

**ENDING CHILD MARRIAGE IN KARANGURA SUB COUNTY, KABAROLE:
Evaluation of JFCU's Empower Project.**

BY

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**The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of Joy
For Children-Uganda or the Ugandan government.**

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Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
INTRODUCTION	7
Overview	7
EVALUATION PURPOSE AND QUESTIONS	7
Evaluation purpose.....	7
Evaluation questions	7
PROJECT BACKGROUND	8
Objectives of the Project.....	9
Review	9
METHODOLOGY	9
Overview	9
Project design.....	10
Samples	10
Instruments.....	10
Procedure	11
Data analysis	11
Review	11
FINDINGS	12
Overview	12
Assessment on social action, acceptance, investing in and supporting girls and social expectations related to girls	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Protection of the rights of adolescent girls	15
Review	19
DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	20
Overview	20
Discussion	20
Conclusions.....	22
Community events	22
Support for girls' education	22
Income generating initiatives	26

Evaluation reports	27
Clubs	28
Recommendations	30
Review	31
References.....	32
APPENDICES	33

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This study was conducted to evaluate the progress of the JFCU's Empower Project in Karangura Sub County, Kabarole. It aimed at:

- ❖ Establishing the level at which the Empower Project has supported families in a bid to keep their daughters in school.
- ❖ Assessing the extent to which the Empower Project has increased awareness of the law against child marriage among the people of Karangura Sub County.
- ❖ Ascertaining the level at which Joy for Children Uganda, through its Empower Project, has cooperated with the government to eradicate child marriage in Karangura Sub County.

Findings of this study evolved from the following evaluation questions:

- ❖ To what extent has the Empower Project increased awareness on ending child marriage among the people in Karangura Sub County?
- ❖ How has the Empower Project supported families in Karangura Sub County to end child marriage?
- ❖ To what extent has Joy for Children-Uganda used its Empower Project as a platform to compel the government of Uganda to engage in the fight against child marriage in Karangura Sub County?

The Empower Project operates with the guidance of the following objectives:

- ❖ To increase social action, acceptance, and visibility around investing in and supporting girls, and generating shifts in social expectations relating to girls.
- ❖ To advocate for an enabling environment that protects the rights of adolescent girls.

The study was conducted both qualitatively and quantitatively. Samples were of different categories for purposes of obtaining balanced data. The study involved 110 participants in all. Among these; 75 (25 boys and 50 girls) were pupils, 20 were parents, 10 were teachers and 05 were members of the LC3 executive.

The instruments used in the study were generated locally. The researcher used interview guides for parents and members of the LC3 executive. Self-administered questionnaires were used for pupils and teachers. Items in the tools were arranged according to the set objectives for the GNB project. The researcher delivered questionnaires and collected them himself.

Data was presented through the use of tables where it was quantified. Analysis was done basing on the figures obtained from responses in questionnaires and interview sessions.

After presentation and analysis of data, the following findings were reached at:

- The Empower Project is legally carried out in Karangura Sub County, Kabarole. JFCU concentrates the project activities in Kibwa Parish, Karangura Sub County.
- The project is for girls that are in (primary) schools. It provides support to 65 girls in all. All girls received goats, 30 are financially supported and 33 benefit from both forms of support.
- JFCU gives material support to girls from poor families. The support is both material and financial. Girls that excel in studies are top priority.
- JFCU works with local authorities in Karangura Sub County to support adolescent girls keep in school.
- The Empower Project has greatly contributed to the formulation of by-laws at the sub county level that aim at ending child marriage in Karangura Sub County.
- The Empower Project has contributed to the retention of the girl-child in Kibyo and Mahyoro Primary Schools.

Following the discussion of the above findings, the following conclusions were made;

- JFCU operates in Karangura Sub County and has won support of both local authorities and the local residents.
- Local authorities in Karangura Sub County are committed to working with JFCU to bring child marriage to an end.
- JFCU has supported girls from poor families with goats to help boost their families' income and give them assurance of keeping in school.
- Teacher coordinators in Kibyo and Mahyoro Primary Schools help in coordination of the project's activities.

After the above conclusions, the following recommendations were made to the management of JFCU, schools administration, parents, pupils and the LC3 executive:

- There is need to expand the project to other parishes of Karangura Sub County.
- There should be sensitisation of beneficiaries on proper ways of looking after the goats received, in order to prevent further loss.
- There should be clear principles to govern the management of goats donated.
- The administration of JFCU should allocate more funds to the Empower Project to help care for beneficiaries even after P7.
- Parents in Karangura Sub County should look beyond the goats and financial support given to their daughters.
- Goats donated to parents should be well cared for so as to minimize deaths and retarded growth.

- Parents should monitor their daughters' education as a way of supplementing teachers' effort to bring child marriage to an end.
- The office of the LC III Chairperson should also find a way of supporting young mothers.
- JFCU should work with school administrators in Karangura Sub County to construct wash rooms for adolescent girls so as to promote menstrual hygiene and check related risks.
- School administrators should minimize teachers' absenteeism so that the girl-child does not use this as an excuse of doing the same or dropping out of school.
- Adolescent girls should be sensitised to keep focused on their studies so that they can keep away from being lured into early marriage.

INTRODUCTION

Overview

This section highlights the evaluation purpose and evaluation questions. The researcher also explains the background of the project under evaluation. He further states objectives of the project on which all the investigations will spin.

EVALUATION PURPOSE AND QUESTIONS

Evaluation purpose

This evaluation aimed at;

- Establishing the level at which the Empowerment Project has supported families in a bid to keep their daughters in school.
- Assessing the extent to which the Empowerment Project has increased awareness of the law against child marriage among the people of Karangura Sub County.
- Ascertaining the level at which Joy for Children Uganda, through its Empowerment Project, has cooperated with the government to eradicate child marriage in Karangura Sub County.

Evaluation questions

This evaluation was guided by the following questions;

- ❖ To what extent has the Empowerment Project increased awareness on the fight against child marriage among the people in Karangura Sub County?
- ❖ How has the Empowerment Project supported families in Karangura Sub County in the fight against child marriage?
- ❖ To what extent has Joy for Children Uganda used the Empowerment Project as a platform to compel the government to engage in the fight against child marriage in Karangura Sub County?

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Empower Project is an initiative of Joy for Children Uganda (JFCU) that was started up as an effort to end child marriage in Karangura Sub County, Kabarole.

Unlike other parts of Kabarole, Karangura Sub County has stood out, for long, as an area with the highest number of early marriage cases. This has been mainly contributed by the influence of culture¹ and the impact of the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) war from 1997 to 2007.

Culturally, the Bakonzo and Bamba have been marrying off their daughters aged between 12 and 14; the suitable age for children from P5 to P7. The Uganda (1995) constitution declares all people under the age of 18 as children. According to Isis-WCCE research report (2011), the imposition of a marriage partner upon a child, means a girl's childhood is cut short, as well as their fundamental rights like education. It goes on to say many child wives in Uganda who should be in school or playing are living in near slave-like conditions in the homes of their in-laws.

