated problems like fighting.
8. Domestic violence like constant beating or fighting could lead to divorce. It caused body injuries and in some cases death. Before the situation could get out of hand, the two were allowed to part especially after all the alternative means of solving the disagreement could have failed.
9. Marital unfaithfulness especially adultery on the side of the woman caused divorce. This was an act of immorality which was never tolerated.
10. In some cases, giving birth a single sex could cause divorce. This was especially true if only girls were produced.
11. The intolerable behavior of some wives led to divorce. Such misconduct like quarrelsomeness and drinking among others caused continued fighting.
12. In some cases, if the woman became too old for the man, divorce could be initiated. The man was then encouraged to marry a young wife.

# COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE IN CHURCH HISTORY

## The Early Centuries of Christianity

- Monogamy was emphasized as the ideal type of marriage (1 Corinthians 7:1-2).
- Freedom of choice of marriage partner was emphasized.
- The rule of inheritance accepted.
- Christians put emphasis on where the married couple had to stay and live.
- There was no fixed marriage ceremony among the Christians.
- The period witnessed divorce becoming common.
- However, new standards of faithfulness and love between the husband and wife were later set.
- Prostitution became common. However, the Christians discouraged it.
- The couples were encouraged to live permanently and peacefully with one another with love and respect.
- Polygamy also became common among the Christians. However, the church and state came up in the open to condemn it.
- Christians questioned whether or not they could marry pagans.
- Saint Paul said that what mattered in marriage was love that each partner had for another. Therefore, religion was not to be a separating factor.
- Christians were also puzzled whether it was right for them to marry slaves. The church pointed out that the slaves were free to marry each other and live as husband and wife.
- Some believers questioned themselves whether they had to marry or not.
- Saint Paul advised those who could not control their sexual feelings to marry.
- However, Saint Paul said it was right for a believer to remain single for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

## Middle Ages and Reformation

- During this period, the church divided itself into two. The eastern church – the Anglicans and the western church (Catholics).
- The eastern church praised and encouraged believers particularly the religious leaders to marry.
- However, the western church praised celibacy (single life) for the sake of the gospel of Jesus.
- Marriage laws came to be written down in books and believers were encouraged to follow these laws strictly.
- The Christians also came up with a marriage ceremony to which everybody was expected to observe.
- Marriage was viewed as a sacrament and something important for the salvation of the believers.

## **The Missionaries in African churches (C19<sup>th</sup> – C20<sup>th</sup>)**

- The missionaries emphasized equality between the husband and the wife. They said the two are created in God's image were therefore the same.
- The missionaries advised the parent to give freedom to their children to make choices for their partners.
- The missionaries introduced the idea of living single life (celibacy) for the sake of the gospel of Christ.
- The missionaries encouraged married couples to love each other and to give respect to one another.
- The missionaries the couples to stay permanently in their marriages.
- The missionaries discouraged inheritance of widows emphasizing that such women had the right to decide on their own.
- The missionaries discouraged bride wealth. They looked at it as exchanging women for marriage.
- The missionaries encouraged baptism of the children instead of initiation of rites like the circumcision of their male children.
- The missionaries recognized and gave respect to marriage between slaves.

### **COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

1. God willed and initiated marriage. He created human beings as male and female each with unique sexual feature (Genesis 1:27).
2. It was God's will that marriage had to be monogamous. He only created a man and a woman to start up marriage (Genesis 1:27). In Genesis 2:21, God created only a woman from the rib he took from the man.
3. Equality is emphasized in marriage; the man and the woman are equal. God created human beings both man and woman in his image (Genesis 1:26).
4. Sex is a divine gift in marriage for mutual love and comfort. This means that sex is only for the married.
5. Marriage is for pro-creation. God blessed human beings to have many children in order for their descendants to live all over the earth (Genesis 1:27).
6. God gave equal responsibility to man and woman to work as co-creators in order to bring the world under their control (Genesis 1:27).
7. In marriage, the man and the woman are companions. God created the woman from the man's rib after having realized that the man was lonely (Genesis 2:18-23).
8. In marriage, the man and the woman complement one another. Adam felt uneasy with himself and was sorrowful when he realized that he was the only kind. This was after he had finished naming other creatures (Genesis 2:18-21).
9. Marriage is an occasion of peace, joy and harmony. This was proved by the joy Adam felt when God presented the woman to him as his wife (Genesis 2:23).
10. God willed unity in marriage. He emphasized that a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife (Genesis 2:24).

