

## **8. UNENDING LIFE**

- The term unending life refers to eternity which means everlasting life. Therefore, unending life means that people continue to live in another form even after their death.
- After death the body decomposes but the soul continues to live because it goes to live in another world (spiritual world)
- Death is a transition from the physical world(life) to a spiritual world. To some people death is un kind and taken to be a curse while to others death is positive and a route to eternal happiness.
- To scientists, death is the end of life while in religion it is a process to another life. People believe that the dead go to hell or heaven depending on how they have lived on earth. Young people think less about death until someone close to them dies.
- Many people question the existence of God and the life to come. This is due to scientific theories which oppose the existence of God. So, they reject issues about life after death basing on what they see, hear and what they learn.

### **REASONS FOR DOUBTING LIFE AFTER DEATH.**

- Confusing explanation given by different religions; Some people say that life after death is just a religious theory explained by different religions. Each religion has its own way of explaining this theory which brings doubt among people.
- It contradicts with science; Science proves that death is the end of everything and that is why the educated have opposed life after death. Scientific research has shown that life stops when a person dies.
- Modernity declares it ancient; Modern society looks at believing in eternal life as an outdated fact of the ancient people who lacked the scientific approach towards life.
- Threat factor; Many people look at it as a created threat by society especially in religions to draw people to the churches for personal interests of preachers.
- People lack absolute facts about this life; To many people even those who talk about this kind of life lack facts about it their information looks to be more forged than realistic. This is because they themselves have never died.
- Lack of clear evidence of the dead coming back; Though society has some information about the appearance of the dead to some people, this cannot be proved by those who claim so which makes life after death doubtful.
- Morality factor; People argue that theories about life after death were composed just to tame people's conduct so as to keep a morally upright society. Places like heaven and hell are used to make people live with the expected moral standards.
- To some people it is a consolation factor. Those who reject issues about life after death argue that this theory is a consolation to those who have failed to achieve in this earthly life. They use it as a cover up to continue living with hope.
- The fear of death by even those who preach about this life. Many people doubt life after death due to the fact that believers express much fear for death. One wonders if death is just a passage to a perfect life why do believers fear to die?
- The fact that even the religious cry/ mourn bitterly when they lose relatives make many people doubt life after death. They wonder if it was their why people cry instead of dancing and celebrating.

- Less benefit in believing or opposing life after death. Other people say that they benefit less in either believing or opposing eternal life. In most cases they remain the way they are no punishment for those who oppose and neither benefit for supporters this make them doubt eternal life.

#### **WAYS IN WHICH THE CHURCH REMEMBERS THOSE WHO DIED IN CHRISTIAN FAITH**

- The Church remembers those who died in faith by naming people after them to keep memory of them. For example, many people are named after the Uganda martyrs such as kizito omuto Charles Lwanga and Noah Mawaggali.
- The church also prays through the saints to intercede for Christians before God so as to attain eternal life.
- The church elevates the faithful dead to the level of saints and this process is referred to as beatification. For instance, Pope John Paul was declared a saint recently.
- Christian centers and church buildings are dedicated to them. For instance, Uganda martyrs Basilica Namugongo and All saints church Nakasero.
- The names of the dead are also given to places of influence. For example, St. Balikudembe market The former Owino market in Kampala was named after St. Balikudembe the martyr.
- The dead are consulted through prayer to intercede for the living. For example, Mother Mary is usually consulted by the Catholics in a rosary especially in May and October.
- The church especially the Catholic church celebrates feast days for the saints. For instance, all saints' day on 1<sup>st</sup> November every year, Uganda martyrs' day on 3<sup>rd</sup> June and St. Joseph's day on 19<sup>th</sup> march.
- The Church also organizes prayers for the dead annually to remember them and pray for the redemption of their souls. For example, on every 2<sup>nd</sup> November the church prays for the souls in purgatory.
- Songs are also composed in praise of God for the life and strength He gave the dead and in recognition of their services. For example, "Twebaza Mapeera" a song recognizing Father Loudel and brother Amass' contribution as missionaries to Africa.
- Books magazines and other Christian literature have been written about them to remember what they did for the church. E.g. "THE MEN OF FAITH" a book written on the Uganda martyrs.
- Drama and films have been acted and recorded to remember them. Padre Pio film and Noah's ark.

#### **HOW MODERN CHRISTIANS PREPARE FOR UNENDING LIFE?**

- In the modern society due to the influence of Christianity, people make preparations for life to come or life after death in the following ways;
- Some prepare for eternal life through receiving sacraments such as Baptism, penance and holy Eucharist to prepare their souls for life after death.
- Many Christians carryout works of charity like looking after the sick, visiting those in prison and feeding orphans and widows to prepare for eternal life.
- They also prepare for this life by accepting Jesus Christ as their personal savior and presenting all their hardships to him and live according to His will.
- By naming people after saints like St Paul, St John so as to be guided and protected by such Saints for their spiritual growth.

- By involving in church activities such as taking readings in church, attending mass and prayers which keep them pure and humble.
- Through taking on religious vocations such as priesthood, deacons, sisters which help them to be more close to God and serve Him so as to strengthen their bond with God in preparation for eternal life.
- Through building churches as worshipping places where people go to praise God the creator.
- Others prepare for eternal life by paying church dues/tithes and giving offertory so as to fulfill their religious requirements.
- Through fasting during the month of lent where people are expected to carry out forgiveness and reconciliation.
- Through attending fellowships, retreats, conferences, crusades and bible study aiming at spiritual development.
- By praying in the morning, afternoon, evening and night as a community of believers and on individual basis to strengthen their bond with God.
- By making pilgrims to holy places e.g. Jerusalem, Rome, Namugongo.
- Through watching Christian films and programmes like religious moments.
- Through preaching and extending the word of God to others.
- Celebrating feast days like all Saints day, martyrs' day and Christmas day.
- By joining religious movements e.g. YCs, xaverians and legion of Mary.
- By setting up radio and TV stations to extend the word of God to a wider community e.g. radio Maria, LTV.
- By accepting persecution for the sake of Christ as the Uganda martyrs sacrificed their lives and accepted death instead of disobeying God.
- Through reading and writing Christian literature so as to make others know more about God.
- Many Christians compose and sing religious songs to prepare for life after death and to help others prepare for life after death.

#### **ATTITUDE OF A MODERN CHRISTIAN SHOULD HAVE TOWARDS DEATH**

- A modern Christian should take death as a mere change of form of life and a gate way to a better and more meaningful life.
- One should face death with courage because Jesus resurrected from the dead and broke the barriers and strong ties of death.
- One should have faith and trust in Jesus who conquered death for He says there is a better life after death.
- Christians should have hope in eternal/everlasting life which begins here and now.
- Christians should rejoice in the fact of Jesus' resurrection, continue to announce the good news because believers will be able to resurrect like their master.
- A Christian should have courage to endure all sorts of even if it means death. One should know that eternal begins here and now and therefore should be concerned with regulating his/her life in order to maintain a good relationship with God.

- A Christian should have hope in resurrection of all people at the end of time.
- A Christian should prepare himself for a happy day by repenting and receiving other sacraments.
- One should break barriers which separate him from God by creating fellowship with God and our fellow men.
- One should keep himself pure in heart and mind and should encourage others to welcome death.
- A Christian should live in love with neighbors and should look at death as a gate way to heaven
- A Christian should rejoice and celebrate when a fellow Christian dies because such a person has gone back to his permanent home.

#### **AFRICAN TRADITIONAL VIEW/ UNDERSTANDING OF LIFE AFTER DEATH**

- **Spiritual life;** In African traditional society, life after death was taken to be spiritual. To them after death one would join the world of spirits where his ancestors lived.
- **The dead remained with desires;** In the spiritual world the dead remained with physical desires such as food, property, women and authority. That is why in some cultures people were buried with their property.
- **Eternal life was taken to be superior;** To Africans life after death was superior than life lived on earth. This was because of the belief that the dead lived near gods/ ancestors and acted as mediators between the living and the gods.
- **In Africa life after death influenced one's life on earth.** They believed that after death a person continued to live in the same way he had been living here on earth. That is leaders remained leaders, the good people would join the ancestors while the bad would join the world of violent spirits.
- **That the dead had the ability to come back;** They also believed that the dead would come back and live with them physically in form of other creatures or spiritually and that is why in some cultures like among the Baganda they built for them huts.
- **It was an extension of family life;** They also believed that life here after was an extension of family life. They believed that the dead continued to have great interest and influence in family affairs and that why they were consulted before taking important decisions in the family.
- **Freedom of movement was granted in in the spiritual world;** Africans believed that after death spirits were free to move to any place and any home less restrictions. That is why they restricted children from moving at some hours of the day, shouting so as not to disturb them.
- **Life after death had levels;** To Africans, life after death had levels and the dead needed qualifications from one level to the other. That is the recent dead had their level, then the ancestors and the gods respectively.
- **It was determined by quality of life on earth;** Africans believed that life after death was based on one's living quality on earth. One would enjoy this kind of life if for instance he had children, wealth and had a good relationship with the ancestors.

- **That the living dead had demands they would make to the living;** The dead would make demands which were supposed to be met by the living so as to have harmony with them. The conduct of the living was based on the demands made by the living dead.
- **They understood life after death in terms of blessings and curses;** To the Africans the dead had authority to bless or curse the living depending on the relationship they kept with them. Luck and misfortunes in traditional Africa were linked to the dead.

### **RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE DEAD AND THE LIVING IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY**

- The dead were taken as members of the family and were in most cases informed or invited on special family celebrations especially during marriage ceremonies.
- Names of the dead would be given to the young ones as a way of seeking for protection from them. The dead were the ones to protect and defend the living from aggression.
- The dead shared a close contact with the living that is why they were always remembered by the living and would share with them foods and drinks.
- They shared Father-son relationship; The living depended much on the dead for survival and that is why they were consulted in times of crises like drought, famine and during wars.
- The dead acted as mediators between the living and gods/God. They could talk to God on behalf of the living.
- The dead visited the living occasionally and during such visits they would either bless or curse the living depending on the prevailing circumstances.
- The living would sometimes get possessed by the spirits of the dead especially if there was a problem to be solved. Thus sometimes the dead acted as judges in traditional Africa.
- The people were also guided and treated by the dead in case of complicated sicknesses. The dead would help the living to find medicine of such diseases and their instructions were vital in averting plagues in traditional Africa.
- The living had a responsibility of venerating the dead through explicit acts of worship and offering them material gifts.
- There was great fear for the dead by the living and this was because the dead were taken to be more powerful than the living and were taken to be everywhere and seeing everything.
- The dead would appear to the living physically or in form of dreams from which information concerning family affairs were given.

### **ACTIVITIES WHICH THE AFRICANS PERFORMED TO KEEP THEM IN TOUCH WITH THE DEAD/PRACTICES THAT SHOWED THAT THERE WAS LIFE AFTER DEATH OR THE DEAD WERE LIVING**

- The dead in traditional Africa were buried with material property because they believed that they would need them in the spiritual world. This was a common practice in west Africa, Egypt and among the Karamojong of Uganda.
- Africans respected burial sites and this was done through keeping them clean all the time, restricting children from playing near them and decorating them. This was done to make the dead happy.

- The names of the dead were given to their born children so as to entrust the children into the hands of the ancestors for protection and to make the dead resurrect through these children. For example, Luutu of Mamba clan among the Baganda of central region.
- Africans shared foods and drinks with the ancestors by either pouring some down before eating for the ancestors to eat first or in some tribes, food would be taken to the graves for the dead to eat. This was common among the Samya and Bagwere of eastern Uganda.
- Burial rites were performed before and after burial to make the dead comfortable in their new home. In some societies sacrifices were made for the dead in order to appease them.
- The living would consult the ancestors in case of calamities so as to get solutions from them. For example, in case of problems like sickness, barrenness and wars among the baganda of central Uganda, ancestors like Muwanga, Nagadya in charge of fertility and Kibuuka in charge of wars were consulted.
- The Africans also feared to keep, use or misuse the property of the dead. In some communities like the Hima of western Uganda, the property of the dead would be destroyed and relatives sometimes migrated to stop the spirit of the dead from following them.
- Africans also cleaned the dead before burial that is the bodies were bathed and the hair cut off in order to prepare them for the new life they had entered. This practice was common among the baganda of central Uganda.
- Africans also prepared the sick before death in order to make such people connected to the world of ancestors before death. For example, among the Ibo of southern Nigeria, elders would counsel the sick and perform some rituals that handed over the sick to his ancestors.
- Africans built shrines for the ancestors so as to make them rest in such huts. They believed that these shrines were places of abode for the ancestors. This was common among the Baganda where each divinity had a specific shrine where people would go for blessings.
- In some societies the dead were buried near homes. This was done to keep in touch with them and to enable them access their homes and help their family members during crises. For example, among the Japadhola of eastern Uganda the dead were buried in the compound facing the entrance of the hut with the belief that would enter and get out at will.
- In traditional Africa people would have good conduct so as to prepare themselves for life after death.
- Great respect was given on physical features like mountains and water bodies as well as some animals because they were taken as places of abode for the living dead.
- Children were restricted from moving at some specific time of the day, playing under shades of trees, water bodies and near grave yards especially during the afternoon hours for fear that they would disturb the dead when resting.
- Funeral rites were organized for the dead to enable them get heirs from which the dead would pass and continue living with others and participate in family affairs.
- The Africans carried out the instruction given by the departed before death to prevent the dead from disorganizing them and punish them. These instructions included where to be buried how and who to bury.
- The dead were buried at a specific time depending on the age and responsibility to enable them reach faster and be welcomed by the ancestors responsible.
- The living used the dead as messengers to the spiritual world. For example, among the Bemba of Zambia, the living whispered messages to the dead so as to carry them to the next world.

## **SIMILARITIES BETWEEN TRADITIONAL AFRICA AND CHRISTIAN VIEWS ON UNENDING LIFE**

- Both believe that death is a transition of life from physical to spiritual life.
- Both believe that eternal life begins here on the earth.
- They both accept the fact that the dead are more powerful than the living.
- Both accept that there are different places where people go after death. The good go to a specific place and even the bad to a special place.
- Both believe that life after death is more superior than life on the earth.
- In both situations the dead are buried decently while accompanying them with prayers and other rituals.
- In both the dead are venerated by acts of worship and building for them places.
- Both recognize death at the point when the spirit separates from the body.
- Both believe in the existence of an invisible part of the universe where the spirits live.
- Both honour and pray mentioning the names of the ancestors to stand for them before God for assistance.
- Both offer prayers individually and collectively in preparation for life after death.
- Both identify the spirit of the dead by its personal name and character as that while on earth.
- They both believe that sometimes strange spirits of the dead attack people and possess them and make them abnormal.
- In traditional Africa judgement started here on earth and was instant while in Christianity there will be a final judgement at the end of the world.

## **DIFFERENCES BETWEEN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL AND CHRISTIAN VIEWS ON UNENDING LIFE**

- For the Christians, the Eucharist is the source and sign of eternal life while to the Africans sharing food with the ancestors was the source of life after death.
- To Christians, eternal life is got through having faith in Jesus Christ while to the Africans eternal life was a process from birth to death. That is one was born, grew up and died to join the ancestors.
- In traditional Africa, the dead would bless and curse the living while in Christianity it is only God to bless or curse and the dead just intercede for the living.
- In Christianity the souls of the dead go and live with God eternally while in Traditional Africa the dead continued to live among their relatives in a spiritual form.
- In traditional Africa the dead were buried with material items while among Christians the dead go the way they came. They are buried less material property.
- In traditional Africa, the dead had desires like food and women while in Christianity, the dead live like angels less such desires.
- Traditionalists believed that when one died his spirit lingered around his home while Christians believe that after death the spirits go straight for judgement.
- In traditional Africa the dead made certain demands which would be fulfilled by the living while in Christianity demands end with physical life after death one has less influence on the living and is helpless.
- Traditionalists believed that the dead would be reborn in terms of other creatures like water bodies, mountains and animals while in Christianity the resurrected body is spiritual.

- Africans took life here after to be a carbon copy of the present life that is peasants lived as peasants and king as kings while in Christianity, there is equality of all souls in eternal life.