In addition to the above, Karangura Sub County had chocked with the heavy weight of post-conflict² effects. Early marriage finds a fertile ground in post-conflict situations where both girls and boys get sexually active early due to rape, forced sex and need to survive in situations where the basis of life is minimal (Isis-WICCE Research Report, 2011). It had also been said, in such an area, parents would marry off their daughters at an early age in the exchange for goats, chickens or cassava.

JFCU, through its Empower Project, joins the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) to condemn the practice of child marriage because it violates the (girls') right to free and full consent to a marriage. Additionally, there are reports by the media and documents by various organizations citing the high rate of early marriages in the sub county. The practice had been branded the major cause of high (adolescent) girls' drop out cases especially in Mahyoro and Kibyoo Primary Schools.

The project was designed to implement activities that include school out reaches, Girls Not Brides Clubs, community events, communicating messages about ending child marriage, support for girls' education, income-generating initiatives, publication of educational materials and evaluation reports. The Empowerment Project was set, for the first three years, to work with Kibyoo and Mahyoro Primary Schools that teach about 350 pupils. A target of 200 goats to be given to girls was set to improve on their (home) income and also serve as an incentive to keep girls in school.

¹ Karangura Sub County is majorly occupied by the Bakonzo and Bamba tribes that are fond of marrying off their daughters at an early age.

² ADF rebel activities from 1997 to 2007 were concentrated in the Rwenzori region where Karangura Sub County is located.

JFCU proposed working with 20 local leaders so that they can help to inform girls and the community about the negative impact of child marriage and appreciate the value of education for social and economic development. In addition, 30 teachers were trained and supported through economic empowerment and education activities. 11.102 information, education and communication materials were produced and distributed with messages that address the value of education and delaying marriage. It was further targeted that more than 20,000 community members shall be reached through open community events and engagements.

Through this evaluation, the researcher will look for supporting evidence if the said project serves to address the challenges faced by the girl-child of Karangura Sub County.

Objectives of the Project

This project was evaluated under the guidance of the following objectives;

- To increase social action, acceptance, and visibility around investing in and supporting girls, and generating shifts in social expectations relating to girls.
- To advocate for an enabling environment that protects the rights of adolescent girls.

Review

The researcher, in the covered sub-sections of this chapter, has highlighted the purpose of the evaluation, questions that guided the investigations, project background and objectives of the project.

In the following chapter, the researcher highlights the means by which data for the study was collected.

METHODOLOGY

Overview

In the following sub-sections, the researcher presents the way the study was designed, the kind of participants for the study and the means employed in obtaining them, the tools used in collecting data for the study, the procedure that was followed in bringing the study to life and the means by which the study was analyzed.

Project design

The project was evaluated both quantitatively and qualitatively using a cross-sectional survey design because the researcher aimed at obtaining data from samples of different categories. This was for purposes of presenting comprehensive information on the impact the Empower project has in fighting against child marriage in Karangura Sub County, Kabarole District.

Samples

The researcher employed purposive sampling techniques to select a sample of 110 participants in Kibwa Parish, Karangura Sub County. Of these; 75 participants were school children in upper primary (25 boys and 50 girls), 10 teachers, 20 parents and 5 members from the LC III executive. The researcher opted for these samples because of the need for in-depth data on the impact of the Empower Project on ending child marriage in Karangura Sub County.

Summary of participants

Category	Number
Boys	25
Girls	50
Teachers	10
Parents	20
LC3 executive	05
TOTAL	110

Instruments

The researcher used self-administered questionnaires for pupils and teachers and an interview guide for LC3 executive and parents. Self-administered questionnaires were opted for in extracting responses from teachers and pupils because of their expected ability to read and correctly interpret questionnaire items on their own. Parents and members from the LC3 executive were interviewed orally because the researcher was not sure of their ability to read and interpret questionnaire items on their own. The tools were locally generated by the researcher.

Procedure

The researcher sought for a letter of introduction from Joy for Children Uganda that helped him secure permission from Karangura Sub County authorities so he could have the study conducted among selected participants. The researcher issued out questionnaires to teachers and pupils as parents and members of the LC3 executive got interviewed with the assurance of confidentiality to any responses obtained from them.

Data analysis

The researcher determined the impact the Girls Not for Brides Project has on ending child marriage in Karangura Sub County, Kabarole District. In particular, the researcher considered the figures in tables that summarised responses and drew conclusions on the set project questions.

Review

The researcher, in the covered sub-sections of this chapter, has explained the way the study is planned to be carried out, the kind of participants for the study and the means of obtaining them, steps to be followed during the study, means of analyzing data collected and analyzed.

The following chapter presents the summary of findings from the data that was obtained from respondents.

FINDINGS

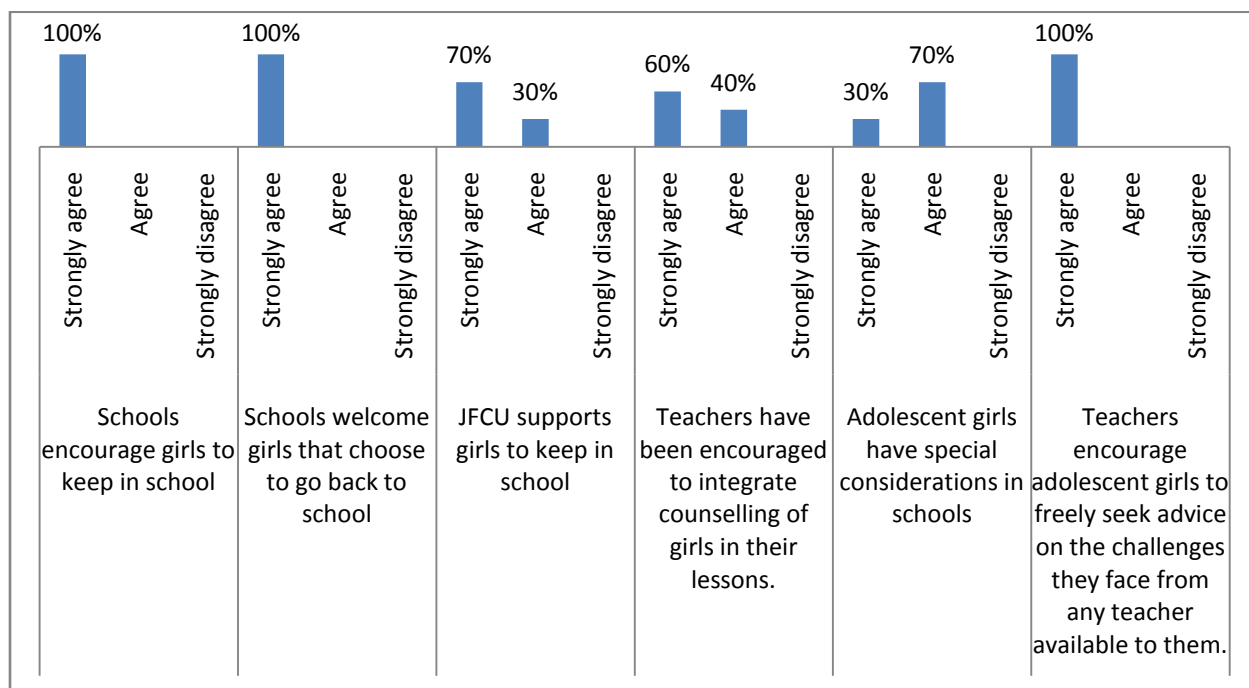
Overview

The researcher undertook this study as a way of investigating the impact of the Empower Project on ending child marriage in Karangura Sub County, Kabarole District.

