

Gender Equality- The Cries Of The Beautiful

Birds at Ngarenanyuki

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Introduction

Women and girls are entitled to full and equal enjoyment of their rights but what occurs in their societies appears to be vice versa as they encounter several problems like early marriages, female genital mutilation and gender discriminations which is due to the patriarchal system that exists in many African societies.

One among the sensitive areas where girls and women are affected by early marriages, female genital mutilation and gender discrimination is in pastoral societies respectively Ngarenanyuki area at Kisimiri where the Meru tribe dominates the area. It is approximated that 90% of girls living in this area faces these problems hence their cries become endless due to poor efforts kept to ensure that these beautiful birds are kept in a safe environment that will support them and encourage them to build their lives in becoming better people for the sake of their precious lives, family, society and country in general.

Method

The study was carried out at Ngarenanyuki area which is administratively found in Arumeru district, Arusha. Arumeru district is located in longitude 36.2630846 and latitude 2.7583634.

For this project to be successful a number of approaches and methodology were applied for data collection which included field observation, key informant interview and number of questionnaires that finally led us to the solutions of these problems.

We visited different areas in Meru society within Ngarenanyuki and observed the life condition of girls in early marriages and the difficulties that they faced. We also observed the gender status and saw how women inferiority had dominated the area and the discrimination how women and girls in different activities in the society and the status of the female genital mutilation and its effects in the health of girls and women in the society.

The interview was done in different area at Ngarenanyuki whereby we visited different Meru families and asked them different questions concerning the problems faces by girls and how these problems hinder their wellbeing in general.

Also, the challenges faced due to early marriage, female genital mutilation and gender discrimination. We also visited some elders of the community and asked them on how they play part to ensure the security of these girls and how they help and support them to end their cries that seem to be forgotten in the society.



MASWALI YA MAHOJIANO
MASWALI KWA AJILI YA WANAJAMII WA MAENEO YA NGARENANYUKI JUU YA TATEZO LA NDOA ZA KITOFONI KATIKA JAMILI.

Gloria Martin Mwakalembusya na Calister Michael Sanga, wanafurahi wa Kitimiri Sekondari tumeandaa maswali ya mhojiano ya mada tayo hapo juu kwa ajili ya uchunguzi. Tumeandaa maswali kama hawa.

JIBU NDHO AU HAPANA

- Je, katika jamii yako kuna washege wa tawala la ndoa za utotoni kwa wachacha?
Ndiyo Hapana
- Je, tawala hizi la ndoa za utotoni linakawa likiwa binafsi au zote katika maisha yao?
Ndiyo Hapana
- Je, jamii imetirikiana nao katika kutana tawala hizi?
Ndiyo Hapana
- Je, kama jishada zote zinazochukuliwa katika kuhitaji tawala la ndoa za utotoni kwa wachacha?
Ndiyo Hapana
- Je, katika jamii yako kiasi ya wasichana wanaoitirika na ndoa za utotoni ni kubwa?
Ndiyo Hapana



Results

Above are some of the questions asked to people about gender issues in their local areas.

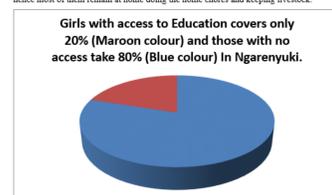
They were asked by using Kiswahili language because of language barrier as many of people are illiterate in a way few villagers are able to use the national language (Kiswahili), most of them speak their native languages like kimeru and do not know completely Kiswahili language.

Their response shows that many of them are not aware about gender issues and they do not consider women views at all.

The people of Ngarenayuki where is the case study of our report were not ready to show any cooperation to our interview and questionnaire. So it was not easy for us to convince them and finally agree to show cooperation to us on our project. It took us two days to accomplish the task of persuading them.

“LET’S END THE CRIES OF MANY AFRICAN BEAUTIFUL BIRDS”

II. Education
Education is a big problem to girls (women) in Meru at Ngarenanyuki area. As we were doing research we discovered that 80% of girls in Meru land does not get the chance to go to school hence most of them remain at home doing the home chores and keeping livestock.



Pie showing the percent of girls who have an access to education and those who do not have in Ngarenanyuki

I. Number of Girls (Women)

In Meru land at Ngarenanyuki above 90% of the girls face early marriage, genital mutilation and gender discrimination.

Consider the data below;
Table showing number of cries to girls in Ngarenanyuki ward from 2018-2020 as reported by village chairman Mr. GADIEL KANUYA

YEAR	NO. OF GIRLS IN CRIES	NO. OF GIRLS WITHOUT CRIES
2018	42 out of 51	09 out of 51
2019	19 out of 32	13 out of 32
2020	29 out of 40	11 out of 40

Conclusion

Problems like early marriage, female genital mutilation and gender discrimination as the main problems facing girls (women) not only in Ngarenanyuki but also in the whole country and Africa at large should be abolished as women are also supposed to enjoy their rights fully as men.

The government of Tanzania on 19th December 2019 adopted policies that advance gender equality in a supportive enabling environment. Our government just like other African countries has tried to support women and girls and empower them so as to create a better and safe environment for their well-being and therefore by doing so we will be creating a developed nation with women in the frontline for economic development.

It is now a time to end different problems which face women not only in Tanzania but the world at large. Different problems like early marriages, Female Genital Mutilation, gender discrimination, early marriages and others because these are major problems that hinder the development of our societies.

It's our hope that this project would be of great benefit not only for YST exhibition but it would go further by educating the public and make these cries end.

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