### **PREPARATION FOR UNENDING LIFE IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY**

- Every one conducted him/herself well in order to have good life after death. This is because in African tradition they believed that the way one lived on earth determined his destination after death.
- People offered prayers to ancestors and gods to guide them and protect them against bad spirits after death. For example, the Baganda would pray through Muwanga, Kibuuka and Mukasa.
- Ceremonies and rites of passage were performed during one's life so that one got a good reception in the next world. For example, circumcision rite among the Gishu and death rights among the Baganda.
- They established a good relationship with the ancestors by respecting their burial grounds and offering to them sacrifices.
- They also respected sacred places and objects such as shrines, sacred trees, forests, lakes and rivers to prevent getting punished by gods after death.
- Some Africans dedicated/devoted their entire lives to the service of gods as diviners, medicine men and women, and rain makers to prepare for life after death.
- They also prepared for life after death through producing children. This enabled them to overcome death and be able to carry on the family name. Children were seen as a replacement of the dead in traditional Africa.
- They observed their traditional norms and practices so that they would have a better life in the next world. This prevented curses from the ancestors and kept them in good terms with the people.
- They also prepared for life here after by naming their children names of ancestors/gods who would welcome them and guide them in the spiritual world. For example, the Baganda named children names of gods like Musoke, Mukasa, Dungu and Kibuuka.
- Funeral rites were performed and the dead were given heirs to show continuity of life. This was common among the Baganda, Basoga and Banyankole.
- The Africans also shared with the dead so as to keep a good relationship with them in preparation for life here after. In some communities, the first lamp of food, local beer and water were given to the ancestors.
- They also buried people with property to avail them with the needs for the next world.
- African traditionalists also fought uncleanness through sprinkling of herbs, washing, shading of blood as a way of preparing for life after death.
- Songs and dances were performed in a religious context. They named and had traditional names for God e.g. Ruhanga, Mukama, Mugabe, Dunda Namugereka, katonda and Liso Dene.
- By wearing fetishes on arms, waists which were made of beads, sticks, strings for protection from evil spirits and give luck to the user. Africans believed that God was involved in all relationships and this is why they gave hospitality to strangers as it was similar to a sacrifice.

### **THE ROLE OF THE ANCESTORS/LIVING DEAD IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA**



- Ancestors were physically departed members of the family who were believed to have joined another world after death.
- In traditional Africa, the family was directly connected to the ancestral generation and these ancestors played a vital role for the existence of the family in question as seen below;
- They acted as mediators between gods and the living. The living would communicate to gods/God through the ancestral spirits and vice versa.
- They acted as patrons to different groups of people and to different sections of life. For example, among the Baganda Kibuuka was a patron of fighters, Dungu of the hunters and Mukasa of the fisher men.
- Ancestors gave blessings to people in traditional Africa which included giving birth to children, a lot of wealth and good health.
- Ancestors acted as custodians of family traditions, practices, norms and values. That is why they were consulted before performing or changing them.
- They also protected people from all sorts of danger such as invasions, drought, famine and fierce animals. That is why in some societies they were consulted when people were going for long journeys.
- They helped in the choice of marriage partners as they were consulted to approve the marriage and marriage hardly took place less their approval.
- Ancestors also acted as a police to the living by maintaining peace and stability in the community, identifying trouble causers and punishing them.
- They also helped in judging of difficult cases where the elders had to involve them through oracles which helped to identify the actual offenders so that they could be punished.
- They promoted good behaviour by blessing associating and helping those who behaved well in society.
- The ancestors inspired the living in acts of heroism. The living based on the achievements of their ancestors to work hard and defend their community at all costs for the development of their society.
- Ancestors also directed the people during the choice of their leaders and sometimes directly chose leaders in traditional Africa. They also approved those who were to become leaders. For example, among the Baganda during the coronation ceremony, all ancestors were called to approve the new king.
- They acted as advisers and directed the diviners, medicine men and women rain makers during their work.
- They acted as foretellers and warned people of the impending danger in their communities.
- They interceded for the living before gods and asked gods to forgive people and grant them good and blessed life.

### **CAUSES OF DEATH IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL**

- In case one was disrespectful to sacred places; objects set aside for religious purposes
- Violation of oath made by people.
- Violation of taboos e.g. marrying a close relative, insulting elders, use of vulgar language
- Dishonouring the mighty places of God through either words or deeds.
- Violation of the blood pact could result into a penalty of death
- Failure to respect senior elders such as fathers, mothers, aunts and grandparents who may curse him leading to death

- Evil deeds of a living relative such as rape, murder, night dancing
- Witchcraft in form of destructive magical words, poisoning the food of a victim
- Violation of rituals
- A person who does not have the good will of his society may suffer physically to the point of death
- Divine will of gods
- Failure to share with the living dead was another reason that could lead to death.
- Getting power, prestige and wealth through wrong means
- curses by his relatives or from gods during childhood.
- killing of innocent people and gods would be taking revenge.
- Use of sacred trees as fire wood yet according to African tradition this is not supposed to be the case.
- Sexual immorality such as committing incest or any other immorality with a wrong person.

### **What Traditional Africans did to defeat death?**

- Traditional Africans lived in harmony through this they were able to prevent wars and conflicts that could lead to their death.
- Traditional Africans migrated to other areas and this was living their homesteads to go in a different land due to calamities like, drought that could easily lead to death.
- They consulted the ancestral spirits and through this the spirits possessed the people and were able to send their messages to the community through these people and those that listened to the message were able to defeat death.
- They offered sacrifices to the gods and through this were able to appease the gods and once the gods were on their sides all could go well and even death could be defeated.
- They respected the living dead and this was done through speaking positive facts about them because these living dead had the capacity to bless and curse and they knew if a curse befell one a result could be death.
- They respected the elders because they believed that they were with the spirits and also they had stayed on earth especially in the particular community for a long time and hence knew the do's that could lead to death and what to do at a particular time to defeat death.
- They could seek forgiveness whenever they had done wrong and through this were able to reverse curses of evil act from the person and through this were able to defeat death.
- They could seek blessings from the ancestral spirits and when their request was granted they were able to defeat death.
- They planted food to eat during time of famine hence reducing on the starvation in Africa that could lead to death.
- They used herbs i.e. traditional medicine especially in times when they were sick. They also used protective charms that could always protect them from evil people's acts for example putting beads around one's waist.
- They ensured that they had standing armies for example in Buganda the first three male children in a family were to join the army.
- They respected traditional customs, norms and values that were accepted by the ancestral spirits of the community and hence to be followed to prevent death for example when it came to burials the position in which the person was buried was considered. Among the

Basoga the body could be buried facing Bunyoro because they believed it is where they came from or could torment them hence death.

### **TRADITIONAL BURIAL CEREMONY**

- The burial was performed properly because the dead were assumed to continue living in the next world.
- People became powerful after death, so the living would guard themselves against bad relationship with the dead by giving them a decent burial.
- The ceremony started immediately when someone died and the first people to be informed were the elders who would come and prepare the body for unending life.
- The body was washed/ cleaned sometimes using certain herbs and this was done to enable the dead enter the new life when clean so as to warmly be received by the ancestors.
- In some societies the hair was shaved and nails cut off to purify the dead. In Buganda for instance, people were buried without plaited hair.
- Some smeared the body with Vaseline or ghee like among the pastoral communities and the body was dressed properly.
- The body then was rolled in the bark cloth to give protection to it and keep it warm.
- In other communities, animal skins were used such as cows, and goat skins. This was done to show respect to the body and to protect the body.
- Fire was made in the compound of the dead to keep a funeral for the dead and this lasted for some days. This fire was light by specific persons and was left burning until it went off by itself.
- The grave was dug in a garden or plantation while in other tribes like the Adhola it was dug in the compound in order to keep the spirit of the dead near them.
- The grave sometimes was dug by special people or relatives of the dead and they were usually men except in Buganda for the child born dead, the grave was dug by old women.
- Ornaments and chains were removed from the body so as to make the body comfortable.
- In some societies, the dead were buried with material items used in daily life. For instance, men were buried with walking sticks, pipes, spears and among the Karamojong, they were buried with brooms.
- Women were buried with saucepans, bowls and among the Karamojong, they were buried with needles. Those items were expected to be used in the next world.
- The body was buried at a specific time. Some like children were buried in the morning so as to start the journey earlier while others like elders were buried in the afternoon so as to be picked by the ancestors and go with them.
- The dead were buried in a particular position for example, in some societies they were buried facing the home stead so that they could continue protecting the family members.
- In some societies, sacrifices were offered before and after the burial to control the spirits from revenging against the living.

### **SPECIFIC BURIAL CEREMONY AMONG THE BAGANDA**

- Death in Buganda was considered as a departure of someone but not completed
- When one died all the society members had to mourn.
- Shelter were availed to the mourners
- It was made of poles and leaves all local materials

- Immediately after the death, dry poles were collected and fire was lit
- Relatives of the deceased had to tie pieces of bark clothes around their waist this indicated that the loss had been indeed a setback.
- Food was cooked right away from the 1<sup>st</sup> day till the last day to keep the mourners going.
- People were stopped eating from near the dead since this would anger the spirit of the dead.
- The mourners had to sleep outside in the court yard near the burning fire. This action was a sign of unity in sad period.
- In case the dead was married the in-laws were not supposed to participate in the cleaning of the corpse.
- The grave was rectangular dug and women were exempted from digging.
- The body was wrapped in a bark cloth symbolizing their traditional bark cloth
- Children of the deceased were to take bath only after the burial of the dead.
- Cutting of nails.
- Trimming of hair.
- Padding done by women.
- Those who had no child, an exit would be created on the house so as to take them out.

### **UNENDING LIFE IN THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH**

- The apostles preached the good news about unending life which had come through the risen Christ who had lived with them.
- The gift of life was for all those who believed that eternal life begins here and now.
- St. Paul strongly stressed the fact of Jesus' resurrection 1 Corinthians 15 and made the Corinthians accept the fact of Jesus' resurrection and their own body resurrection.
- Some Corinthians had failed to understand the meaning of resurrection that is why Paul emphasized that if Christ rose from the dead, then Christians' resurrection from the dead is also possible.
- The good news about life after death was preached by the apostles and even when they were persecuted, they continued to tell the message about the gift of eternal life extended to all believers through the death and resurrection of Christ.

### **UNENDING LIFE IN THE MIDDLE AGES**

- During this time wrong ideas cropped into the church for instance, there was distorted teaching about the doctrine of pre destination.
- According to the teaching God had already chosen those going to heaven and those condemned to hell. Therefore, a person had no role to play for his salvation except waiting for his/her fate.
- The people considered God as a cruel harsh judge assigning few people to heaven and very many to hell. Therefore, people undertook severe repentance.
- During this time many people feared death and had great fear for sickness.
- Parents feared for their babies who died before they had been baptized because to them they were going to hell.

- Churches were decorated with drawn pictures of those in hell suffering and angels were drawn entertaining those in heaven.
- This period of fearing death was characterized by constant punishment and abuses in church. For instance, there was corruption through the sale of indulgences by church leaders. Indulgence is a provision where punishment for sin can fully or partially be removed leading to shortening a person's stay in purgatory.
- People had to pay money in order to be prayed for as a result they were encouraged to give in money in exchange for forgiveness instead of repenting.
- The rich paid money to church leaders to have masses said for them after death. However, all these activities were condemned after reformation.
- There were some people who had a better understanding of life after death and considered death as a gate way to heaven.
- St. Francis of Assis welcomed death and referred to it as a little sister. His faith was rooted in his great love for Christ and for all God's creation.
- Julian the English lady had less fear for death because of the assurance of God's love.

## **BIBLE TEACHING ON UNENDING LIFE**

### **The Old Testament teaching;**

Life is a God given gift as seen in the creation accounts however, it is threatened by death which came as a result of man's sin in genesis 3:

The Old Testament teachings about life after death are very limited because of the fear they people had for death. So their belief for life here after kept on changing time after time.

At first they believed that after death one went to a place called sheol where one had a shadow kind of existence with no real life.

Sheol was believed to be a place where there was no work, no reasoning, no knowledge and wisdom.

In the book of Ecclesiastes 9:5-10, the living had hope but the dead were hopeless.

The Israelites believed that God was for the living rather than the dead. That is why King Hezekiah feared to die and cried to God to add him some years because he wanted to remain with God and friends.

Because of fear for death the Israelites enjoyed to the maximum and produced many children.

Later, the Israelites developed a positive attitude towards death.

They believed that man could still live after death that is why some of them opted for death. Daniel 3: 8-25, The three friends to Daniel that is Meshach, Shadrach and Abednego were ready to die by being thrown in a blazing furnace because they opted for Israel's God instead of worshipping a statue god.

In 2maccabes the Jewish mother together with her seven sons were killed because of remaining faithful to the Jewish customs rather than eating pork as the gentile king had ordered them.

The Old Testament teaches that faithful people are recorded in the book of life and will have everlasting life because God remains with the faithful even after death. Daniel 12: 1-5.

The Old Testament teaches that God who created people on earth will continue to love them even after death.

The Old Testament teaches that those who die in God remain with him as their God even after death. For example, when God called Moses He identified Himself as the God of his fore fathers Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

The Old Testament teaches that sinners will be rejected and thrown out of God's presence and the righteous will be recorded in the book of life.

The Old Testament teaches that righteous will leave even when they die while the wicked will die in their wickedness. Ezekiel 18:

The raising of the widow's son by prophet Elijah teaches that life after death is a gift from God to those with faith.

The Old Testament teaches that there is resurrection of the dead at the end of life. God told Ezekiel to prophesy to the dry bones so as to get back their flesh and life and it was done. Ezekiel 37:

### **NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ON UNENDING LIFE**

- It is the life of joy and glory with God
- Eternal life begins before death and it is by accepting Jesus as your savior
- It begins here and now (John 5:19-24, 3:16)
- It means living in openness to God and fellow man (Luke 10:25-28)
- It is communion with God and fellow man
- Showing concern for those in need i.e. fellowship with fellow men (Luke 16:19-29)
- The Holy Communion is both a sign and source of eternal life
- Real eternal life is only experienced in God's kingdom
- Jesus' resurrection is the basis of eternal life
- Eternal life is a reward to those who believe in Christ
- Death is a gate way to eternal life
- Repentance and reconciliation leads to eternal life
- It is for the faithful ones who preserve persecution and suffering
- There is judgment before one enters eternal life on how good one was on earth

### **How does Jesus show that there is unending life?**

- Jesus' resurrection is proof that there is life after death
- In the story of Lazarus and the rich man
- Jesus raised people from the dead e.g. Lazarus
- The promise of His second coming
- In John, Jesus refers to Abraham as living in heaven
- Jesus says, he is the way, the truth and the life
- He promised to go and prepare a place in His father's house
- Jesus spoke to Moses alive (transfiguration)
- Through his parables e.g. a seed dies
- The fact that the living and the dead shall be raised again for judgment day.
- As promised the robber to be with him in the kingdom is the bread of life
- Through sharing in the holy communion, we are already preparing for landing life
- No marriage at resurrection
- Jesus conquered death on the cross

## **QUESTIONS**

### **1.a) How does Jesus' life give assurance for eternal life?**

- By believing that Jesus is the resurrection of life

- Jesus conquered death by resurrecting to life
- Through loving God and our neighbor by living in openness to God and neighbor
- By sharing the Eucharist is a source of eternal life
- Trusting and believing in God also gives hope for eternal life
- By being born again with water and the spirit, there is hope for eternal life
- Jesus' resurrection brings hope in eternal life for all who believe in him
- Having fellowship and caring for those in need the story of the rich man and Lazarus
- 

**b) Why should a Christian sing praises instead of mourning when a fellow Christian dies?**

- They know that life goes on after death and it's indeed a better life
- Being baptized as a Christian is an assurance of sharing in the life of Jesus so there is no need of crying
- Jesus assured all those who follow him that they will rise from the dead just like he did
- Christ raised Lazarus from the dead and this is an example of Jesus' power over death
- Death is only a temporal separation with the deceased
- Knowledge that a person who died was a faithful follower of Jesus makes Christian confident that Christ will surely raise him from the dead
- Those who die before us will always pray for us
- Eternal happiness is what the deceased is to enjoy after death so praise be to God

**2. a) As a Christian what reasons can you advance to convince secular people that life after death is real?**

- Death is only a gate way to eternal life
- Jesus conquered death by resurrection
- There is a judgment day
- Jesus' miracle show life after death
- God continues to love and protect his people
- The wicked will be rejected
- Righteous will be written in the book of life
- Through suffering and perseverance on earth, we get eternal life
- God is for both living and dead
- Eucharist a source eternal life
- Helping/severing others in need is a source/hope in life here after
- Believing in Christ/accepting his gospel gives hope in life here after
- Parousia

**b) What is the church doing to enable people access eternal life?**

- The church is living a prayerful life
- The church is calling people to repent
- The church is preaching the word of God to the people
- The church is sharing her belongings with others
- The church is helping the needy/charity to others
- The church is comforting and counseling the wicked

- Accepting baptism i.e. accept Jesus' salvation
- Condemning evil in society e.g. sexual abuses, child abuses etc
- Partaking Holy communion
- The church is composing songs

3. a) How were the Traditional Africans prepared for unending life  
b) Give the Old Testament teaching about unending life.