The researcher developed an interview guide and questionnaires that were used to obtain data from upper primary pupils, teachers, parents and members of the LC 3 executive. In this chapter, the researcher presents the summary of responses on the three evaluation questions presented in chapter one.

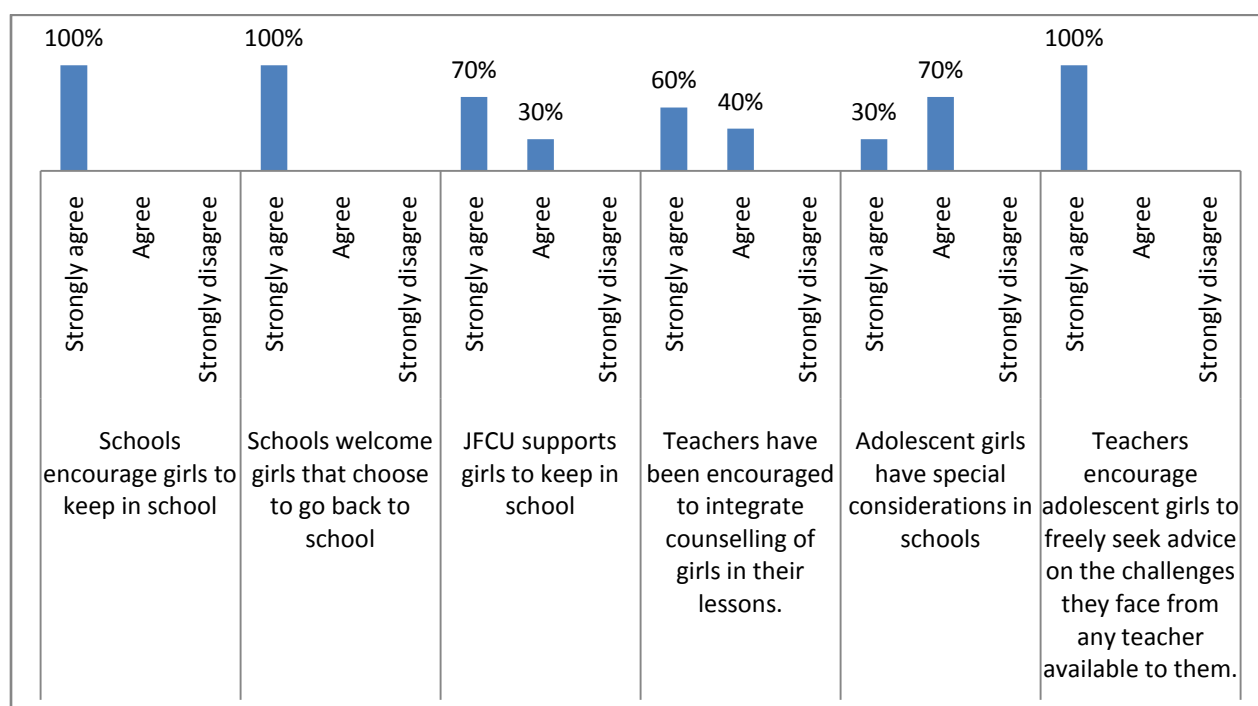
Assessment on social action, acceptance, investing in and supporting girls and social expectations relating to girls

Through the help of self-administered questionnaires, pupils' responses on the assessment on social action, acceptance, investing in and supporting girls and social expectations relating to girls were as follows:



In reference to the graph above, 93.3% of the pupils that participated in the study confirmed the presence of Joy For Children, Uganda in Karangura Sub county. This is inevitable for the researcher to assert that there are high chances of obtaining valid information for the study. It was also found out from 86.7% of the respondents that there are more girls than boys in upper primary. 94.7% of the pupils' responses showed big girls, in Karangura Sub County, are allowed back in schools. 94.7% of the pupils' responses revealed that adolescent girls should be encouraged not to marry before completing school. 94.7% of the pupils that participated in the study supported the view of allowing girls back to school after they have given birth. The study also revealed, according to 81.3% of the pupils' responses, that teachers in Karangura Sub county encourage girls to keep in school.

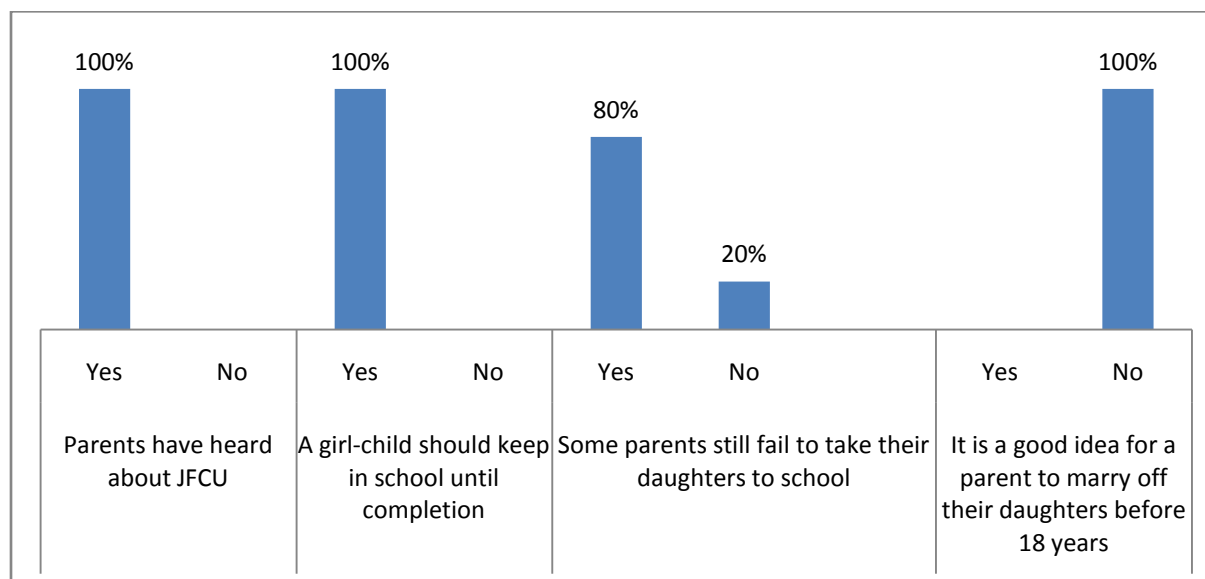
Ten teachers were given self-administered questionnaires and their responses were as follows:



From the graph above, all teachers agreed that schools in Karangura sub county encourage girls to keep in schools, girls freely go back to school, JFCU supports girls to keep in school, teachers have been encouraged to integrate counselling of adolescent girls in their lessons, adolescent girls have special considerations in schools of Karangura sub county and teachers encourage adolescent girls to freely seek advice on the challenges they face.