11. Courtship was a step towards marriage. Jacob courted for Rachel for seven years before marrying her (Genesis 29:18-25).
12. In relation, bride wealth was acknowledged. Jacob offered his services for seven years to family of Laban (Genesis 29:18-25).
13. Faithfulness was encouraged in marriage relationship. The Israelites were forbidden from committing adultery (Exodus 20:14). In his marriage relationship, Hosea condemned his wife Gomer for her adulterous life (Hosea 2:1ff, 3:1ff).
14. Marriage was a covenant among the Israelites. It was meant to be permanent since it involved making promises.
15. Every young man was expected to marry before the age of twenty among the Israelites.
16. A newly married man was relieved of his duty of serving in the military among the Israelites. This was intended to make him stay at home with his wife so that he could make her happy (Deuteronomy 24:5).
17. A husband was expected to stand by his wife and give her comfort especially in difficult times. Elkanah assured his wife Hannah of his love when she was sorrowful about her inability to have a child (1 Samuel 1:1ff).
18. A man was called upon to be happy with his wife and to find joy in her (proverbs 5:18-19).
19. The Israelites were forbidden from marrying from other nations. Intermarriages was therefore an act of disobedience.
20. The Israelites were warned against admiring another man's wife. They had to be contented with the wives they had.
21. A man was encouraged to enjoy life with the woman he loved. (Ecclesiastes 9:9).
22. The Israelites believed that finding a wife was something good. They believed that it reflected the goodness of the Lord to the man.
23. A man was encouraged to continue loving his wife even in times of disagreement like prophet Hosea continued loving his unfaithful wife Gomer (Hosea 2:1ff, 3:1ff).

### **NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING OF COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE**

1. Jesus looks at marriage as an occasion of joy. In the wedding at Cana, He changed water into wine in order to save the couple from shame. This was after the realization that the wine was over (John 2:1ff).
2. Jesus encouraged unity in marriage. He emphasized that a man leaves his father and mother and is united with his wife. Accordingly, the two become one (Mark 10:7).
3. Jesus encouraged marriage to be permanent. Accordingly, "no human being then must separate what God has joined together" (Mark 10:9).
4. Jesus emphasized that a man who divorces his wife and marries another is guilty of adultery against her and so is a woman (Mark 10:11)
5. Jesus confirmed monogamy as the idea type of marriage when he said that a man leaves his parents and he gets united to his wife.



6. Jesus said that looking at a woman with desire to own her makes one guilty of committing adultery with her in hi heart.
7. Jesus encouraged faithfulness and forgiveness in marriage. He gave the woman caught in adultery and advised her never to again (John 8:1-11).
8. Jesus recognized celibacy for the sake of the good news and the kingdom of heaven (Matthew: 19:12).
9. Saint Paul encouraged every man to have his own wife and every woman to have her own husband (1 Corinthians 7:2).
10. Saint Paul encouraged married couples to fulfill their duties. He said that a man should fulfill his duty as a husband and a woman as a wife in order to satisfy the needs of the other (1 Corinthians 7:3).
11. Besides, Saint Paul encouraged total submission. He said that “a wife is not a master of her own body but her husband is; in the same way a husband is not a master of his own body but the wife is (1 Corinthians 7:4 and Ephesians 5:21-25)
12. Saint Paul encouraged married couples to abstain from sex in order for them to spend their time in prayer.
13. Saint Paul encouraged believers to marry instead of burning with desire. He said “it is better to marry than burn with passion.” (1 Corinthians 7:9).
14. According to Saint Paul, it is normal for a believer to marry a non-believer. What is important is for the two live together. He said that such a couple was made acceptable before God by being united (1 Corinthians 7:12).
15. Saint Paul encouraged a widow remarry any man she wishes but if only that man is a believer. Said this would make her happy (1 Corinthians 7:39).
16. Saint Paul encouraged husbands to love their wives just as Christ loved the church to the point of giving his life. They should love their wives just as they love their own bodies (Ephesians 5:25-28).
17. Saint Peter encouraged couple to show their beauty in the inner self to each other. He said that the inner beauty is of greatest value in God’s sight. Therefore, he disapproved outside beauty like hair style, jewelry and dresses (1 Peter 3:3-4).
18. Saint Peter advised husbands to live with their wives with proper understanding that they are weaker than them (1 Peter 3:7).

Besides, Saint Paul encouraged husbands to treat their wives with respect. He emphasized that this would make them together to receive God’s gift of life (1 Peter