## 9. SUCCESS

Success is the achievement of a desired goal in life. Each society has its own ideas of success and failure. The goals of each individual or groups depend on their visions. What one considers success may not be for others.

### INDICATORS OF SUCCESS TODAY

- **Having many material possessions** such as cars, houses, land, make people successful in life. Modern society associate success with materialism the more wealth one has the more successful is taken to be.
- **When one is able to cater for his needs and wants.** To some people successful living is seen in the ability to get food, shelter and medication.
- **Having a stable marriage** which helps in keeping oneself from diseases like AIDS. Marriage stability leads to family stability and development.
- **Having a good looking manageable family** i.e. wife and children. Children and wife show success in life. They are taken as a blessing to parents and an investment for old age.
- **Through completing one's education/studies** e.g. completing primary, secondary, university, doctorate etc.
- **Through attaining a good paying and comforting job** such as being a teacher, a doctor, an engineer, a lawyer where one can learn a decent living and status.
- **Becoming a religious head and accepting Christ** e.g. sisters, priests, pastors are taken to be successful in life because they are near God and live under God's blessings and guidance.
- **Through attaining a ripe age** and having grand and great grandchildren. Age is one of the great achievements the older a person is the more successful is taken to be.
- **Attaining leadership roles** such as being a president, minister and a member of parliament is a sign of success. This is because such people have authority to direct others and command respect.
- **Having trust worthy friends** who help you when you face problems because a friend in need is a friend indeed.
- **Being popular in society** such as musicians, religious leaders. Celebrities are looked at by society as successful people and are treated with respect even when they make mistakes.
- **Having a good relationship with God and fellow men** leads to success as one will gain God's favours. For instance, in the bible David had a good relationship with God that's why he became great.
- **Winning prizes** such as medals, trophies, certificates, scholarships which is a sign of having achieved success in a certain area.



- **Having good morals** and Christian values of honesty, being kind, humble is part of success. Such a person will earn respect in society and will be defended by everyone in case of any problem.
- **Ability to fly out of the country** at your will is also a success in life.
- **Winning competitions** such as in drama, music, dance and beauty contests bring success.
- **Achieving economic stability** in the country and family is taken as success.

### **FACTORS THAT HELP PEOPLE ACHIEVE SUCCESS (best principles of success, causes of success)**

- Working hard at school enables one to become successful in final exams.
- Having self-control which enable people practices like drug abuse enables one to obtain a right age as his/her health is not much affected.
- Having good relationship with God enables one to achieve success as God is the source of all success.
- Being active and creative in your field of work such as musicians.
- Being disciplined and obedient enables one avoid punishments such as caning, imprisonment which makes one miserable hence unsuccessful.
- Having team work (cooperation in a group) helps people solve similar common problems such as poverty illness, etc.
- Through being faithful enables one to have a stable marriage, stable job which makes one successful.
- Being literate and educated enables one to qualify for a good job hence being successful.
- Being prayerful and committed to God enables one to attain Christian virtues and being religious such as priests, nuns and pastors.
- Having intelligence and wisdom enables one attain /be creative in everything he does thus becoming successful.
- Persevering in hard situations such as poverty, hunger, helps to be successful.
- Being committed and dedicated to one's duty helps one to achieve his dreams and goals hence becoming successful.
- Willingness to learn, to unlearn and relearn helps one to succeed at school and in life.
- Having Christian virtues such as kindness, honesty and love enables one to be successful in everything he does.
- By exploiting one's talent and skills helps one to be successful in life. One can attain a job from his/her talent e.g. being an athlete like Dorcas Inzikuru, a musician like Weasel and Radio.
- Having a good working plan enables one to do all his activities and objectives and this enables him to become successful.
- Good spending habits/being able to budget your money makes one wealthy and successful.
- Developing a saving culture which helps people to begin some income generating projects leading to successful living.

### **REASONS WHY PEOPLE FAIL TO ACHIEVE THEIR GOALS (SUCCESS)**

- Getting addicted to habits such as alcoholism, smoking, drug abuse, which hinder one from attaining a ripe old age or living unhealthy life.
- Lack of plan in life i.e. attending classes without purpose causes one to be unsuccessful in exams.
- Laziness causes one to lose all his chances of doing work so as to succeed.
- Unfaithfulness in marriage where people commit adultery hence acquiring diseases such as AIDS and other STDs and sometimes causing domestic violence and divorce.
- Being undisciplined and disobedient in society leads to caning and punishments such as imprisonment which is a sign of unsuccessful.
- Early pregnancy which makes many girls drop out of school, being neglected by the family, community makes one unsuccessful in life.
- Watching pornographic material corrupts the minds of people causing them to commit sexual sins and ending up being unsuccessful in life.
- Lack of creativity leads to low progress and in the end one becomes unsuccessful.
- Negative peer influence where people tend to follow their friends instead of trying to attain their goals. In most cases such people are misled end up in as failures.
- Lack of parental guidance and care (neglect by parents) which leaves one on his own without any correction thus causing one to be unsuccessful.
- Lack of trust in God (irreligion) causes unsuccessfulness because God is the source of all successes in life.
- Poverty in life which causes one fail to complete education, failing to look after family members and failing to fit in society.
- Political instability causes one to fail to achieve success as one cannot concentrate on his goal.
- Lack of wisdom and intelligence cripples one's opportunity to reason and think for himself hence being unsuccessful.
- Poor time management makes one fail to achieve their goals as he is ever late for everything.
- Poor planning like when farmers start sowing at the end of wet season hence not achieving their goal or getting harvest.
- Over ambitiousness causes people fail to achieve their goals as they fail to concentrate on their present opportunities but want more challenges.
- Poor education back ground (poor education system) which makes people fail to compete in the existing job market and they are left out to suffer with unemployment.
- Poor health conditions or suffering from chronic diseases such as sickle cells asthma make people fail to achieve their goals.
- Political instability and insecurity which threaten people's lives and disorganize their plans.

### **SUCCESS IN THE AFRICAN TRADITION**

These were in form of material, spiritual, cultural and moral aspects. Success of an individual was also considered to be success of the community. Unexpected success could lead to activation of witchcraft and there was suspicion on abrupt achievements.

### **AFRICA'S UNDERSTANDING OF SUCCESS**

- Material possession such as many slaves, many servants, many pieces of land and large herds of cattle. For example, among the Hima community of western Uganda a man with large herds was respected.
- Having a good polygamous marriage with many children so as to have an heir and a decent burial when one died. Among the Baganda of central Uganda, the number of women one had showed how wealthy he was and his good administrative skills.
- Having a close relationship with gods and ancestors and that is why they built spiritual huts in their compounds and sacrificed to them so as to get blessings from them.
- Having many children like girls who would bring wealth through dowry and boys who would keep the family in question secure.
- Being a good warrior that one was able to defend his community and be victorious in war. For example, among the Baganda of central Buganda Kibuuka omumbale was elevated to the level of a god due to his superior fighting skills.
- Attaining a ripe age where one was able to see his grandchildren and be considered wise i.e. wise men were taken to be those with gray hair and the youth would go to them for a word of counsel.
- Being a medicine man where one was able to speak to the spirits and cure people.
- Being able to fulfill the cultural norms and practices such as circumcision among the Gishu of eastern Uganda tooth removal among the masai of Kenya and “visiting of the bush” among the Baganda
- Through reaping a good harvest from one’s farm so as to be able to feed on the food for a while.
- Being a leader such as a king and chief who were popular and famous in the community.
- Having courage such as killing animals disturbing the community and being able to hunt wild game.
- Having a good friendship/relationship with people and being well behaved.
- Being open to interests of others as well as showing hospitality and generosity to other people.
- Belonging to a royal clan such as king’s clan. This assured one of undisputed respect and effortless wealth and protection by society.

### **SIMILARITIES BETWEEN SUCCESS TODAY AND SUCCESS IN TRADITIONAL AFRICA.**

- In both, success is achieved through parental guidance and proper upbringing.
- In both successful life depends on one’s relationship with the Divinities.
- In both, success depend more on hard work and one’s commitment.
- In both having a good family contributes to success.
- In both having material wealth is understood as success.
- In both developing of one’s talent leads to success.
- In both attaining a position of leadership leads to success.
- In both maintaining a good relationship with others in a community contributes to success.
- In both one’s family background determines his/her road to success. For instance, born of a royal family.
- In both possession of virtues like love, patience, kindness leads to success.

## **DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PRESENT AND AFRICAN TRADITIONAL VIEWS ON SUCCESS**

- While in African tradition success was through fulfilling cultural norms, today success is by fulfilling the required western values.
- In African tradition the youth became successful through informal education while today success is through formal education.
- In African tradition producing many children was success while today few manageable children are needed for a family to be successful.
- In traditional Africa polygamy would lead to success in form of clan expansion, labour provision and good reputation. While today success is achieved through monogamy.
- Being a hero and clearing enemies was success in traditional Africa where as today success is through making peace and reconciliation.
- In African society for one to succeed, marriage was compulsory, whereas today success can be achieved through chastity, celibacy and single parenthood.
- The basic principle for success in traditional Africa was material wealth such as land, cattle whereas today the basis of success is attaining high levels of education.
- Success in traditional Africa was through having a good relationship with the spirits and ancestors but today it is through keeping a good relationship with God.
- In traditional Africa success was hard work manually whereas today success is through using advanced technology and working smart.
- In traditional Africa success was more of a community concern while today it is more of individual concern.
- Where as in traditional Africa extended family led to success, today it success is through maintaining a nuclear family due to high cost of living.

## **SUCCESS IN CHURCH HISTORY**

### **Success in the early Church.**

The apostolic church though faced with a number of challenges one cannot dispute its achievements as seen below;

- Praying was one of the major achievements of Christians in the apostolic Church. They engaged in both community and individual prayers.
- They celebrated the Lord's supper or Fellowship meals: Christians organized fellowship meals in which they shared the Lord's Supper (Eucharist).
- Alms giving for helping the needy: Many Christians got involved in helping those in need through charity work and giving of alms.
- Missionary journeys: Early Christians moved from their homeland to other regions for the purpose of spreading the good news.
- Baptism: Church leaders would baptize the converted people as a mark of enticing the Christian church.
- Ethical teaching: Early Christians lived by giving moral instructions to the members e.g. St. Paul taught about bad sexual practices.
- Repenting was another important success of the church. They believed that they were sinners who needed God's mercy so they repented sins as individual and as a community.

- Sharing material property: Early Christians brought what they had together and shared with the entire community of the faithful. This was in form of money and material things. Acts:2;45.
- Catechism: Preachers and church elders also gave oral Christian moral instructions to converts and infant churches.
- Organizing meetings: The church held constant meetings to have clear discussions on how to handle difficult issues like circumcision of gentile Christians.
- They also appointed elders and Bishops of the church for example; the seven deacons appointed to help in the distribution of alms.
- Visiting and anointing the sick: Christians in the early church would constantly visit their sick brothers and sisters to bring back hope and would call on their leaders to anoint them.
- Miracles were also performed by the Church leaders in the apostolic Church. For example, Peter and John healed a crippled at the gates of the temple at Jerusalem. Acts:3;1-9.
- They also successfully engaged in debates on theological issues with those who were opposing Christianity especially the Pharisees and the scribes.
- They also exercised the Holy Spirit gifts like, speaking in tongues, interpreting the tongues prophesy etc.
- Fasting: This was a sign of self-discipline and repentance, the early Christians fasted as a community and on individual basis.
- Encouraging the persecuted: This was part of the Christians responsibility especially their leaders to comfort and encourage the persecuted so as to remain firm on the truth.
- Testimonies were given: The early Christians led by the eye witnesses gave testimonies over Jesus' miraculous power and his entire ministry.
- Evangelizing: Apostles and Christians preached the gospel i.e. the good news about Jesus Christ to those who were still in darkness. This led to establishment of churches in such regions.
- Gospel and letter writing: Members in the early church committed the oral gospel into writing. They also wrote letters to address spiritual issues in infant churches.
- Settling disputes: Christian leaders were involved in solving conflicts and quarrels among Christians in the church.

#### **Success of the church in Africa: -**

- Although it is true that since the beginning of the church many problems have threatened its progress, a lot of successes have been achieved. The following are some of the achievements
- The church expanded both numerically and geographically. It started from the Jewish lands and moved to the Gentiles and during the missionary era many Africans got converted to Christianity.
- Church buildings were set up by the missionaries and Christians to act as worship centers and these structures have lived the test of time up to date.
- Bible scriptures were successfully translated from Greek to Latin and later to other languages including local African languages which enabled the converts to read and understand.

- Since its establishment the church has successfully overcome persecution of its members for example during the reign of Emperor Nero in the Roman Empire and kabaka Mwanga in Buganda.
- The church successfully set up schools in different areas so as to extend formal education to its members and fight illiteracy. In Uganda schools like Namilyango College and Mt St. Mary's Namagunga in Mukono were built by the missionaries.
- The church also set up health centers and fought health hazards that were claiming a lot of life. These hospitals were equipped with drugs and medical personnel. Such hospitals include Rubaga, Namirebe and Nsambya hospitals.
- The church promoted unity among people by calling people of different tribes to work and live together as people of God.
- Throughout history the church oppression of the people by government agents and it has mediated in peace talks between the governments and rebels.
- The church trained and provided good leaders to different departments in many countries. Church leaders have performed their duties diligently.
- The church was always on the fore front under William Wilberforce in campaigning against slavery.

### **Educational achievements**

- The church of Africa built schools such as Namilyango, Namagunga trinity college Nabingo and St Mary's Kisubi.
- Dr. Ludwig Kraft was able to work on Kiswahili grammar and dictionary which was of great value to the missionaries.
- The church taught people how to read and write through giving bursaries and scholarships to the under privileged.
- The church taught basic skills in agriculture, carpentry and set up technical institutes such as Kasubi technical institute.
- Christian books and magazines have been printed by the church i.e. Kizito leadership, the rock, etc.
- The church set up schools and institutes for the disabled such as Madela School for the blind.
- The church introduced new subjects like moral training and C.R.E syllabus for the joint Christian council in schools.
- They started printing publications such as Marion press Kisubi.
- The church has strongly supported girl child education and has built schools like St Joseph's Nsambya, Stella Maris College Nsuube etc.
- The church has built universities i.e. Uganda Christian University for the Anglican Church in Mukono, Uganda Martyrs University for the Catholic Church in Nkozi.

### **Medical achievements**

- When missionaries arrived in East Africa they introduced the art of medical care and medicine.
- They built hospitals and health centers such as Nsambya, Mengo, Rubaga etc.
- The use of some harmful local herbs was discouraged and condemned as evil and useless.

- The churches promoted immunization programmes against the killer diseases like T.B, measles, etc.
- The church supported research programmes to cure diseases like cancer.
- Doctors, Nurses and other medical persons were trained to help in the administration of treatment.
- The church encouraged the use of European medicine which led to elimination of diseases like small pox, influenza, etc.
- The church has introduced many health centers, dispensaries, maternity centers, leprosy centers and those of deaf and blind in rural areas.
- The church encouraged the adoption of African medicine they are able to heal many diseases such as drug addiction, cancer i.e. father, brother.