Twenty parents were interviewed on the assessment on social action, acceptance, investing in and supporting girls and social expectations relating to girls and the following were their responses:

Parents' responses on the assessment on social action, acceptance, investing in and supporting girls and social expectations relating to girls



According to the graph above, all selected parents had heard about JFCU. More to that, responses revealed that all parents supported the idea that a girl-child should keep in school until completion. 80% of the parents said there are some parents/guardians that have failed to keep their daughters in school despite the public outcry that all a girl-child should keep in school until completion. All parents could not support the idea of marrying off girls before turning 18 years.

Besides the responses summarised in table 2 above, it was also found out that all selected parents supported the government in ending child marriages. They said, when a girl-child marries after completing school, she stands high chances of getting better jobs that would help support her family as well as her parents. A parent of a P5 pupil of Mahyoro Primary School said, "When my daughter completes school, she will get a good job where she will be earning reasonable income...she will help me be like those well-off parents I have admired for long."

However, some parents said, it is also the parents' responsibility to support their daughters keep in school until completion. It was also said that a girl-child is more protected at school than when in homes. To some parents, educating a girl-child is like planting a coffee plantation where a harvesting extends to grandchildren.

Parents said JFCU has sensitised parents and children on the dangers of early marriage, given financial support to needy girls to see them keep in school, some homes have been given goats to boost their income as well as acting as bite to sustain the girl-child's interest in staying in school until completion. The guardian of Kiiza Stella, a P7 pupil at Kibyo Primary School had a moving testimony;

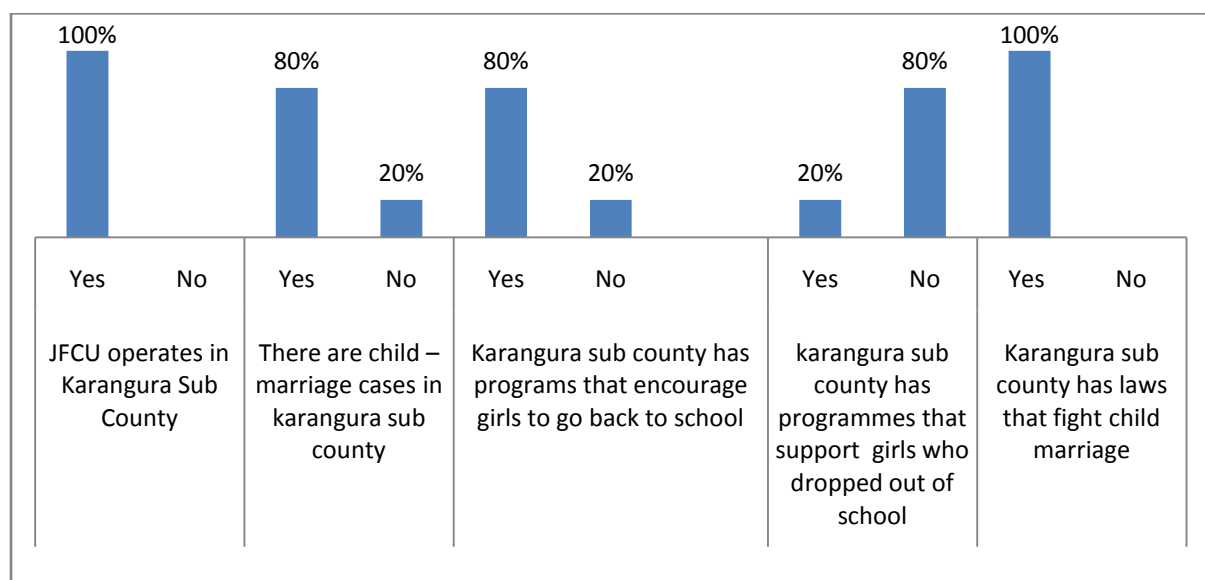
Joy For Children- Uganda came to Karangura Sub County at a time I needed it most...my granddaughter, a total orphan, was almost dropping out of school for I could not meet her school needs any more. But, thank God, she has been picked up and supported with a goat and I no longer have to worry about meeting her school needs; Joy For Children, Uganda provides everything.



Kiiza's grandmother with the goat her granddaughter received from Joy For Children, Uganda

The five members of the L.C3 executive were interviewed and their responses on the assessment on social action, acceptance, investing in and supporting girls and social expectations relating to girls were as follows:

Responses from the L.C 3 executive on the assessment on social action, acceptance, investing in and supporting girls and social expectations relating to girls