### **Evangelistic achievements**

- Missionaries did a lot of preaching and converted many people to Christianity. People became so faithful up to death e.g. The Uganda Martyrs.
- Missionaries translated the bible into various local languages e.g. Luganda, Kiswahili etc.
- They built many churches as worshipping places such as Uganda Martyrs shrine, Namirembe, Rubaga cathedral etc.
- It encouraged adoption of C.R.E. in the education syllabus to improve the morals of students.
- The church organized crusades, conferences, seminars and fellowships etc.
- The church encouraged the use of indigenous instruments and languages in praising e.g. the drums, xylophones, etc. This was passed in the second Vatican council.
- New converts became missionaries to serve the interior areas where white missionaries had not reached e.g. Apollo Kivebulaya went to Mboga – Zaire, where he built churches and preached the good news to the pygmies.
- Revival movements sprung up within the church to help people reform and have hope in life e.g. charismatic groups, legion of Mary, Youth Alive, xaverians, etc.
- Missionaries produced and distributed religious materials and literature both print and visual for deepening of people's faith.
- The joint Christian council (ecumenical council) was formed to foster unity among Christians of different sects.

### **Social achievements**

- Missionaries and church fought hard to stamp out evils of slavery and slave trade in the whole of Africa.
- The church helped in the emancipation of women that is why it allowed them to participate in the liturgy and ordained many women catechists, reverends and pastors.
- The church has set up TV and radio stations so as to spread the gospel to a wide community e.g. LTV, Top TV, Radio Maria, etc.
- The church has cared for the low fortunate by supporting refugees, orphans and the homeless.
- It has built counseling centers and it counsels the youths and the newly married people. This is why it built social centers like Nsambya and Rubaga.

- It mobilized people to achieve peace; unity as well as giving advises to political leaders e.g. Rev. Odama, Rev, and Ocano held peace talks with rebels in western Uganda.
- The joint Christian council has helped in the supervision of elections to avoid rigging.

### **PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY THE CHURCH IN TRYING TO MEET THE ABOVE SUCCESS**

- Persecution by other religious groups as the early missionaries in Uganda were persecuted by the Moslems and Mwanga who even killed some of them.
- Lack of funds to run various programmers such as TV stations, schools, hospitals and spread the gospel far and wide.
- Development of cultures and other religions has made the spread of Christian faith difficult e.g. restoration of the Ten Commandments by Kibwetere and false prophets who have affected Christian faith.
- Political instability which affected Christianity, its spreading and development e.g. Uganda.
- Unfaithfulness among church leaders who have embezzled funds e.g. B. Elijah.
- Ignorance of people where some steal church property and bewitch church leaders.
- Christian morals and cultures scare away followers as many followers want to be obscene and uncultured which is against church teachings.
- Languages barrier where Christian evangelists have to learn the languages of the areas where they are sent.
- Criticism and being undermined by other religions and pagans who are against the programs.
- The church's involvement in politics which has led to division as the many sects compete with each other.
- Bad examples from church leaders who are gay and commit crimes like rape and defilement.
- Diseases such as AIDS which have left many orphans who cannot be cared for.
- Influence of science and technology such as films that are anti-Christ.
- Illiteracy of people where one cannot preach effectively or where people are limited to read the bible.
- Hostility of some people of Africa has crippled the faith.

### **SUCCESS OF UGANDA MARTYRS**

- They were canonized as saints after death basing on the miracles performed when mediators prayed through them.
- Songs have been composed after the Uganda martyrs like Kizito which are used in church to praise God.
- Books have been written describing the life of Uganda martyrs.
- The names of Uganda martyrs have been used as Christian names given to new born babies.
- Churches, schools and places have been named after the Uganda martyrs e.g. St. Balikudembe market (Owino)
- Celebration of Uganda martyrs' anniversary on 3<sup>rd</sup> June and also declaring the day a public holiday.



- People make pilgrimages to places where Uganda martyrs were killed e.g. at Namugongo.
- Miracles are performed through the Uganda martyrs' like this strengthens people's faith.
- The Uganda martyrs withstood persecution without fear for the sake of Christianity.
- They became living examples to others to embrace Christianity e.g. Gildo Irwa.
- They converted others to Christianity like Kaloli Lwanga who converted Kizito.
- Christianity was promoted and martyrs were looked to as pillars on which Christianity was built.
- They refused to carry out evil practice of homosexuality which was desired by the king.
- They disobeyed earthly king and remained obedient to the heavenly God.
- They accepted to get baptized instead of following their traditional norms and values.
- They were successful when they embraced monogamy from polygamy and eventually remained in the new life.
- They helped the sick in their communities.

### **SUCCESS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.**

- It teaches that success is a result of being faithful to God. For example; man in genesis failed due to his unfaithfulness while Abraham was successful because of his great faith in God.
- Keeping the Ten Commandments is the basis of success in the Old Testament. The Law provided the best guidelines to the Israelites on successful living. Deut. 28;
- The Old Testament teaches that one's success is based on his love for God. One should love God with all his heart, soul, and strength. Deut. 6:4
- Israel's success depended on the fulfillment of the covenant obligations. Whenever they turned away from the covenant, they registered failures.
- The book of Job shows that one's success is based on his ability to endure suffering and overcoming trials. Job accepted to suffer and God blessed him with great wealth.
- The Old Testament teaches that religious leaders have a duty to guide the people on successful living. God called the prophets to guide the Israelites towards success.
- It is after asking and using God's wisdom that one can lead a successful life. E.g. King Solomon asked for wisdom from God and through using the wisdom he achieved great things for Israel.
- The book of Proverbs shows that one's success is based on hard work and it condemns laziness.
- Those under God's protection and guidance achieve great success. E.g. The Israelites were able to defeat their enemies and re-possess their land because they were under God's protection.
- The Old Testament calls up on parents to guide their children to success by bringing them up with good discipline. Proverbs says spare the rod and spoil the child.

### **Israelites achieved success in the following ways**

- Having a good relationship with God e.g. the prophets, Elijah, kings like David had a good relationship with God.
- Having victory over their enemies like King David killed Goliath with a stone and a sling through which Philistines were defeated.

- Having children e.g. Sarah and Abraham got Isaac, Hannah got Samuel.
- Having prestige and being a leader e.g. the judge and kings.
- Being a true prophet e.g. Amos, Jeremiah who were sent by God.
- Being wealthy or having material possessions such as land, slaves, herds of cattle e.g. Abraham.
- Through having a good relationship with God which enabled people to talk to Him E.g. King David was in good relationship with God.
- Being able to do what is required of oneself like when Elijah killed Baal prophets.
- By worshipping God with sacrifices and offerings such as those which Abraham offered together with his son Isaac.
- Through having wisdom and intelligence such as Solomon and David who judged rightly their courts.
- Celebrating feasts such as the Passover when God passed over the houses of Israelites and Egyptians and killed their first born children.
- Having a big family and being blessed by God.
- Having trustful friends who help spiritually. Job's suffering increased because his friends just rebuked him rather than comforting him.
- By carrying out religious virtues like circumcision of the male on the 8<sup>th</sup> day which was God's covenant with Abraham.
- By trusting God in spite of suffering and failure e.g. Job suffered but trusted God.
- Having a good relationship with fellow men.

#### **SIMILARITIES BETWEEN O.T AND AFIRICAN TRADITION**

- Both built success on having material wealth such as land, slaves
- Both achieved success by observing religious rituals like circumcision.
- In both, success was attained through living up to ripe age and could see grand and great grandchildren.
- In both it was through offering sacrifices such as material wealth, spiritual was signs of success in both societies.
- In both it was having good relationship with neighbors and God.
- Both achieved success through having victory over their enemies e.g. the Israelites over philistines and Africans over neighboring societies.
- Both built wisdom and intelligence as success on their societies. These were attached to old age.
- To both, success was by obeying law of society such as the Ten Commandments in the Old Testament and civil laws in the African tradition.

#### **DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE OLD TESTAMENT AND AFRICAN TRADITIONAL ON SUCCESS.**

- While in Traditional Africa success was having many wives, In the Old Testament it was based on monogamy because God created one woman for Adam.
- While in traditional Africa success was based on polytheism (Worship of many gods), In the Old Testament success was as a result of worshipping one God (Monotheism).

- In traditional Africa success was following cultural norms and values while in the Old Testament successful living was a result of keeping God's commandments/instructions.
- In African traditional ancestors guided people to success While in the Old Testament God guided His people to successful living.
- In the Old Testament success came as a result of being in good relationship with God While in traditional Africa one would be successful if he was on good terms with the spirits.
- In African tradition use of magic would lead to one's success while in the Old Testament it was only trusting God that people would become successful.

### **WAYS IN WHICH JOB'S LIFE WAS BOTH A SUCCESS AND A FAILURE.**

- He was a God fearing person and had strong faith in God which would make him to be blessed, despite of this he was faced with disaster which made him appear a failure.
- Job had many children, 7 sons and 3 daughters and his sons used to have many feasts and celebrations unfortunately all his children died.
- He used to offer sacrifices to God. This kept him holy. However, these sacrifices failed to avert the suffering he was going through.
- Job was given a beautiful wife by God however, his wife left him during the troubled days when job needed him most hence a failure.
- Job had been given great wealth by God in terms of cattle, camels donkeys and servants unfortunately all these disappeared and he became a very poor man.
- Time came that Job who was living a decent life with good health suffered from a terrible skin disease and sores developed all over his body.
- Job commanded great respect among the people of his community however, due to his suffering he was greatly despised.
- Job had a good house where he was staying with his family but due to his sickness, he left the house and stayed at the rubbish pit as a destitute
- Job had many friends when he was rich which was a success but during his troubled days all his friends deserted him thinking that he had sinned before God.
- During his troubled days his friends visited him to comfort him, unfortunately they ridiculed him causing more suffering.
- His wife advised him to curse God and die but he refused to take advice and instead put more trust in God.
- Job during his suffering waited to God for an explanation and God appeared to explain Job's plight.
- God punished Job's friends who had ridiculed him during his troubled days which made him happy.
- Job became successful when God restored everything he had lost during the troubled days. E.g. he had 14,000 sheep, 2000 herds of cattle.

### **SUCCESS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

#### **In the New Testament, success is found in;**

- Accepting the service of Christ and serving others and not for material gain Matt 16:30, the rich young men who were advised by Jesus to sell all riches and give away the money to God.

- Observing the greatest commandment of love, being patient, kind and not proud, not jealous make one successful. (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:1-10)
- The New Testament teaches that success is through the struggle to overcome selfishness and sin as well as seeking the kingdom of God (Philippians 4:4-7)
- The New Testament teaches that success is by accepting self-sacrifice for others and forgiving those who offend us. Jesus said unless one forgives that when he will be forgiven.
- Taking one's cross to follow Christ through self-denial (fasting). Luke 9:21-27, Jesus said he who fights to save his life will lose it and the reverse is true.
- Success is being obedient to whatever God wants one to be and being led by the Holy Spirit.
- Success is living according to the beatitudes (Matt 5:1-10) e.g. being a peace maker, being poor in spirit for the sake of God's blessing and pure at heart.
- Being a true follower of Christ and doing the father's will such as sacrificing life and modern enjoyment for a better relationship with God.
- Being ready to overcome Satan and his temptations as Christ overcame the temptations in Matt 4:1-11 as He denied food, wealth and power.

### **REASONS WHY JESUS SEEMED A FAILURE TO PEOPLE OF HIS TIME**

- Jesus was a materially poor man who owned nearly nothing as a possession.
- He was a celibate and therefore never had any child yet among the Jews children were a source of success.
- He associated with the out casts. E.g. Zacchaeus the tax collector, prostitutes yet in Israel it was prohibited.
- He was unpopular among the Jews. This is why they presented innocent Jesus to be hanged on the cross and guilty Barabbas set free.
- He was young, uneducated and died before attaining a right age.
- He challenged strict observance of the law whereas the Pharisees were proved and boasted about the law. This made him look as if he was a law breaker.
- He called himself son of God where as to Jews God was not a human being to produce.
- He failed to set Himself free from suffering at the cross as requested by the Jewish leaders and the people around.
- He died a cursed death for the Jewish law and Roman law one who was crucified on the cross was a curse.
- He refused to make miracles to convince people that He was a messiah but referred people to receive His message about His father's love with a free loving response.
- He was a servant but not a ruler or king that is why he washed His disciples' feet.
- He was of a humble origin and His foster father was just a carpenter. He was born in a meager, a cowshed and was tempted by Satan.

### **BENEFITS CHRISTIANS ENJOY BECAUSE OF CHRIST'S SUFFERING AND DEATH**

- Christians today have their sins forgiven. This through baptism and other sacraments like repentance, holy Eucharist.
- The gates of heaven were opened to all followers of Christ.
- Salvation was assured to all believers.

- Christians have acquired power over death and will be able to resurrect just like Jesus did.
- Many Christians today have been empowered by the Holy Spirit to perform miracles like raising the dead, healing the sick.
- Jesus' suffering and death has given Christians courage to prove trials and persecutions without fear.
- Christians have been liberated from unbecoming customs and practices such as the Jewish custom and human custom among Africans.
- Christians act as a bridge to reconciliation among conflicting parties.
- There is reconciliation between sinners and God. Many Christians became sons and daughters of God.
- The position of women is changed and equality is emphasized.

#### **WAYS IN WHICH THE NEW TESTAMENT TEACHING ON SUCCESS DIFFERS FROM THAT OF MODERN SOCIETY.**

- In the New Testament success is achieved through having spiritual values while today success is by having material wealth.
- In the New Testament success is by fulfilling God's will while today, it is one's goal or target.
- In the New Testament it is achieved by using divine wisdom while today depend more on human wisdom when striving for success.
- In the New Testament it is through understanding the word of God while today it is more based on academic achievement.
- In the New Testament success is built on faith in Jesus Christ while today it more built on science and technology.
- In the New Testament it is by forgetting one's self and sacrificing for others while today it is uplifting one's self at the expense of others.
- In the New Testament success calls for enduring suffering and persecution while today fighting against and being freed from problems and persecution.
- In the New Testament success calls for forgiveness and reconciliation while today it is more on paying back and revenge against one's enemies.
- In the New Testament success is by being humble and losing to find one's self while today it is through being popular like musicians.
- In the New Testament success calls for servant hood while today it is through being served and dominating others.
- In the New Testament it depends on agape love while today it is on self-centered love.

#### **DIFFERENCES BETWEEN N.T (CHRISTIAN) AND ATS TEACHING ON SUCCESS**

- In the New Testament it is being humble while in African tradition it was being popular.
- In the New Testament it is taking up celibacy while in African tradition it was through marriage.
- In the New Testament it is forfeiting worldly pleasures while in African tradition it was through enjoying worldly pleasures.

- In the New Testament it is by respecting Christian norms and values while in African tradition it was by respecting cultural norms and values.
- In the New Testament it is by getting baptized while in African tradition it was by engaging in initiation rituals like circumcision.
- In the New Testament it is by having spiritual possessions while in African tradition it was by having material possessions.
- In the New Testament it is through forgiveness and reconciliation while in African tradition it was by revenge against enemies.
- In the New Testament it is by having faith in Jesus and God while in African tradition it was having faith in ancestors and gods.
- The New Testament shows that successful marriage is monogamous while in African tradition it was through polygamy that a family was successful.
- In the New Testament success calls for obeying the Ten Commandments while in African tradition it called for obedience to cultural laws.
- In the New Testament it calls for working for God's kingdom while in African tradition they worked for the community.

## **CHRISTIAN TEACHING ON SUCCESS**

### **Ways in which a Christian can attain success**

- Through believing in Jesus Christ as the savior so as to be assured of success.
- According to the Christian teaching, success demands giving up oneself in a personal and total relationship with God through loving the Lord your God.
- By living according to the beatitudes such as being humble spiritually poor, pure in heart.
- Success requires perseverance e.g. trust in true God or trusting in God's love.
- According to Christianity, successful life is not based on material achievements but through serving others freely and loving without material gain. During Jesus' temptation, He rejected to worship Satan, power and glory, independence, prestige and wealth in order to serve
- Means of moving beyond conventional values of society and accepting values of Christ (Mathew 19:16-30). The rich young man had followed all the Ten Commandments but failed to sell all his property to give the money to the poor and follow Christ.
- Taking up one's cross, self-sacrifice, denial and using oneself to find one's self Luke 9:21-27 as Jesus respected, suffered on the cross, denied material happiness but managed to resurrect after 3 days.
- Success means remaining faithful to God and overcoming problems such as poverty, sickness which are realities of life.
- By observing and following the commandments e.g. do not murder.
- Means of self-giving in the service of others through works of charity e.g. helping the poor, hungry and disabled.
- Through promoting dialogue between rivals as well as advocating for reconciliation and forgiveness among members of the society.
- Living in fellowship with others and becoming a voice to the voiceless.
- Being prayerful and asking for guidance from God.

## QUESTIONS

### 1. a) **Explain the common understanding of success today**

- In Uganda today, having a well-paying job is considered as success because one can afford to get all the basic needs and even live a luxurious life.
- Also, passing of examinations especially at National Level (UCE and UACE) is understood as success since one is considered to be wise.
- Success is understood as being able to win a competition especially at international level e.g. Kiprotich Steven a renown athlete who won a gold medal in the Olympics 2012-2013 men marathon is considered successful.
- Success is also understood as receiving of a promotion at places of work e.g. Ruhakana Rugunda who was promoted from being a Health Minister to Prime Minister.
- Today, success is understood as attaining higher academic levels like PHDs since such people are respected for example Professor Apollo Nsibambi.
- Success today is understood as having material wealth since one can sustain his life with all that he/she needs for example Gordon Wavamuno who owns Speer Motors.
- Today, success is understood as having a good marriage since someone live a happy life.
- Success today is understood as being popular and famous since they are accepted everywhere they go for example artists like Bobbi wine (Robert Kyagulanyi).
- Success today is understood as having loyal children since one is able to have a peaceful life where they can trust their children and happy family.
- Success today is understood as being a good and able leader as one can fulfill his/her promises to the people for example President Museveni, Honorable Rebecca Kadaga speaker of the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> parliament of Uganda.
- Success today is understood as being close to God and being able to preach the word of God for example pastors, reverends like Pastor Sserwada is considered successful.
- Success today is understanding as having a long and happy life since he/she has had different principles of life and therefore has wide knowledge.

### b) **How similar is this understanding to that found in the Old Testament.**

- Closeness to God is understood as success both in the Old Testament and in Uganda today for example Joseph, Moses were considered successful just like Pastor and Reverends are considered successful.
- Both in the Old Testament and in Uganda today, winning of a competition is understood as success for example, in the Old Testament Esther was regarded as successful after winning as queen just like Steven Kiprotich is considered successful.
- Both in the Old Testament and today bearing of children is understood as success for example in the Old Testament Hannah and Sarah were regarded successful just the way it is even today.
- Being a good and able leader is understood as successful in both the Old Testament and even today for example Joshua was regarded successful just like honorable Rebecca Kadaga, President Museveni is today.

- Popularity and fame is considered as success in both the Old Testament and today for example King Solomon who was famous for his wisdom was considered successful just like today's artists.
- Both today and in the Old Testament, promotion at work is considered as success for example Joseph who was promoted to being a Prime Minister just like today Rwigyira Rugunda was promoted from Minister of Health to Prime Minister.
- Both in the Old Testament and today having a long life is understood as a success for example Noah, Hezekiah were regarded successful because they lived for long just like today.
- In both the Old Testament and today winning battles is understood as successful for example David was considered successful in Old Testament.

**2. a) Explain the Uganda understanding of success today.**

- Having wealth like land etc
- Winning elections e.g. H.E. Y.K. Museveni 2011 presidential elections in Uganda.
- Giving birth to manageable number of children
- Being able to build a home
- Being able to buy a posh car and drive
- Reduction on the number of intended people with HIV/AIDs
- Completion of road construction and rehabilitation to ease transport
- Having good paying job
- Students passing examinations especially those in government schools (UPE and USE)
- Manageable annual budget
- Construction of permanent churches
- Political stability (peace)
- Successful elections
- Successful constitution amendment

**b) To the Jews Jesus was a failure? Why was Jesus looked at as a failure?**

**Jesus was looked at as a failure by the Jews because of the following reasons;**

- He associated with sinners e.g. He dined with Zacchaeus the tax collector, he held a conversation with the prostitute
- He was homeless (personal home)
- He worked free of charge without pay
- He was denied by his own people e.g. Peter his disciple
- He called himself the son of God yet had flesh and blood.
- He was poor and always moved foot for long distances
- He remained a bachelor without a wife yet old enough to marry
- He was hailed on the cross together with thieves and failed to save himself.
- He was looked at as a cannibal
- He came from a poor family, his father was a mere carpenter and born in a kraal.

**3.a) Explain why some of the youth are failing today**

**Some youths are failing today because;**

- Some make poor choices of the subjects, partners etc
- Some are lazy



- Some disregard/despise manual labour e.g. family
- Some disrespectful to the elders/parents/authority
- Some fail to get employment in spite of the qualification and willingness to work hence low income
- Some engage in early marriages that drains them
- Some get unwanted/unplanned pregnancies
- Some are proud/arrogant
- Some come from Poor family background/upbringing
- Some live by peer pressure
- Some lack of respect for cultural values
- Some are addicted to drugs

**b) How the Christians in the early church were successful? Christians in the early church were successful in the following ways;**

- Spread the gospel/kingdom of God
- Built churches
- Practiced charity
- They endured suffering/persecution
- Wrote down the scriptures
- Built good relationships among believers irrespective of race, sex, status
- They were forgiving e.g. Stephen forgave those who were stoning him
- Accepted to die for Christ e.g. St. Cyprian and St. Stephen
- Sold their property and shared equally the proceeds.
- Healed the sick i.e. performed miracles e.g. Paul and John and Peter healed the lame man at the gate of the temple.
- They lived prayerful lives/devoted lives in prayer

**4. a) What are the factors which hinder success today?**

- When a person does not manage time well/poor time management
- Unfaithfulness in marriage
- Negligence of responsibility in marriage
- Being lazy at work
- When somebody refuses to accept advice
- When children's rights are abused
- Drug abuse e.g. smoking
- When sex is abused e.g. homosexuality
- When new students are bullied/teased
- Accepting bribes/being corrupt
- Heavy taxes may also lead to unsuccessfulness.
- Presence of many cultural rigidities
- Political instabilities e.g. in Northern Uganda
- Unemployment may hinder success
- Poverty levels may also hinder success
- Poor planning
- Poor health/diseases
- Death of parents

**b) Give a contrast between success in AT and NT.**

**5. a) When was one declared a failure in the African Traditional Society?**

- When one failed to marry or get married
- When he was declared impotent or barren
- When one was anti-social in the community
- One was declared a failure when he lacked food in his home
- One was declared a failure when there were constant misfortunes in his family.
- Another incident when one lost in a competition for example wrestling
- Disability was regarded as a form of failure in life
- Someone was regarded a failure he had only sons
- Another one was when he accomplishes a task for example a hunting exhibition.
- Another one was when one's offering and sacrifices were rejected by the ancestors.
- Another one was when one was referred to as cursed
- The other one was when one divorced his wife.
- The other one was when he failed to fulfill cultural obligations for example circumcision among the Gishu

**6a. How do people in Uganda today understand success in life?**

**b. In what ways does the N.T teaching about success differ from that of modern society?**

**7. a. What do people consider as successful life in Uganda today?**

**b. What do we learn from Jesus' teaching on success?**

**8. a. What did it mean to lead a successful life in the OT?**

**b. Explain the Christian meaning of success.**

**9. a. What shows that the Uganda martyrs were successful Christians?**

**b. Give the difference between the present situation and Christian teaching about success.**

**10.a. The life of Jesus seems to have been a failure yet it was a success. How was this possible?**

**b. In what ways does Jesus' teaching help a person to lead a successful life today?**

## **SECTION D: MAN AND WOMAN**

### **10. FAMILY LIFE**

- A family is the basic human community where people are loved and accepted. It is the smallest unit of the society.
- It is a community of love and life thus a vehicle of love and mutual responsibility.
- A family as a community is bound with attitudes and norms which are held in common.
- Every member of the community accepts obligations and responsibilities for the good of a family.
- A family is a basic unit of a society within which individuals are brought together by blood, marriage or adoption and groomed into responsible and useful beings/persons in society.

- Within a family individuals are told to share, respect elders, love one another, and forgive each other and other good morals.
- Christian families look at this institution as the first church where children are taught about God and prayers.
- To an extent family life today differs from family life in African cultural setting.
- The group of families is referred to as an extended family. This includes people who are related by blood such as uncles, aunts, nephews and grandparents.
- In other cultures of modern society, the family implies a wife, husband and children. This is termed as a nuclear family.

## **QUALITIES OF A GOOD FAMILY**

A good family should have the following qualities;

- It should have co-responsibility in family building. Both husband and wife work together in the establishment of a family.
- Members of the family should be cooperative in all situations of life.
- It should be with love. Love should be the basis in all family activities.
- There should be equal treatment of all members of the family.
- There should be great respect for each member of a family without considering the age, sex and level of education.
- It should have a manageable number of children. Child bearing is paramount for a good and stable family.
- It should have enough and reasonable material wealth needed for the members' wellbeing.
- It should have a good relationship with the neighbours because it is part of the community.
- Partners should be faithful to each other by respecting one's body.
- It should keep family secrets at all costs and by doing this it will be stable.
- It should be protective to all members regardless of their contribution to its existence.
- It should have family rules (code) which must be respected by all members.
- It should be religious. Members should have faith in God and pray together as a family.
- It should live in respect of the law of the state where it belongs.

## **TYPES OF FAMILIES**

### **PATRILINEAL FAMILIES**

This is a situation where the father is the head of a home and the woman comes to the man's home after payment of bride wealth.

#### **Characteristics of patrilineal families**

- Status and property are inherited through father's line or paternal line. This is why boys are valued in the society.
- The husband is the owner of the children and in case of divorce the children stay with their father.
- The husband is the master of everything in the home and chief decision maker and a woman is submissive.

- The husband's relatives seem to have considerable influence in the family and this is why at times they chase the wife after death of the husband.
- The husband can freely practice polygamy and women just submit to the man's plans in the family.
- A man can easily divorce a wife but the woman cannot initiate divorce.
- Women were considered a property because of the bride wealth paid by the man.
- There appears to be a great deal of inequality in patrilineal families since the husband is always the boss.
- The wife is almost treated as a child and she is never integrated into the husband's lineage.
- A wife can be inherited by the brothers or relatives.
- The sons are partial rivals of their father and can easily kill him because of inheritance.

### **Advantages of Patrilineal Family**

- The man has authority as the head of the home and this why they were the chief decision makers.
- It encourages the man to work harder in order to get bride wealth.
- There is cooperation in times of joy and crisis because all members under the leadership of one man.
- There is unity and source of labour coming from many women and children of one man.
- A man is allowed to punish or divorce the wife in case of misbehavior.
- Polygamy was possible as it brought respect to the man.
- Discipline is maintained as irresponsible wife and children would be punished.
- Family plans are implemented faster because decision is taken by the head of a family who is the man.

### **Disadvantages**

- Women are mistreated by men due to encouragement of polygamy.
- Selfishness is promoted among co-wives leading to misunderstandings, quarrels, fights and witchcraft.
- The girl child is less respected in this type.
- A woman is regarded as inferior and thus limits freedom of women especially in decision making.
- Sons can fight for inheritance and this causes tension between sons and fathers.
- There is great dictatorship by the man which sometimes lead to wrong decision making.
- There is lack of creativity on the side of a woman and children because in most cases they seek for the man's mind first.
- Due to much authority possessed by a man family members might develop fear for him instead of respect.
- There is easy spread of diseases because a man can have many women.
- Men are given excessive power and this can lead to domestic violence and embarrassment of women before their children.
- There is unhealthy competition between women and sons for inheritance.
- There is over dependence on a man who is considered to be the custodian of knowledge and wealth which strains the man

### **MATRILINEAL FAMILIES**

### **Characteristics**

- Status and property are inherited through the mother line (matrilineal).
- The wife is the owner of the children and she has more power in the home.
- The wife can divorce the husband in case of misunderstandings.
- There seemed to be more equality in marriage and the woman's position is respected.
- The wife cannot be mistreated or beaten anyhow as the right to punish the wife is carefully limited by law and custom.
- The wife can refuse to cook for her husband as a punishment to him.
- The husband is never integrated in the wife's lineage. Relatives of the wife have considerable influence in the family.
- In such a family, tension between father and son is limited and appears to be more genuine affection.
- The woman is a major decision maker in the family.

### **PATRILOCAL FAMILY;**

This is a type of family where members stay at husband's place.

### **MATRILOCAL FAMILY;**

This is a type of a family where members stay at wife's place.

### **EGALITARIAN FAMILY;**

This is a family in which authority is shared between wife and husband. It is the most appropriate and acceptable in modern society.

### **EXTENDED FAMILY**

It is a family unit or group consisting of a large number of descendants in one line from a common ancestor.

It is a family system which includes people related by blood as one members of the family e.g. grandparents, nephews, aunts, uncles, etc. they live together in one home or on the same village. This kind of a family was common in African tradition.

### **Advantages of extended families in traditional Africa.**

- It provided cheap labour for productive work. The large number of people, who always lived together on the compound, shared work and made it lighter such as harvesting millet, sorghum especially among the Itesots.
- Security was always provided for children as well as adults because enemies would fear to attack big families.
- Barren women were saved from loneliness as there would be other children to live with.
- It enhanced solidarity and togetherness in times of crises as family members would cooperate to simplify work such as digging.
- There was corrective responsibility in the upbringing of children as well as preserving and observing their culture. This was possible because each member had a role to play in society.
- Children were disciplined by all members of the family and this resulted into a high sense of discipline among children.

- Harmony existed in the family because elders executed justice and reconciliation and disputes were also settled.
- There was enough food for members and if a family was unfortunate for a given season other members would feed them.
- They learnt values of sharing and security was provided to the sick, old, orphans, widows and one felt needed in the community.
- The elders could be consulted to provide advice on serious issues affecting the family e.g. committing adultery, barrenness.
- In situations of disasters members of the family would join effort to find solution to the problem.
- Extended families acted as training centers for cultural norms and values because elders like aunties and uncles were there to provide informal education.
- Problems resulting from incest were minimized because relatives got to know each other.

**NB. Change the tense if the question is in the present situation.**

#### **Disadvantages of extended family**

- There existed dependents (parasites) who were always ready to milk others causing problems to people.
- There was lack of innovativeness since one had to consult elders all the time before making a move.
- Sometimes quarrels would erupt among people especially women over nothing.
- Jealous and witchcraft were common among members of the extended family.
- There was easy spread of diseases when people lived on the same compound or homestead.
- Indiscipline and bad habits would easily spread among members especially children because it was difficult to monitor them.
- There was lack of privacy when there were very many people living in the same compound and sometimes same hut.
- Conflicts were common to members especially after the death of the main care taker. Relatives struggled for the property of the deceased.
- Family members were massively exploited and over worked in order to meet family needs. This was through digging, hunting and other kinds of work.
- Discrimination was a main feature especially between the relatives of the main care taker and the distant relatives.
- It promoted laziness among members who were assured of all the social and economic support.
- The married women in extended families were always over worked and taken as subordinates to the many family members.

**NB. Change the tense if the question is in present situation.**

#### **Reasons why extended families are dying out**

- Levels of education attained by people has made them reject to stay in extended families.
- Hard economic conditions make it difficult and impossible to look after one's interests and interests of other relatives.

- There is urbanization where accommodation in those areas is expensive thus limiting number of people in the area.
- The education system has made people become individualistic and due to the standard of living people associate with those of their class rather than relatives of a low class.
- Land is scarce in many areas therefore people find it difficult to stay with other relatives on small pieces of land.
- Rural urban migration has broken the ties of families and the way of life where the young would live with the elders.
- Intermarriages have interfered with this family system as many people fear to conflict with in-laws.
- Influence of the western culture/modernization which has made people believe that one should marry, have few children and bring them up properly.
- Influence of Christianity limits the practice of polygamy thus ending up having few dependents from the in laws.
- Political instability affects people such that they move to other areas and get cut off from relatives.
- Modern health hazards like AIDS scourge and its effects have made people move to other areas and abandon their relatives.

## **NUCLEAR FAMILY**

These are made up of father, mother and their biological children. It is the commonest type of family required in the modern world.

## **ADVANTAGES OF NUCLEAR FAMILY**

- It is a cheap or less taxing to maintain. This is because members are few and manageable.
- Children in a nuclear family are given enough parental care and guidance this is because parents get enough time for the children.
- Love is equally shown to all family members because they have great attachment to each other.
- There is less or minimal cases of quarrels as there is a mother, father and only their children.
- Easy to administer and discipline is assured. Parents can easily monitor the discipline of their children.
- There is cooperation and sharing of responsibilities at home since in such a family mutual understanding is assured.
- There is equal sharing of basic needs like food, clothing and shelter.
- There is privacy to both children and their parents because of less interference from other members hence family secrets are maintained.
- There is equal distribution of property after death of the man since all children belong to the same mother and father.
- In nuclear families it is easy to raise children with good morals since relatives have little in such a family.
- Decision making becomes very easy since issues are discussed by few and closely related members.
- Religious values can fully be planted in children if parents have spiritual concern.