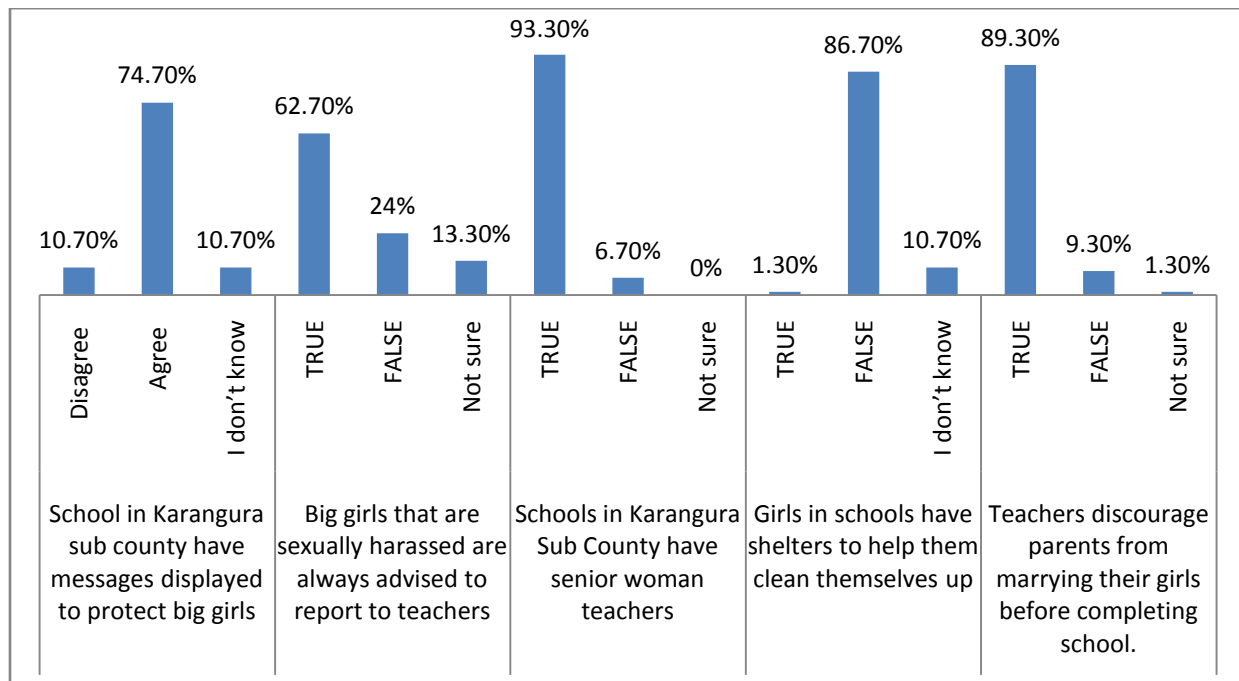


In reference to the graph above, all members on the LC3 executive confirmed that JFCU operates in Karangura Sub County. 80% of them said there are still child-marriage cases in the sub-county. 80% of the members said there are programmes in the sub county that encourage girls to go back to school. 80% of the members said there are no programmes in the sub county that give support to girls that dropped out of school. All members agreed that Karangura sub county has laws that fight child marriage.

In supplement to the responses summarised in the graph above, members of the LC 3 executive said, child-marriage cases have gone reducing in the past year because of sensitisation of the masses on the benefits of educating a girl-child and the laws put in place to fight the vice. JFCU has concentrated its activities in Kibwa Parish and has received the council's request to have the Empower project extended to Nyakitokoli, Kamabaale and Kyabwire (the newly-created parish scheduled to be commissioned at the start of the new financial year) parishes. Workshops JFCU has had with the council has lead to the formulation of by-laws like a fine of Ushs1,000,000 (Ushs 500,000 from each party) is to be imposed on both the parents and the man that get into agreement of marrying off a girl that is below 18; then, the sub county leadership takes the money to the girl's school and the School Management Committee decides on how the money would help fund her education. The council has also passed the resolution that any case of defilement in the sub county must be referred to the District Police Commander due to the fear of compromising the local police. JFCU has supported pupils in Mahyoro and Kibwa Primary schools by giving goats to the needy girls or both goats and financial support to girls that excel in studies. Counselling is given to girls that fall victims of early marriage so they can accept to go back to school.

Protection of the rights of adolescent girls

Self-administered questionnaires were given out to 75 pupils and their responses on the protection of the rights of adolescent girls were as summarised in the table below.



In reference to the graph above, about 75% of the pupils agreed that schools in Karangura Sub County have messages displayed to protect big girls. About 63% said big girls that are sexually harassed are always advised to report to teachers. About 93% of the pupils said schools in the sub county have senior woman teachers. About 87% of the pupils said schools in the sub county do not have shelters for girls to help them clean themselves up. About 89% of the pupils' responses revealed that teachers discourage parents from marrying off their daughters before completing school.

About 75% of the pupils agreed that schools in Karangura Sub County have messages displayed to protect older girls. About 63% said older girls that are sexually harassed are always advised to report to teachers. About 93% of the pupils said schools in the sub county have senior woman teachers. About 87% of the pupils said schools in the sub county do not have shelters for girls to help them clean themselves up. About 89% of the pupils' responses revealed that teachers discourage parents from marrying off their daughters before completing school.

The following are responses from twenty parents that were interviewed on the protection of the rights of adolescent girls.

Table 6: Parents' responses protection of the rights of adolescent girls

Category	Responses	Total number of respondents	Response rate	Percentage
There are messages on local radio stations that advocate for girls' retention in schools	Yes No	20	20	100%
There have been cases of child marriage in Karangura Sub County in the past 12 months	Yes No		00 20	100%

According to parents' responses in table 6 above, there are messages that advocate for girls' retention in schools. Some local radios like KRC and V.O.T radios in Fort Portal and Messiah radio in Kasese. However, it was said, messages are sponsored by Raising Voices.

In addition to the summary of responses in table 6 above, parents also said, parents should report cases of sexual harassment first to school administration, then LC1 and lastly to police. They identified common problems that adolescent girls face as sexual harassment, early pregnancies and negligence. Parents said when adolescent girls keep in school they can gain high self-esteem, they get focused, gain better health, get exposed and stand high chances of getting better jobs. Lastly, parents said, they can report to local authorities and/or police in case their daughters' rights get violated.

Five members on the sub county LC 3 executive were interviewed on protection of the rights of adolescent girls and their responses are summarised in table 7 below.

Table 7: Parents' responses on protection of the rights of adolescent girls in Karangura Sub County

Category	Responses	Total number of respondents	Response rate	Percentage
Karangura Sub County has laws that promote the fight on defilement	Yes No	05	05	100%
Karangura Sub County's leadership sensitised adolescent girls not to get involved in acts that can violate their rights	Yes No		05	100%
Karangura Sub County LC3 executive has had meetings with Joy for Children Uganda to discuss ways of stopping child marriage in the sub county	Yes No		05	100%

According to table 7 above, all members agreed, the sub county has laws that fight defilement; they have had meetings with JFCU and adolescent girls are sensitised on the dangers of early marriage.

It was also said the sub county handles cases of violation of rights of adolescents by referring the cases to police, counselling girls that fall victims, sensitising parents on laws that protect rights of adolescents and forgiving offenders where it is necessary.

The sub county leadership sensitises adolescent girls and parents on social gatherings like church services, community meetings, school parents' meetings and burial ceremonies.

Review

From the findings presented in the previous sub-sections of this chapter, it cannot be a mistake when one takes note of the following: The Empower Project is legally operating in Karangura Sub County and it is meant for primary schools, JFCU has concentrated its activities in Kibwa parish and it has been asked by sub county authorities to expand to other parishes, the Empower Project caters for the girl-child that is in school, JFCU gives material and financial support to girls from humble families, and the mentally gifted are supported both materially and financially, JFCU's activities have helped retain the girl-child in schools and the sub county leadership has been encouraged to participate in the campaign to end child marriage in the sub county.

In the next chapter, the researcher concludes and discusses the findings. He also makes recommendations from the study.

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Overview

Following the presentation and analysis of data gathered from respondents with the help of questionnaires and interviews, in this chapter, the researcher presents discussions, conclusions, and recommendations from the study.

Discussion

Based on the findings presented in chapter 4, the researcher observes, the Empower Project in Karangura Sub County works towards ending child marriage. This conforms to the commitment JFCU makes in the project background. In its commitment, JFCU says, it is dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice against children; and, child marriage is one of the forms of injustice on children. To clarify more, JFCU has identified girls from humble families (but still in school) and given them goats and financial support to help get their parents relieved of the burden of caring for them.

To make the above more meaningful to the locals, JFCU has brought local authorities like members of the LC 3 executive on board to encourage communities to end child marriage in the sub county. Because of this cooperation, by-laws have been put in place to ensure safety of the girl-child. This responds to the call by UNICEF (2015) to have local communities take a leading role in bringing child marriage to an end.

JFCU, through its Empower Project, has addressed the fear that there can at times be low value attached to girls' education where parents feel educating a girl-child is a waste of time and other resources since they are expected to marry (Ssekiwunga & Whyte, 2009; Rubin et al, 2009). A steady increase in retention of the girl-child in school is evident in some of the records of Mahyoro Primary School as shown in the figure below.



Class	Boys	Girls	Total
P1	35	47	82
P2	21	34	55
P3	15	30	45
P4	17	27	44
P5	13	20	33
P6	06	16	22
P7	08	12	20
TOTAL	115	186	301



Class	Boys	Girls	Total
P1	38	51	89
P2	27	30	57
P3	27	35	62
P4	27	28	55
P5	28	20	48
P6	10	19	29
P7	05	10	15
TOTAL	173	128	301



Class	Boys	Girls	Total
P1	52	41	93
P2	47	32	79
P3	30	35	65
P4	22	30	52
P5	26	28	54
P6	13	15	28
P7	04	20	24
TOTAL	195	137	335

Displayed charts showing steady progress on retention of the girl-child in Mahyoro Primary School

According to Defoe (1997), marriage provides security and social support to women. This assumption misleads parents of Karangura Sub County where child marriage had earlier found fertile ground. The effort by JFCU, through the Empower Project, to create awareness on the value of keeping the girl-child in school until completion forbids parents from marrying off their daughters at an early age. This is supported by USAID (2009) where it is said that education empowers women with knowledge and creates the potential to engage in meaningful work that gives them identity beyond that of wife and mother. The pictures of the child-mother below show the reality of child marriage.



Fig 2: A seventeen year old mother in Kibwa Parish, Karangura. She got married and dropped out of school due to lack of parental support.

JFCU's Empower project in Karangura Sub County has supported some families as a way of supporting their income. This could have been in response to the claim by USAID (2009) where it is said, where there is poverty, a young woman may be considered either an economic burden or an asset from which families can gain property and livestock from bride wealth exchange. The goats donated to families to support adolescent girls keep in school has made parents value their daughters' stay in school. A mother of four and parent at Mahyoro Primary School had faith; the goat given to her daughter (now in P5) will see all her children through school. This, to the researcher, meant, a girl's stay in school had built hope in parents' hearts that their daughters will, upon completion of their studies, see their homes develop.



A parent with the kid of the goat offered by JFCU

The Empower project in Karangura Sub county has seen JFCU partner with local authorities to end child marriage in the area. The rural setting of the area doesnot make it exceptional from the observation by FIDH & FHRI (2012), Benschop (2002), Bantebya, Muhanguzi & Watson (2013;2014) and MGLSD (2011) where arrangement of adolescent girls is said to be severe in rural areas. According to Mr. Kijana Andrew, Secretary for Education-Karangura Sub County, the by-law put in place by the LC3 council compelling both the parent and the man marrying an adolescent to pay a fine of Ushs 1,000,000 (Ushs 500,000 each) has lowered cases of early marriage in the sub county. This is in support of the Uganda constitution (1995) that sets the minimum age of marriage at 18.

Conclusions

Community events

Joy For Childdren,Uganda has reaches out to the community of Karangura sub county mainly through local leaders.They make the most of gatherings where they sensitise members of the community on the protection of the rights of adolescent girls. This is mostly done at burials, church services, Parents’ - Teachers’ Association (PTA) meetings. There has also been outsourcing of technical personnel to address community needs. For example, the workshop of June, 2014 that was organized to train goats’ beneficiaries on how to care for goats.

Communicating messages about ending child marriage

This has been done right from the classroom level. Teachers have displayed messages that discourage girls from getting involved in risky behavior that can lead to early marriage. Messages like **love doesn’t mean sex, be assertive; know your rights; abstain from sex until marriage; avoid early marriages; education is a key to success; report any case of sexual harassment; avoid bad peer groups and respect your parents** have been displayed in upper primary classrooms. Teachers say, such message keep reminding the girl-child about she ought to behave if she wants her dreams to become true.



Some of the messages displayed on classroom walls at Mahyoro Primary School.

Support for girls’ education

JFCU, through the Empower Project, has donated goats and also given financial support to the most vulnerable girls in Kibyo and Mahyoro Primary Schools. Goats have been given out in three phases; first phase (10 goats) in 2013, second phase (13 goats) in 2014 and third phase (60 goats)

in 2015. Girls have also been given textbooks. At the time of preparing this report, the researcher learnt, there were 30 girls (15 from each of the beneficiary schools) that were, in addition to the goats donated, receiving financial support. The money is for paying PTA, examination and remedial fees per girl per school term. Teacher coordinators say girls from very poor families benefit from both initiatives.



Some of the beneficiaries from Kibyo and Mahyoro respectively pose for photos

For some special cases, teachers say, girls benefit from both goats' and sponsorship projects. According to their experience, when a girl has been given a goat and also sponsored, she widens chances for her siblings to keep in school as the income from goats would trickle to them.



Musoki Eveline, P5-Kibyo Primary School at her home with her goat and siblings.

“...I stay with my father and step mother. My father drinks a lot and my step mother mistreats me because her daughter didn’t receive a goat. Even though my father sold off my goat’s first off spring and drunk all the money, I have hope my goat will cater for my sister’s (the second girl Evelyn’s mother left behind) school needs,” said Musoki as she wiped tears off her cheeks. Ms Joy said, Evelyn’s stepmother’s cruelty³ prompted her to give Gorret support through her sister.

Giving out goats to girls has drastically reduced pupil absenteeism and dropping out school. According to Ms. Joy⁴, Kibwa Parish is nowadays a wrong place for one to go looking for baby sitters. She says, this is because most girls have been persuaded to go back to school and stay there.

³ Evelyn’s stepmother was not happy when her daughter was not given a goat.

⁴ Ms. Joy is a focal teacher at Kibyo Primary school and very passionate about the Empower Project.



Nyangoma Joy, P7- Kibwa Primary School and her grandmother with her goat pose for a photo at her home.

Ms. Joy asserts, had it not been the Empower Project, Joy⁵ would either be married or working as a house help somewhere. She said, the project unites the teacher, parent and child. For example, Joy's grandmother can never let her keep home on school days without sound reason because of the fear of losing her goat.

Mr. Kayungiro Joash, Focal teacher-Mahyoro Primary School, shares the same idea. He says, since the start of the Empower Project, his relationship with the girls has greatly improved; they get to him any time there is need.

⁵ Joy had dropped out of school because she had lost hope in achieving her life's dream after her mother had developed a mental illness.



Mbambu Linet, her mother and Mr. Kayungiro pose a photo with the goat donated by JFCU.

The table below shows the summary on the status of goats that have been donated to girls.

School	Goats given out	Goats with off springs	Goats lost
Kibyo Primary School	40	11	03
Mahyoro Primary Schools	35	10	12
Total	75	21	15

Income generating initiatives

At the time of collecting data for this report, none of the respondents mentioned anything about income-generating activities that had been initiated by JFCU. Direct support to the girls is all the Empower Project was doing. Their parents have not been supported to engage in income-generating activities.