- In a nuclear family children are likely to enjoy their freedom and rights because there is less external interference.

### **Disadvantages**

- There is boredom and monopoly of life since members are few and used to each other.
- Brings about selfishness among members since they will also consider the immediate family members only.
- Members are less informed about the entire world.
- There is shortage of labour to do work because of the few members.
- There are high chances of incest since members lack knowledge of their relatives.
- They are more prone to problems and it may be difficult to solve them since elders in most cases are left out.
- Children are denied a chance of growing up with their relatives which becomes risky especially when their parents die. They may lack a care taker.
- Children are likely to follow only the morals of their parents and if bad they are likely to suffer in future.
- Nuclear families sometimes fall victims of western ideologies like indecent dressing and permissiveness since they originated from western world.

## **FAMILY LIFE IN THE PRESENT SOCIETY**

### **Characteristics of family life today (changes that have taken place in the family systems today)**

- There is equality between husband and wife and few men beat their wives.
- Polygamous marriages are dying out and are being replaced by monogamous marriages.
- There is equality between boys and girls in the home.
- The leadership of the family is less restricted to men; women can also support families and even head them in the absence of husbands.
- Disciplining of children is less emphasized in some families.
- Extended families are fading out due to economic hardships and nuclear families are common today.
- Divorce in some countries is high and has been legalized though condemned by the church.
- Family break ups or instabilities are common and rampant due to domestic violence, drunkardness and adultery.
- The system of widow inheritance is dying out because of certain constraints like diseases and woman liberation etc.
- Some husbands vigorously participate in domestic work like cooking, bathing children, washing clothes and babysitting.
- There are more mixed marriages than in the past i.e. intertribal marriages due to influence of the church, seminars and schools.
- There is tension between parents/elders and the young. This is why the elders are referred as old models.
- Women today have careers like teaching, engineers, doctor, etc. This is why they are able to look after families.
- Some parents prefer few children therefore a large family is detested.



- Today, children's rights are recognized and more emphasized. e.g. right to education, food, shelter, clothing, etc.
- Family disputes are less settled by elders but are settled in courts of law.
- Formal and informal education has been left to schools and the duty of educating children has been left to teachers who are also busy with academic work.
- The unmarried are welcomed in society leading to increased number of prostitutes, concubines, bachelors and street children.
- Female headed houses have been increased and this has led to mush rooming of single mothers and fathers
- Marriage today is less of a family affair but a private affair. This is why the young today choose their marriage partners without consulting elders.
- Today, monogamy is encouraged and polygamy is losing popularity because of economic hardships, diseases and family planning.
- Discipline is less emphasized in today's families. Family members especially children are left to do what they like. Thus families are more permissive.

### **REASONS FOR THE ABOVE CHANGING PATTERNS**

- The level of education acquired by the children and teenagers has changed their thinking about family system.
- Improved level of governance with well-defined codes of law and observance of human rights has promoted equality.
- Emancipation of women which has given them the zeal to work hard hence equality in family and sharing of work.
- Parents are too busy and work oriented and they lack time to give their children informal education.
- Influence of Christianity which has encouraged many to take up monogamy hence decreasing polygamy.
- Economic hardships which have prevented people from marrying many wives and having many children.
- Individualism from the western culture where people are more inclined to satisfy their own intentions than the society's concern.
- The modern levels of education make people shy away from polygamy and teach them to save rather than spending and also increases the age of consent.
- There is scarcity of resources such as land which limits the number of children one cares for.
- Modern health hazards such as AIDS have reduced and limited the number of women one marries and children one has.
- Government policy in some countries which limits the number of children one produces hence cubing population numbers.
- Permissiveness in society where one is free to do what you want such as homosexuality.
- Rural-urban migration/urbanization limits the number of people to live with in your family.
- Modern science and technology has encouraged family planning and abortion.
- Political instability as people are ever on the run and lack time and money to look after their families.

## **FAMILY LIFE IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY (TRADITIONAL UNDERSTANDING OF FAMILY LIFE) (CHARACTERISTICS)**

- The traditional African family was extended including wife, husband, elders, relatives and friends. A family was a basic community of life.
- The husband was the head of the home superior while the wife was inferior and many were patrilineal families.
- Women headed families were rare because women were inferior in African traditional society.
- Children were highly valued and were a blessing because they assured survival of those who bore them.
- A large family with many children was a sign of blessing from God and the more children one had the stronger the family.
- The upbringing of children was a cooperative responsibility of parents, relatives and the entire community. This is why at different stages a child would be placed in the care of many different relatives such as aunts and grandparents.
- Education of parents was compulsory and done by the community. This is why punishing a neighbor's child was approved by parents.
- A family was a social religious unit where important rituals and ceremonies would take place. These were occasions of traditional education which prepared one for adult life such as circumcision, puberty rites e.g. tattooing, body mutilation and visiting of the bush.
- Barrenness/childlessness was blamed on women and this was provided for by taking a second wife.
- Polygamy was accepted and encouraged by the society because it helped people in getting children, respect and prestige.
- Divorce was possible but less encouraged. This was because there was no place for a single person in the society.
- In some societies, there was inheritance of widows because one married a family rather than an individual.
- The family was geared towards attainment of harmony, love and care. This is why everyone was expected to contribute to the society development.
- Family disputes were settled by elders through meeting and respect among family members was important.
- Marriage was compulsory for every normal person and there was limited dodging of marriage unless one was married to ancestors.
- Bride wealth was compulsory and it was paid by the family of the boy in question. It was in form of animals and agricultural products.
- The family was the basic community of life and different families joined to form a lineage while lineages formed a clan.

### **Importance of children in African traditional society**

- Children showed that one was on good terms with gods. Barrenness was considered a bad omen meaning that the gods were unhappy while producing children was considered a blessing from gods.

- Children were a sign of wealth or source of income. This was done through bride wealth on the side of the girls while boys did through raiding neighboring states.
- Children were a source of labour for farming, harvesting, fetching water, scaring domestic and wild animals from crops, etc.
- Children gave status to the family because the family with many children was respected. A man with many children was much respected and usually given authority in society therefore children were a source of prestige in society.
- Children were a source of security especially the boys who defended the family and community in time of crises, quarrels, wars and famine. Also girls protected the family through diplomacy i.e. intermarrying with neighboring societies. This prevented attacking neighboring states as it would mean fighting in-laws.
- Children strengthened and sealed marriage relationships between the mother and father's line. Therefore, children gave status to a woman as a childless marriage was a curse.
- Children were insurance to old age as they would take care of their parents as their energy had decreased.
- In ATS, death was overcome through the birth of children and people resurrected when children resembled them therefore children helped people to live beyond death.
- Bearing children was the seal of marriage relationship as children carried on the family name through the good qualities they displayed.
- Children expanded the clan especially the boys this is why they were encouraged to practice polygamy
- Without children, a woman was worthless and sometimes was suspected or was considered a witch this is why women tried all means to get children.
- Children acted as successors or heirs to their family members.
- Children proved a man's manhood and a woman's fertility
- Children continued with god's work of co-creation
- Children made marriage in traditional Africa stable. It was difficult for men to divorce women with children while women would also endure problems for the sake of their children.
- Children took care for their parents during old age. Parents looked at their children as great assets for old age.
- They venerated the dead. On death it was the duty of the children to bury their parents decently and then carried out all rituals of veneration. That is why those who died childless were forgotten.

## **REASONS WHY THE IDEAL OF HAVING MANY CHILDREN IS LOSING MEANING TODAY.**

- High costs of living which has led to rampant poverty as one has to work hard to survive.
- Due to practice of monogamy which reduces greatly the number of children produced.
- The population policy in some countries dictates the number of children a family should have e.g. in Japan and China and if one produces an extra child; you have to pay for him or her.
- Educated people are practicing family planning such as pill plan, injector plan and coils therefore limiting the number of children.

- The increased health problems on the side of the wife may limit the number of children as at times the uterus may weaken.
- The fear of diseases especially AIDS scare some people and end up taking one partner who would produce few children.
- Christianity approves only monogamy and many people have become Christians which has led to having few children.
- The present hard economic conditions influence couples to have few children they can manage.
- Emancipation of women has forced them have few children they can cater for as they have to attend to other obligations.
- Individualistic tendencies have killed the desire to have many children as few people may be willing to help in their upbringing.
- Educated women copy couples of the western culture of having few children. Many educated and town people are chasing for money and have limited time to look after children.
- Political instability forces people to have very few children.
- Modern economy dictates having few children because there is little land and while others have little money to use.
- Christian teaching about having respect and understanding of marriage influences Christians to remain together less children therefore it encourages adoption of children.

### **COMMUNITY EDUCATION IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY**

- In the ATS, the whole community was responsible for the education of the child to membership of the community. The whole community had to punish the child in case of misbehavior. This was because the child was for the community rather than the individual.
- Children received informal education at home which was conducted by elders, family members such as parents and other relatives like uncles, grandparents and aunties.
- There was a lot of dependence on the community for security, love and education. Community education emphasized respect, patience and hard work responsibility and honesty.
- The important stages of children's life were marked with ceremonies (rites of passage) which were social, cultural or religious for disciplining and guidance.
- At different stages of growth, a child would be put under the care of different people to teach him/her different skills such as hunting, digging and all these were done by uncles, aunts and grandparents.
- Grandparents and other grownups taught cultural values/attitudes and secrets of the tradition. Mothers taught their daughters home care and home making as they used to stay with them most of the time. The teaching of the traditional values was always in the hands of the mother and father always taught boys in puberty stage.
- During puberty they emphasized puberty rituals, cleanliness, beauty, body mutilation, tattooing. All these helped one to have a successful marriage.
- Sex education was very important aspect for both boys and girls and sex outside marriage was discouraged in all African societies and a number of punishments would be given for that misbehavior.
- Children would be punished or denied food if they misbehaved.

- At times they would be imprisoned at home and prevented from going out for a certain period of time.
- Some could be chased away from home especially those who became pregnant before marriage.
- Hard work would be given to them such as digging, slashing, fetching water and firewood.
- Some could be isolated from the family members and could be given a hut where to live.
- Some could be tied up on a rope for a certain period of time.
- Fingers and ears would be cut off from the offender especially thieves.
- Stones could be tied on the offender's neck and then be thrown in the river/lake.
- Others who were caught fornicating were burnt in the hut.
- Girls who got pregnant before marriage especially in western Uganda would be thrown in a cliff.

### **HOW DID THE AFRICAN TRADITIONALISTS EDUCATE THEIR CHILDREN?**

- Education meant transforming a new born baby into a mature responsible member of the society. Every scene of life was a school and character formation was the major aim.
- Close family members provided the first education to the young ones through good examples. Parents, elder brothers and sisters educated the infants on customs regarding food, drinks and the dress code needed by society.
- The mother played a primary role by teaching a child the names and titles of family and clan members. She could teach a child how to sing as she would sing when a child was playing.
- Children also learnt through games and sports. Children in the community were involved in different games and sports such as running, wrestling, shooting with small bows and arrows in which they discovered their talents.
- The father played a big role in teaching work. Boys went with their fathers to work and would learn while producing (production learning). This was through tilling land, hunting and looking after animals.
- Elders and grandparents taught children names of grasses shrubs and trees as well as their uses. This helped them to know all kinds of medicine.
- Children learnt through domestic work. Girls were trained in domestic work by their mothers and sometimes by their grandparents. Skills in peeling, cooking cleaning of the home were passed to them.
- Age difference was highly stressed to the children. As a sign of respect and loyalty children were required to call their elder sisters and brothers by titles such as "baaba" among the Baganda.
- Through encouraging sharing among the children. The spirit of generosity was implanted among the young by encouraging them to share everything with others. This discouraged selfishness.
- Education was also passed through community work. The young people were required to take part in community development projects such as building of houses, clearing of roads, wells and cleaning market places.
- Proverbs were also used during education. These were often used at the beginning of lessons or at the end. Such brief statements had serious information which was easy to memorize.

- Riddles and puzzles were commonly used. These were not only a way of entertainment and passing time but also were used to teach and test skills of observation, memory and moral values.
- Education was also passed through society myths. This extended knowledge to the young ones about the origin of human race and natural events like death, sickness and drought.
- Folk tales were also used to pass education to the young ones. These were a form of traditional narratives by which the moral and social values of the community were passed to children. For example, the story of the twins and the birds in the millet garden and that of the ghost and njabala among the Baganda which discouraged carelessness and laziness.

## **ROLES OF PARENTS IN THE PAST**

A family was a basic skill for all family members and parents were the major tool in upbringing of children.

### **Roles of wives (mother)**

- They had to instill discipline among children.
- They had to bear children.
- They had to give instructions and guidance among children and educate children about the traditional values of society.
- They had to provide and cook for the family as well as growing food for the family.
- She had to introduce children to different stages of development.
- She had to teach girls how to cook, dig and care for the family.
- She had to clean the house and compound as well as caring for the husband and children.
- She had to introduce the young to their relatives as well as giving moral instructions to girls.
- She had to protect children from all forms of dangers and embarrassment.

### **Roles of men (fathers)**

- To marry women and make children.
- Offer maximum protection and security as well as administrating the community.
- He had to provide shelter and build houses.
- He had to settle disputes among the family members and give moral instructions to boys.
- They assisted boys in getting marriage partners and helped them getting bride wealth for boys.
- They administered discipline through giving necessary punishments to women and children.
- They protected the community values and rituals and encouraged initiation rites like circumcision.
- They protected women to love and teach the spirit of love to children.

## **FAMILY LIFE IN CHURCH HISTORY**

- The Christians of early centuries accepted as normal partners of marriage and family life which they found in existence e.g. the rules about descent and inheritance, choice of a marriage partner, their customs where the married people should live and many others.
- The teaching/preaching of the Christian ideal called for transformation of married partner e.g. as divorce and re-marriage were common and easy, the Christians set a new standard of faithfulness between husband and wife, couples were encouraged to grow in love and this needed time and patience.
- Prostitution was common this is why the Christian ideal encouraged mutual love and respect in all relationships between one person and another including sexual relationships.
- Quarreling was common between family members as men were harsh to their wives and children. The Christian ideal encouraged men to love their wives as Christ loved the church.
- The Christian teaching prevented women from getting married to pagan men. This was so because such marriages would lead to evasion of God.
- Some Christians were doubting as to whether Christians were allowed to marry. This was because some believed that sex was an evil act. St. Paul and Clement of Alexandria helped to put this right.
- Question between marriages with slaves was solved by the missionaries. Church regarded slave marriage just as other marriages. Because it considers slaves to be persons and not nothing to be possessed.
- Christians of the middle ages believed that celibacy/religious single life was perfect than the married life of the late Christians. This was later corrected when marriage was considered a sacrament and a holy gift of God.
- During the period of reformation, industrialization affected family life due to great mobility and money economy.
- Christians were called upon to observe strict discipline in the home in order to keep families together.
- The church invited men and women to have creativity to enable married couples find peace and harmony in their homes.
- In Africa education, science and religion brought a new meaning for life.
- Informal education was replaced by the so called formal education.
- Families became more nucleated and some families got divided.
- The authority of women and children in families increased but still controlled.
- Celibacy was accepted as an ideal way of living.
- Childless marriages became part of society as couples could stay peacefully less children.
- Polygamy was seen as an abuse and monogamy as ideal so in the process polygamous families decreased.

#### **Differences that exist between today's and church history's understanding of family.**

- Today most families are multicultural in that people marry into different tribes and cultures since it is allowed e.g. Munyankole can marry a Muganda while in church history families were single cultural, the early Christians were allowed to marry only within their tribes e.g. a Christian Jew could not marry a Roman due to the differences in culture.
- Families of today are made of people of many religions because today people from different religions are allowed to get married without need for change of religion while

families in the early church were made up of only one religion since the early Christians were refused from marrying up of pagans.