Naome Aisha (centre), P4- Mahyoro Primary School poses for a photo with her grandfather (left) and Mr. Kayungiro (right) at her home.

Evaluation reports

JFCU has been making reports on the Empower Project but not those evaluating it. This, the researcher has learnt, is the first in the history of the project.



The researcher, the focal teacher and beneficiaries of Kibyo Primary School in an open discussion

Clubs

Through the researcher's interaction with focal teachers and pupils of the two beneficiary schools, it was said, there are debates, farmers' and health clubs that were created to strengthen the call to end child marriage in Karangura Sub County. It was also evident that some clubs' activities were timetabled.

MAHYORO PRIMARY SCHOOL GENERAL TIME TABLE 2013/2014

TIME	7:30-8:00	8:00-8:30	8:30-9:00	9:00-9:30	9:30-10:00	10:00-10:30	10:30-11:00	11:00-11:30	11:30-12:00	12:00-12:30	12:30-1:00	1:00-1:30	1:30-2:00	2:00-2:30	2:30-3:00	3:00-3:30	3:30-4:00	4:00-4:30	4:30-5:00
7:30-8:00	MTG	SCI	SCI	ENG	L/L	SST	RE	SCI	SST	RE	SCI	SST	RE	SCI	SST	RE	SCI	SST	RE
8:00-8:30	ENG	MTG	MTG	SCI	SST	RE	SCI	SST	RE	SCI	SST	RE	SCI	SST	RE	SCI	SST	RE	SCI
8:30-9:00	SCI	SCI	PE	RE	MTG	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI
9:00-9:30	RE	ENG	PE	RE	MTG	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI
9:30-10:00	SST	SST	RE	ENG	RE	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI
10:00-10:30	MTG	MTG	ENG	RE	ENG	ENG	SST	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI
10:30-11:00	MTG	MTG	PE	ENG	ENG	PE	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI
11:00-11:30	ENG	ENG	PE	RE	SST	SST	CAPEI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI
11:30-12:00	ENG	RE	RE	SST	SST	CAPEI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI
12:00-12:30	ENG	ENG	RE	SST	SST	CAPEI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI
12:30-1:00	MTG	MTG	SCI	SST	SST	CAPEI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI
1:00-1:30	ENG	MTG	MTG	ENG	ENG	PE	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI	SCI

A general time table in the Deputy Head teacher's office, Mahyoro Primary School.

It was also said, the clubs also train girls to use the locally-available materials to meet their daily needs. For example; the health club trains girls to make local sanitary pads; the farmers' club trains both boys and girls to use available land to grow food crops.



A teacher displays a locally-made re-usable sanitary towel and the material used respectively.

In addition to the above, the researcher finds it important to also take note of the following:

JFCU operates in Karangura Sub County and has won support of both local authorities and the natives. Its Empower Project is only in Kibwa Parish. The LC 3 council has written to the organisation to have the project expand to another three parishes (including the one newly created) but there has been no official response yet.

Local authorities in Karangura Sub County are committed to working with JFCU to bring child marriage to an end. By-laws have been put in place to help give meaning to the objectives of the Empower project. Local authorities have shown more cooperation to JFCU through talking to parents on the value of keeping a girl-child in school until completion during PTA meetings, in churches and at burials. According to Ms Edwige Kabahenda, Vice Chairperson LC3- Karangura Sub County, community sensitisation created awareness in most parents in Kibwa Parish which has drastically reduced cases of early marriage in the area in the past 12 months.

JFCU has supported girls from needy families with goats to help boost their families' income and give them assurance of keeping in school. By the time of collecting data for this report, there had not been an open market for the donated goats. However, parents see goats donated to their daughters as assets that will at one time contribute to their families' income. For example, the mother of Kitsama Eliza, P7-Mahyoro Primary School expressed her hope that the offsprings of her daughter's goat be sold at some point and fetch money to support her daughter when secondary school. Mr. Kayungiro Joash (Empower Project focal teacher, Mahyoro) said the donation of goats has not only contributed to families' income, but also sustained girls' interest in keeping in school until completion and curbed absenteeism⁶. More to that, Joash said, the donation of goats to girls was a challenge to parents...they got awakened that their daughters' education was of more value than marrying them off at an early age.

Beneficiaries of the Empower Project keep in touch with JFCU through teacher coordinators in the two schools. This has helped build a healthy relationship between JFCU team and the beneficiaries. With this cooperation, it gets inevitable for the researcher to assert that the GNB project is running as planned. In relation to this, JFCU has established a healthy relationship with the Sub County leadership where councilors of all parishes amplify the call to end child marriage throughout the sub county. It is evident that the Empower Project is set to end child-marriage in Karangura Sub County.

JFCU has not organised radio programmes on local radio stations that advocate girls' retention in schools until completion. This would help achieving the objectives the Empower Project as set on a wider basis.

The local authorities had kept silent on the bid to end child marriage in Karangura Sub County until the start of the Empower Project. Involvement of the local authorities by JFCU in Empower Project activities has ignited, in the leaders, the will to bring child marriage in the sub county to an end.

⁶ Teachers encourage beneficiaries to always attend school because absenteeism can easily see them lose their goats to other needy girls.

Recommendations

The researchers find it important to make the following recommendations to the stakeholders in the campaign to end child marriage in Karangura Sub County:

➤ The administrators of JFCU

There is need to expand the project to other parishes of Karangura Sub County. Operation in the sub county as a whole can get the Empower Project objectives achieved with ease.

There should be sensitisation of beneficiaries on proper ways of looking after the goats received so as to prevent further loss.

There should be clear principles to govern the management of goats donated. Teacher coordinators ought to know what to do in case a beneficiary changes school or drops out completely.

The administration of JFCU should allocate more funds to the GNB project to care for beneficiaries even after P7. If this is done, there can be higher chances of bringing child-marriage cases in Karangura Sub County to an end. This mostly applies to the group that receives financial support.

➤ Parents

Parents in Karangura Sub County should look beyond the goats and financial support given to their daughters. They should provide to their girls all that a child needs to be successful in school. Adolescent girls need guidance and counseling from their parents. This helps shape their morals and keep them focused.

Goats donated to them should be cared for as required so as to minimize deaths and retarded growth. When goats are well cared for, they grow and multiply faster to help meet the increasing needs of their daughters.

Parents should monitor their daughters' education as a way of supplementing teachers' work. For example, encouraging them to attend daily, checking their exercise books and providing scholastic materials. This is because the support from JFCU cannot be enough to provide all needs for a girl-child.

➤ LC3 executive

The campaign to end child marriage in Karangura Sub County should be included in the annual budget of the sub county. The fund can help address the challenge of limited funds for transport and sitting allowances for councilors. This will enable members of the sub county council to reach out to all areas of Karangura and embrace the campaign to end child marriage.

Much as JFCU supports the girl-child to keep in school, the office of the LC 3 chairperson should also put up ways of supporting young mothers. This, if properly done, can help eliminate maternal and infant mortality in the sub county. Young mothers are most likely to be economically helpless.