- Some families today are headed by women since some women opt to stay unmarried while in church history all families were headed by men since marriage was a must for everyone except monks, nuns, and priests.
- Today the ways of bringing up children are relaxed in that children have the freedom to choose the path of life they want to follow e.g. children are allowed to leave lawyers or doctors as long as they want less the parents interfering in the decision making while in church history all children were influenced by their parents including the religion they would take.
- Today the relationship between children and their parents is quite distant due to the introduction of technology, most children tend to keep to themselves and rarely talk to their parents while during church history times there was a close relationship between children and their parents since they usually prayed together and gathered together for agape meals.
- Today divorce and separation of families is tolerated no matter the grounds on which it is being asked for e.g. some people can ask for divorce because they are bored by their partners regardless of whether they have children or not while in church history divorce and separation of families was detested since families were considered to be a union made by God that was meant to stay together.
- Many people in families today pray separately since they belong to different religions yet a family that prays together stays together while in church history times the family members prayed together since they belonged to the same religion hence families were more united.
- Today there is a lot of child negligence in families since women today leave their homes to go and work and leave their children with house helpers hence children have to learn manners from the people around them while in church history the women stayed at home to take care of the children since the men participated in church affairs and worked for income.
- Today equality of women in the family is emphasized due to the introduction of women emancipation where women have rights which are equal to men while in church history of the church men were more superior to the women in the family, however the men dictated what was done by the other family members.
- In families of today both the husband and wife are income earners for the family since it is more acceptable today for women to work and leave the children at home while in church history, the husband was the only income earner of the family since the women were required to stay at home at and take care of the children.

### **PROBLEMS MISSIONARIES FOUND IN THE TRADITIONAL AFRICAN FAMILY SYSTEM**

- Polygamy were men married more than one woman while as women had to stick to one man.
- There were forced marriages which were arranged and organized by parents.
- There was beating of women by their husbands over minor issues like breaking of pots, visiting neighbors without permission.
- Quarreling was common among partners mainly due to drunkardness.



- Sacrifices and rituals of initiation had to be performed before marriage would take place e.g. circumcision of women.
- The payment of bride wealth was compulsory and this made women become property.
- Barren women were considered to be outcasts and men never accepted that they were infertile.
- Women were always considered a property of men and were always inferior.
- Children especially girls were considered to be a property of men.
- There was inheritance of widows.
- They performed rituals like throwing away of twins.
- There were also food taboos e.g. women were denied delicious meals like chicken, eggs, etc.
- Adultery was common and practiced among men and women.

## **SOLUTIONS**

When missionaries came, they thought of the following in order to stabilize families.

- They taught Christianity and encouraged monogamy thus ended up discouraging polygamy. Here a man took only one woman.
- They preached against divorce and encouraged people to take up permanent marriage.
- They preached against adultery and taught that husbands should love their wives and wives should respect their husbands in order to avoid quarrels.
- Missionaries encouraged free choice of marriage partners.
- They preached against rituals like throwing away of twins, food taboos against women and female circumcision.
- Missionaries encouraged faithfulness in marriage, taught against drunkardness and high bride wealth. This aimed at reducing domestic violence.
- They taught that children were a gift from God and hence encouraged people to accept childless women.
- Missionaries built schools and hospitals to fight ignorance, poverty and illiteracy.
- They taught equality hence solving the problem of women being regarded as inferior to men.
- They preached against widow inheritance and restricted Holy Communion to only those who are married in church.
- Believers were only restricted to marry their fellow believers so as to promote Christianity.
- Initiation rites were replaced with the child's baptism as sufficient.
- Family members were taught prayers and encouraged to pray to God instead of offering sacrifices to the ancestors.

## **FAMILY LIFE IN THE BIBLE**

### **FAMILY LIFE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

- A family was considered as the basic unit of society Genesis 12:1-5. To the Israelites a family meant a clan.
- A child was a sign of blessing to the family Genesis 1:27-28. This is why God encouraged people to multiply and become pro-creators.

- Psalms 128:23, children are like young growing trees around your table and your wife is like a fertile vine in your garden.
- The purpose of marriage was to be fruitful by birth of children and if a couple was childless; wives were ready to go at length within the law to get children.
- Barrenness was considered a curse to society and people tried all means to get children. 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 1:5-11. Hannah prayed painfully to God to give her a child, Genesis 30:1-8, Rachael gave in her slave girl Bather to have children on her behalf to Jacob.
- A family was taken to be the center of education where children would be given moral and social instructions. Proverbs 23:1-4, children should be discouraged from greed for wealth and food. Proverbs 29:15-17, correction and discipline are good for children so as not to make parents ashamed.
- In the Old Testament, relationships were highly respected and respect for parents was encouraged. Exodus 20:12, Deut 5:16 respect your mother and father so as to have long life.
- It was the mother's responsibilities to educate girls while the father to educate boys. Children were taught the history of their ancestors and events for the past.
- As a society changed family life, partners also changed. At first a family cared for its self by providing food, clothes, drinks and shelter for its members. Later jobs were created and men were involved in work outside home.
- The work under Solomon's building projects and the development of agricultural produce led to absence of men from home. These changes brought in new problems which threatened the stability and peace of the family.
- Polygamy was introduced by some kings like Solomon who had 700 wives and 300 concubines but all these disappeared after exile.
- Divorce was permitted for men. Duet 24:1-4 by issuing women with dismissal certificate through some prophet who condemned it. They described marriage relationships as a covenant freely made by the desired couple to remain partners for life.
- In Genesis 2:21-24, the ideal partner for marriage was made as God made Eva and Adam. Marriage should be deep lasting and permanent companionship for husband and wife.
- Marriage should be monogamous and relationship should be made complete.
- Prophet Malachi condemned mixed marriages and divorce that is Malachi 2:13-16. The prophet condemned marriage between Israelites and gentiles e.g. mixed because he considered it as a pagan and scandalous marriage. This is because a person who is married to a pagan fellow takes part in a pagan worship and sacrifices and therefore God cannot accept his prayers and offerings. Marrying out Israel was a break of the bond of a division family thus discrediting the home of God.
- In ancient Israel extended family was ideal. For example, Abraham lived in an extended family.
- Parents were supposed to rear their children in a religious life and those who failed were punished by God. For example, Priest Eli was punished because of the religious indiscipline of his sons.
- Malachi suggests that since God is a spirit of life, the husband and wife receive their life from him and are united.`

## **FAMILY LIFE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

- In Jesus' teaching, he upheld the idea of monogamy asserted in Genesis 2:21-24. He re-affirmed that mutual love and respect is the basis of family relationships, Colossians 3:18-21 and Luke 7:11-17.
- The New Testament teaches the husband to be loving and kind 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:1-8, women should be submissive to their husbands because through this, the wives can win their husbands to the lord.
- Ephesians 6:1-4, children are emphasized to have respect and love to make their parents happy.
- The parents are also told to bring up their children with the training and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6; 4.
- In Corinthians 7; women and men are encouraged to be faithful in marriage while those that are widows and singles have a chance to marry.
- It also calls up on the celibates to stay as their so as to serve god well.
- People should not change from the form or condition they were when they decided to follow the lord e.g. a circumcised man should remain circumcised after allowing to follow the Lord, 1cor. 7:17.
- Jesus taught that since God made man and woman at the beginning of the world, the Israelites should not follow Moses' teaching or letter as this would lead to divorce and adultery by those who marry after divorce.
- Jesus teaches that there should be a good relationship among family members e.g. parents should be concerned about their children's life and discipline.
- Jesus referred marriage as an occasion of joy that is why he attended a wedding at Cana. John 2:1-11, Jesus turned water into wine and saved the couple from shame.
- Jesus teaches that God' family is beyond blood relationship. All those who do what God demands are brothers and sisters to Christ. Mk. 3; 34-35.
- Jesus teaches that a good family is that where parents show love and care to all family members. Luke: 2; 46-50. Jesus' parents went to look for him in Jerusalem.
- Parents should train their children in work and life skill. For example, Jesus worked as a carpenter the skill he got from Joseph. Mk. 6; 3.
- In Mathew 7: 9-11 Jesus uses the example of love in a family between husband and wife to reflect the same love God has for all the people.
- St. Paul advises the wives to submit themselves to their husbands with love and obedience. Col. 3; 18.
- St. Peter appeals to husbands not to ever treat their wives harshly because they are of a weak sex. 1Pt. 3; 7.

### **How can the New Testament teaching help Christians live in peace and harmony?**

- Jesus taught about forgiveness and he went ahead to forgive those who crucified him in the gospel according to Luke 23:34 therefore Christians ought to forgive those who wrong them.
- Jesus encourages his followers to reconcile with one another for instance he said that if you have to offer your gift at the altar and you remember that your brother has something against you, you leave your gift there in front at the altar go at once and make peace with your brother in Mathew 5:23-24 therefore Christians ought to reconcile with one another in case of a misunderstanding.

- S. Paul taught about respect for one another in his letter to the Ephesians 5:25 where he wrote that women should respect their husbands and husbands should love their wives in turn hence Christians ought to respect one another regardless of the difference.
- Jesus summarized the commandments into two greatest ones, love the Lord your God, with all your heart, soul and mind and love your neighbours as you love yourself in Mathew 22:37 therefore Christians should love one another in order to live a harmonious life.
- Jesus taught his followers to always be ready whenever help is needed for instance he used the example of the good Samaritan in Luke 10:29-37 hence Christians should carryout charity work like visiting the people in prisons orphanages and hospitals.
- St. Paul taught about respect for authority; that everyone should respect authority because no authority exists without God's permission and the existing authority have been put there by God in his letter to the Romans 13:1 therefore Christians ought to respect their leaders at every level as they are in charge of protecting them.
- Jesus associated with a kind of people i.e. women, men, children, Jews and non-Jews for instance his encounter with Samaritan woman in John 4:7-42 therefore Christians ought to comfortably live with all kind of people without segregation.
- Jesus discouraged judging others because God is the only judge in Mathew 7:1 and therefore Christians should avoid judging their neighbours as God will judge them the same.
- St. James taught people to use their tongue well as it is for cursing people but rather giving praise to God in James 3:8-11 hence Christians should use their tongue for a good cause.
- Jesus taught about prayer where he went ahead to teach the Lord's prayer but he also said that where two or more people are assembled in prayer he is with them in Mathew 18:20 therefore Christians ought to pray to seek for God's guidance and protection.
- St. Paul encouraged the people of Corinth to be united in order to live in peace in his 1st letter to the Corinthians 1:10 therefore Christians ought to be united too have peace in their communities.

## QUESTIONS

### 1. a) **Identify and explain the church activities that can bring different families together.**

- Through church services
- The church can organize special days for the couples
- The church organizes picnics for the families
- Through drama as film shows about Jesus
- The church can also initiate clubs like mother union and fathers' union
- Initiation of associations that act as income generating
- Through visiting one another i.e. church member
- Composing songs/hymns at church for worship and praise
- Wedding ceremonies/sacraments
- Sports activities
- Charitable works
- Organized conferences/seminars/workshops

**b) How can the New Testament teaching help such families to become stable?**

- There should be love in marriage
- Partners should respect each other
- Partners should live a harmonious life
- People in marriage should listen to each other
- There should live a life of prayer
- Should read the bible for guidance
- Partners should acknowledge each other's weakness
- Marriage is divine hence inseparable
- Encouraging monogamous marriages
- Children should respect their parents
- Forgiveness and reconciliation
- Parents should discipline their children
- Faithfulness is marriage
- Sexual satisfaction for

**2. a) Give the bible teaching about the parent-child relationship in a family**

- Parents should regard their children as gifts from God
- The parents also should regard their children as a source of joy to them
- The children are supposed to honour their fathers and mothers (parents)
- It's the duty of the parents to discipline their children
- The parents are supposed to love their children
- The children are supposed to respect their parents.
- The children are supposed to obey their parents
- The parents are supposed to bring up their children in a religious way
- The parents are supposed to help their children fulfill their cultural values
- The children act as arrows in a family thus a source of security

**b) Explain the problems Christians missionaries found in Traditional African family set up**

- The issue of polygamy where African men married many women
- Parents choose marriage partners for their children.
- Inequality between husband and wives where men were superior and women inferior.
- Domestic violence, where the husband was allowed to beat his wife.
- The payment of bride wealth, which the missionaries considered as buying of the girl
- Forced marriages, young girls were forced by their family for bride wealth
- Widow inheritance was a common practice
- Barrenness was always blamed on the women
- In some communities, twins were considered a curse and they were thrown away
- Having many children in the family
- Superstition
- Divorce/remarry
- Women were denied some food stuffs
- Cultural rigidity

## **11. SEX DIFFERENCE AND A PERSON**

Sex in this context is a gift of being male or female. It refers to gender.

Sex differences we deal with gender differences and how such differences affect society

There are two types of differences.

- a. God made differences e.g. man and woman, giants, dwarfs, colour of the skin.
- b. Manmade differences e.g. the rich, poor, royal class, peasants

Because of these differences, different attitudes have developed towards one another as far as sexes are concerned.

### **SEX DIFFERENCE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION**

#### **WAYS IN WHICH WOMEN ARE STILL BEING DICRIMINATED (MADE SECOND TO MEN) IN UGANDA.**

- Religiously high posts in church are still taken up by men and women still occupy the lower posts. For instance, in the Catholic church it is only men to be ordained as priests.
- Men are still dominant in decision making both in government and families and women in many cases just abide.
- Women are still blamed for the indiscipline of children in many homes while men are left free.
- Women still do most of the domestic work though they are denied their rightful reward in such homes.
- Many men still look at women as sex objects and they abuse them sexually i.e. they are raped, defiled and molested.
- Domestic violence is on increase where men beat, burn and even kill their wives for simple issues.
- Today in some families, women are left out when it comes to inheriting property of their fathers.
- Bride wealth in modern society has made man superior and woman inferior in homes.
- Women today are still blamed for barrenness and for sexually transmitted diseases.
- Women are still lagging behind in getting good jobs, high posts and good political posts. They are given to men.
- There are still forced marriages in some places especially villages where girls are given out for marriage by their parents forcefully.
- In Uganda today girls are still denied education especially in rural areas and in Africa about 50% of girls have limited chance of going to school.
- In rural areas, women are still beasts of burdens and a lot of work is still performed by women at home e.g. producing, digging, fetching water, collecting firewood, washing etc.
- Women are being divorced by some men without any compensation or getting any share from the acquired property.

#### **CASES OF EQUALITY IN PRESENT SITUATION**

- Both sexes act as religious leaders. For instance, Nuns in the Catholic Church, Deacons in the Anglican Church and pastors. E.g. pastor Namatebi of liberty Church at Lugala.

- Both have a right to own property. Many women today own big property like men. For example, Nalubega arcade in kampala is for a woman.
- In education both sexes pass through the same education system and sit for the same exams.
- Both have the same political rights. They vote for leaders and they become leaders. E.g. Hon. Rebecca kadaga the speaker of parliament of Uganda 2016-2021.
- Both sexes are guided by the same law and under the same constitution.
- Professionally, both sexes do the same work for instance teaching, lawyers and doctors.
- Both sexes are required to pay taxes to the government.
- Both sexes engage in domestic work today such as mopping cooking cultivation etc.
- Today both men and women head families and provide to the needs of the family.

## **THE WOMEN LIBERATION MOVEMENT**

- This refers to the struggle aimed at promoting or advancing the rights (cause) of women, it began in the western world i.e. Western Europe and America and has since spread to many parts of the world.
- It was a result of historical, social and cultural reasons i.e. in almost all cultures of the world women were treated as “second class” after men. This is because for long the women have been blamed for the downfall of man (Eve) and thus suppressing them would bring easy control.
- They have been denied freedom in all areas of the world including sexual freedom e.g. because they are of a lower class. They are got rid of at birth like in India where ultra sounds were used to determine if the child was a girl the fetus would be terminated.
- They have been given inferior place in society in a way that they are not considered of outstanding value to society, their way of thinking is degraded and the roles they play in society. Important as they are perceived as small. They have been excluded in matters of political influence. Till this day, women have never been able to take up the post of presidency for countries like U.S.A which is a worldwide super power.
- They have also been subjected to polygamy. Women have suffered from their husband’s unfaithfulness and lack of self-control. Where by these weaknesses and also the population ratio makes women to share husbands which creates instability in the different homes and families causing women a heavier burden of caring for the family.
- Women have experience torture, sexual harassment, forced marriages, forced marital inheritance as if to mean that they are just living being without feelings or desires of peace and fair judgment e.g. in Northern Uganda IDP camps the women were many in no and were sexually abused and battered as well.
- In some countries, there is discriminating legislation against women with particular reference to wage structure, employment opportunities etc. women are denied inheritance of property from their parents and spouses.
- In the churches men still dominate women are less allowed to be religious leaders. Priests, bishops, cardinals are strictly men e.g. In the Catholic Church there has never been a female priest.
- The decision making in homes/families is dominated by men. Most women have limited say in the matters of the home mostly because they depend fully on their husband’s. For instance, they have been poorly educated due to poor girl child education which is a national problem as well as culture e.g. among the Baganda.