More by-laws should be formulated to help reduce risks that can get adolescent girls get into early marriage. This majorly applies for girls in secondary schools and those that have dropped out of schools.

➤ School administrators

School administrators in Karangura Sub County should put in place shelters⁷ for adolescent girls to wash from. This will make a girl-child feel comfortable at school. Absence of such accelerates the rate at which girls drop out of school.

School administrators should minimize teachers' absenteeism so the girl-child does not find it an excuse to drop out of school.

There should be career guidance for pupils. This can help them get to know the reason they should keep in school.

➤ Girl-child

Adolescent girls ought to get focused so they can keep away from being lured into early marriage. They should always reach out to school authorities when sexually harassed.

Review

From the presentation in the previous sections of the chapter, the study has revealed that child-marriage is a big challenge that the Empower Project is striving to bring to an end. Because of low income levels in most homes in Karangura Sub County, JFCU has given out both material and financial support to some homes as a way of expressing their commitment to ending child marriage in the area. The Empower Project has different stakeholders on board and JFCU has labored to coordinate them so as to achieve the set objectives.

⁷ Such shelters help girls wash and change their sanitary pads when in menstruation.

References

Girls Not Brides Empower Project Progress Report (2014)

Girls Not Brides Report (2015)

Girls not Brides Uganda, Stakeholders meeting report (2014)

GNB Empower mini report (2015)

The National Child Protection Working Group Annual Report (2014)

The Situation Analysis of Child Abuse and Neglect in Uganda (2009)

APPENDICES

AppendixA: INSTRUMENTS

Appendix A1: Interview guide for parents

INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR PARENTS

SECTION 1: Assessment on social action, acceptance, investing in and supporting girls and social expectations relating to girls.

1. Have you ever heard of Joy for Children Uganda?
2. The government of Uganda, and the whole world, insist that no girl should marry before turning 18 years; what do you say about that?
3. Is it a wise idea to keep girl-children in school until completion?
4. How has Joy for Children Uganda helped in supporting girl-children go to school, remain in school and complete school?
5. Do you think it is important to keep girl-children in school until completion?
6. Many people assert that educating a girl-child is educating a nation; does that make any sense to a parent in their rightful mind?
7. Could there be parents that are failing to see their girl-children in school despite the general public outcry that girls should also be equal opportunities as boys in terms of education? If yes,
8. What do you think are some of the reasons why girls are not given equal opportunities as boys?
9. Would you encourage a parent not to marry off their daughters before they turn 18 years?

SECTION 2: Protection of the rights of adolescent girls

10. Have you ever heard messages on any local radio station that advocate for girls' retention in schools?
11. What can a parent do when their underage daughter gets lured into marriage?
12. What common problems do adolescent girls encounter in this area?
13. Have you heard of any cases of child marriage in this area in the past 12 months?
14. What do you think adolescent girls can benefit from keeping in school until completion?
15. Where can a parent report for assistance in case their daughter's rights get violated?

Appendix 3: Questionnaire for teachers

Beloved Teacher,

I am an independent researcher contracted by Joy for Children Uganda carrying out an evaluation of its activities in Karangura Sub County. Findings from this survey will help the organisation improve **the Empower Project** in this sub county.

Please feel free to give your responses as all the information you will provide will be handled with great confidentiality.

I look forward for your cooperation.

Thank you.

.....

KANKYA BLAISE

Instruction: Please put **X** in the column with the most suitable response.

Key: 1= strongly agree 2= agree 3= strongly disagree 4= disagree 5= not sure.

	1	2	3	4	5
Section 1: Assessment on social action, acceptance, investing in and supporting girls and social expectations relating to girls.					
1. My school encourages girls to keep in school					
2. This school welcomes girls that choose to get back to school					
3. Joy for Children Uganda supports adolescent girls to keep in school					
4. I have been encouraged to integrate counselling of adolescent girls in my lessons					
5. Adolescent girls in this school have special considerations that address their needs					
6. I encourage adolescent girls to freely seek advice on the challenges they face from any teacher available to them.					
Section 2: Protection of the rights of adolescent girls					
7. This school has printed messages on protection of adolescent girls displayed for pupils' reach.					
8. Joy for Children Uganda organises workshops for teachers to retool them on ways to protect rights of adolescents.					

9. I discourage behaviour that can lead to violation of the rights of adolescent girls among the pupils I teach.					
10. This school meets parents of adolescent girls that get lured into early marriage.					

Thank you for your cooperation.

Appendix 4: Questionnaire for pupils

Beloved pupil,

I am an independent researcher working for Joy for Children-Uganda. I am carrying out an evaluation of its activities in Karangura Sub County.

Please feel free to give answers to the questions that follow. Do not write your name anywhere on this paper.

Thank you.

.....

KANKYA BLAISE

0782 852551/0704 749633

Instruction: *Please put a circle around the letter with the most correct response.*

Section 1: Assessment on social action, acceptance, investing in and supporting girls and social expectations relating to girls.

1. Have you ever heard about Joy for Children Uganda?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
2. My class has more boys than girls.
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not sure
3. In this school, there are older girls that have been allowed to come back to study with us.
 - a. Agree
 - b. Disagree
 - c. Not sure
4. Adolescent girls should be encouraged not to marry before they complete school.
 - a. Yes
 - b. No

- c. I don't know
- 5. A girl should be encouraged to go back to school after she has given birth.
 - a. I don't know
 - b. No
 - c. Yes
- 6. Teachers in my class, during their lessons, encourage girls to keep in school.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. Not sure

Section 2: Protection of the rights of adolescent girls

- 7. This school has messages displayed to protect older girls.
 - a. Disagree
 - b. Agree
 - c. I don't know.
- 8. Older girls that are sexually harassed are always advised to report to teachers.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. Not sure.
- 9. This school has a senior woman teacher.
 - a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not sure
- 10. Girls in this school have the shelter to help them clean themselves up.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. I don't know
- 11. Our teachers discourage parents from marrying their girls before completing school.
 - a. True
 - b. False
 - c. Not sure

End. Thank you for answers

APPENDIX 5: Interview guide for LC3 Executive

Section 1: Assessment on social action, acceptance, investing in and supporting girls and social expectations relating to girls.

1. Does Joy for Children Uganda operate in this sub county?
2. Do you have child marriage cases in this sub county?
3. Does this sub county have programs that encourage girls to go back to school?
4. Is there any program in this sub county that supports girls who dropped out of school?
5. Does this sub county have laws that fight child marriage?

Section 2: Protection of the rights of adolescent girls

6. How does the leadership of this sub county handle cases that violet the rights of adolescents?
7. Is there a law, in this sub county, that promotes the fight on defilement?
8. Has this sub county's leadership sensitised adolescent girls not to get involved in acts that can violate their rights?
9. Have you had any meeting with Joy for Children Uganda to discuss ways of stopping child marriage in this sub county?
10. Does this sub county's executive have a person that handles children's cases?

END