- Women have a heavy burden in the fields of work (exploitation and oppression) on top of caring for their homes and family because of one reason or another some women are forced by their husbands to take-up financial responsibility as they stay at home.
- Today women are still reduced to the level of property because they have been paid for through practices of dowry. Some cultures like bride price and this is still prominent in families and because it is as if they have been purchased they are considered to be part of property.

### **WHAT ARE WOMEN FIGHTING FOR?**

- Equal opportunities. Women are fighting for equal opportunities with men. They want to be treated the same as men, to be analyzed personal ability and weaknesses as human beings and not merely basing on their sex.
- Sexual freedom. Women want to be free from compulsory cultural practices e.g. Genital mutilation, marriage inheritance, forced marriages etc.
- Companionship in marriage rather than male dominancy. Women are fighting for cooperation in the institution of marriage where there is equal share of responsibility both financially and domestically. Instead of it being a dictatorial exercise for a man.
- They are fighting for laws to protect them i.e. against sexual harassment, defilement, rape etc. women are fighting to be represented for these injustices affecting them as human beings and have long term effects on them hence the formation of movements such as FIDA Uganda for representation of women.
- Equal participation in economic fields and sharing of wealth (national cake). Women are fighting for a chance to build their nation in terms of property investments and as such they are appealing for the same benefits as those of men.
- Priesthood in churches. Here women are fighting for the chance to serve their God better from pastor such as those which would give them the power to outreach the people not to be restricted to lower positions.
- Enough maternity leave. Since in Uganda, it has only been 45 days because as mothers of the nation, they need a little more time to raise their children to an age where they won't need lot of attention since the world today requires women to contribute to the financial development of their homes.
- They are fighting for respect for a woman and her status as a mother, citizen, wife etc. women naturally have more responsibility as compared to a man and are fighting for appreciation, appraisal because the roles they play are completely by will and they need encouragement to go on as such.
- Uniform terms of payment e.g. civil servants e.g. some areas are men who take jobs in the civil service are paid differently based on their sexes.
- Protection from domestic violence. Women are fighting for their rights as human beings of not being subjected to torture or harm which is the reason why organizations like FIDA Uganda are set up to defend them.
- Political rights. Women want the freedom and right to take part in elections of leaders and also stand in for those posts just as men.
- Fighting all forms of discrimination. They in short want a chance to get a chance at what men do. Fairly and equally, with payments roles in society, respect and thus to be looked at as human beings.



## **IMPACT OF WOMEN LIBERATION STRUGGLE**

### **Positive effects**

#### **Explain the success and failures of women liberation movement**

- Primitive Cultures like female genital mutilation, Polygamy, inheritance of women have reduced especially among the educated and is a success from their fight.
- They have been given a day on national calendar dedicated to them because of their fights for attention and because they have succeeded the 8<sup>th</sup> of March of every year has been dedicated to them.
- Laws protecting women against domestic violence and other human rights such as rights to fair pay. Treatment, liberty, laws against sex abuses e.g. rape, adultery and defilement have been made.
- Civic rights of women where they are able to freely speak of issues they would feel they must add on to the country's development e.g. rights to election, taking posts on the cabinet have been observed.
- Women have organized scholarships to girls like setting up organizations like FAWA which helps in the finding of the fees for girls who can't support themselves.
- Women have freedom to choose their marriage partners also choose whether to marry than the past when they were subjected to forced marriages and celibacy was regarded a failure.
- Women have joined political offices/affairs and have taken up the leadership roles in the public as ministers, army women, police women, members of parliament, L. Cs e.g. Hon. Betty Nambooze member of parliament of Mukono municipality 2016-2021.
- There is equality between men and women because both can contribute to the government revenue through paying tax.
- Women have joined in policy making and implementation. e.g. Mrs. Jennifer Musisi the executive director in kampala city council 2016-2021 who removed vendors from streets.
- Women have become self-reliant. This is why they can own vehicles, buildings, businesses and can build houses. Nalubega arcade in kampala is for a woman.
- The girl child education has been promoted and more women have graduated from the universities. E.g. Sarah Nkonge the presidential adviser on poverty alleviation graduated with a PHD from Makerere university in 2013.
- The oppression of women by men has been minimized by imprisoning those who oppress women therefore domestic violence is reduced.
- There is equal competition for careers or jobs and there are many women teachers, scientists, doctors, engineers, etc. e.g. in 2010 more female graduates appeared than males from Makerere University.
- Today, there has been formation of more clubs that fight for women's rights e.g. UWESO and FIDA.
- Women have gained independence and many have joined trade and commercial sectors which have led to a better standard of living in their homes. Dr. Maggie Kigozi the former director of Uganda investment authority.
- Women have been respected in families, can inherit property from their parents and are now able to discipline their husbands.

- Today, women are getting education which has led to building of girls' schools e.g. Tororo girls, Nabisunsa, St. Teresa Namagunga p/s, St Agnes primary school Naggalama.

### **Negative effects**

- It has led to many marriages break up (separation and divorce) because women have become bigheaded and forgotten to respect their husbands E.g. the former vice president wandera kazibwe divorced late kazibwe.
- It has led to development or mush rooming of single parents.
- Marriage has become less valued. This is why many separate after a short time and nobody will blame them.
- Women liberation has led to development of sex workers e.g. prostitutes who have become a social problem in many cities of Uganda.
- Women are becoming homosexuals while others are practicing bestiality.
- Women have taken up foreign cultures leading to deterioration of African culture leading to poor dressing, poor language and life style.
- Many children are left less parental love resulting to street children. This is because women have concentrated on business.
- It has led to permissiveness in society and in homes.

### **(How the government of Uganda has improved the status of women)**

- Schools have been built for both boys and girls and some schools are mixed to encourage co-education.
- Education for women has been highly encouraged and motivated and it has put in place 1.5 extra points for girls entering university
- The Uganda constitution has supported the struggle for emancipation of women.
- Women have been encouraged by government to join security forces e.g. police, army, prisons and LDU
- Both men and women have the right to vote and participate in decision making and stand for any post in the country e.g. women MPs.
- The salary scale in different sectors has been made uniform for both men and women.
- Politically the government has put up special posts for women at the district level and in parliament to promote full participation of women in decision making.
- Equality before the law has been promoted as both are judged and sit for the same exam.
- Right from the grass roots, the government has encouraged women to start income generating activities such as piggery, mush room growing, bakeries, poultry so as to become self-sustaining by offering them loans.
- The government has supported women during celebration of women's day.
- The ministry for women's affairs (ministry of gender and labour) has been created by the government and it has also supported women organizations by funding them.
- The government has promoted and funded universal primary education and universal secondary education to help the girl child access education.

### **WAYS IN WHICH THE SOCIETY HAS BENEFITED FROM THE IMPROVED STATUS OF WOMEN.**

- It has encouraged development in society and the country is able to develop economically.

- Women have been able to raise the standard of living and that of the society due to eradication of poverty.
- They have contributed to the financial running of a home and help men to pay taxes.
- There is better child care as women are able to learn better methods of cooking in their clubs.
- A balanced diet is able to be got at home.
- Women have become conscious of their rights and this has decreased violence in homes.
- Women are allowed to exploit their talents such as singing, dancing.
- Better medical care is observed at homes.

### **ORGANIZATIONS THAT FIGHT FOR TO RAISE WOMEN STATUS**

- Uganda women's parliamentary association – fights for rights of women in Parliament.
- NAWOU – (National Association of Women's Umbrella) This was started on 29<sup>th</sup>/01/1992 and was aimed at mobilizing and coordinating voluntary woman organizations.
- FIDA – (Federation of Uganda Women Lawyers Association) it has helped women address their socio-cultural problems legally.
- UWESO – Uganda Woman's Effort to Serve Orphans an NGO founded in 1986 by Hon. Kataha Janet Museveni it promotes survival, development and participation women in full life.
- Mothers' Union – Based in the Anglican Church to fight for the rights of women in church for Fathers' Union to be men.
- Y.W.C.A – Young Women's Christian Association. This is a women's global organization that supports women to go for full employment of their human rights e.g. employment.
- FINCA – Provides financial services to low income earning women entrepreneurs.
- WICCE – Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange. It exists promote justice and employment of women's rights and full potentials in society.
- UWEAL – Uganda Women Entrepreneurs Association Limit. It facilitates women entrepreneurs in several business farming.
- Uganda Women Finance Trust (UWFT). It provides unique financial services to low-income women and other people. It is an NGO which operates at national level.
- ACFODE – Action for development (NGO for women) enriches the lives of women, helping them to realize their full potential and bridges development gaps and human rights.
- FAWE – Forum for African women educationalist – Pan African NGO working in 32 African countries to empower girls and women more so on education founded in 1992.
- Girl guides – Are scouts that are girls? They represent and fight for the rights of girls in the scouts.
- KWDTU – Katosi women development trust Uganda provides financial support to women in the entrepreneurship world.

### **SEX DIFFERENCE IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY**

#### **THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

#### **PRACTICES SHOWING THAT WOMEN WERE INFERIOR**

There was much irregularity between men and women due to sex difference.

- In African traditional society, women were regarded inferior and weaker sex to men.

- Women always came second to men and were always considered last.
- Women were regarded as a property to be owned by men. This is why men disciplined their women because men were masters of the home.
- The tasks of men were differentiated from those of women and there was a clear cut division of labour where women carried out heavier work and mostly agricultural work.
- There was more joy in a home when a baby boy was born than when a baby girl was born. That is why among the Baganda of central Uganda the baby girl was known as “Ganemerredde”
- Less compensation was paid for the murder of a woman than for a man. For instance, among the Ibo of southern Nigeria if one of the clans killed a male of another clan, it was to compensate with a virgin girl to produce for the victim clan.
- Compensation was paid for a man for adultery of his wife but if a woman found her husband with another woman it was normal.
- Women/ female relatives received a smaller share of the bride wealth of their married daughter than male relatives
- A man was allowed to exercise physical force or beat his wife in case of any offence like visiting neighbours without permission, committing adultery.
- A man was allowed to divorce a wife when he felt that they could hardly stay together while a woman was to endure all pains in a home.
- Even the practice of eating, there was a difference e.g. women and girls had to eat from a different place, sitting on the floor while men would eat alone a special place. Sitting together meant equality.
- Delicious dishes such as pork, grasshoppers, chicken, fish, eggs, were eaten by men only. To women it was a taboo.
- There was forced marriage as girls were forced to marry anybody of their parents’ choice due to high bride wealth. But boys to some extent had a say in the choice of a marriage partner.
- Men dominated women in all spheres of life e.g. in politics or public role, women were left out.
- Women were beasts of burden, most of the domestic work was for women and they were blamed when the family lacked food
- Men were allowed to marry more than one woman but women had to marry only one man.
- Women were left out when property was inherited but they would be inherited as property. When a woman’s husband died, brothers would inherit her.
- Wrong things were blamed on women and in case of good things men were the ones to be praised.
- Women were taken as of bad omen and meeting them in the morning in some societies was an abomination.

## **SEX DIFFERENCE IN CHURCH HISTORY**

### **ROLE PLAYED BY WOMEN IN THE EARLY CHURCH**

- In the church, Christians ideal for respect of a person whether male or female has been emphasized. The Christian teaching helped improve the position of women in Africa and showed concern for the welfare of children.
- Many early missionaries were women and among the catholic, the nuns and African sisters converted many people to the Christian faith and encouraged women to participate in the liturgy such as taking readings, joining the church, serving the Eucharist, preaching and teaching others as well as treating the sick.
- They preached the word of God and trained girls at the mission schools to be productive and responsible members of the society.
- The protestant missionaries who were married played a big role in giving advice to the married and teaching catechism. Wives of the religious leaders played a role of caring for their husbands so that they serve God peacefully. These women played a part in composing and forming church choirs.
- The women Adventists hold key positions and responsibilities in the church by serving as deaconesses, pastors and preachers.
- Women like Kageye helped to redeem fellow women in getting converted. She played a big role in converting women to Christianity. She was a widow of a chief of Toro and was a teacher. She trained girls at the mission school and taught them traditional craft.
- Women guilds play a big role in the development of girls and try to help the married people have stable marriages e.g. women Catholic guilds.
- Mothers' union helps the married people develop projects in the church.
- YWCA these train girls in vocational skills like poultry, sowing and catering.

#### **Ways in which the church has eradicated the inferiority of women**

- The church has built schools for girls so as to improve their status e.g. Gayaza high school in Wakiso district, Mt. St Mary's Namagunga- Mukono district.
- The church has established clubs for women to rise their standards of living e.g. the Catholics have CWG, mother's union, etc.
- The church has made positions of women in church to be felt i.e. by allowing them to take readings in church, being altar girls, participating in seminars for the marriage.
- The church has given sacraments to both men and women such as baptism, confirmation.
- The church has ordained women as church leaders, women catechists in the catholic church, deacons and reverends in protestant churches.
- The church has preached against violence in homes and this has saved women from domestic violence.
- It has encouraged monogamy by preaching against polygamy and this has saved women from being taken as sex objects.
- The church has set up projects to help women mainly in the villages. It gives the women chicks, goats, Cows and seedlings which enable them to become financially independent.
- Christian organizations have mainly cared for widows and those affected with different diseases.
- Many women have become doctors, lawyers, teachers because of the hope from the church by paying for those who want education.
- The church has encouraged women to take part in hand craft.

## **SEX DIFFERENCE IN THE BIBLE**

### **OLD TESTAMENT**

In the Old Testament, Israelites women were second to men because a woman was considered inferior.

### **CASES OF INEQUALITY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

- A woman came second to a man and was left out in any official part in public.
- Barrenness or childlessness was blamed on women. Genesis 30:1-8. This is why Rachael offered her slave girl to sleep with Jacob and produce on her behalf.
- Women were denied a chance to take part in political or public life leadership was given to only men.
- The ancient covenant laws regarded women as a possession to men Exodus 20:17, women were counted together as houses, cattle and donkeys.
- The Sabbath laws left a house wife busy and a man free as she was supposed to do her work usually.
- In the O.T, men always had an upper hand in the social life where women remained behind to look after the home and children and men would go to attend parties.
- Women caught committing adultery had to be stoned to death as men were left free.
- A man was free to divorce his wife after issuing her with a dismissal letter but a woman would stay permanent in marriage. Deut 24:1-4, dismissal letters were given to divorced women.
- Biblical writers showed that sin originated from a woman thus is blamed for having caused suffering. Genesis 3:45-48.
- Biblically generations were counted following men and only male children would be recorded. For instance, Adam only gave birth to sons as Abraham did and Jacob.
- A woman is shown to have been made a subordinate to man after sin.
- Women were denied a chance to offer sacrifices to the Lord because they were regarded unclean.
- Leadership in homes was given to men and women would be inherited by family members in case the husband died.
- The second creation story show that man was created first and woman was created from the man's rib.
- In the book of proverbs when a child was of bad behavior, the mother was blamed and when the child was good the father was praised.

### **CASES OF EQUALITY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

- Both men and women were created in God's image.
- In the beginning, God created man and woman for a purpose. He created them to be companions to each other e.g. Genesis 2:18-25
- Both show God's power of creation through co-creation Genesis 1:28, God blessed Adam and Eve so that they have many children and descendants.
- During the time of Noah, God saved both and both were punished with a flood.

- In the book of Exodus during the time of Moses, God liberated both men and women from slavery in Egypt and protected both in the wilderness on their journey to the Promised Land, Exodus 20:1-7.
- Commandments and covenant laws were given to both guided and helped to protect both.
- God chose both prophets and prophetesses to guide people to the truth and true worship of Yahweh e.g. Elijah, Jonah and Deborah.
- Both men and women were chosen as judges to help in the smooth running of the Israelite community e.g. Esther, Samuel etc.
- Both were given equal talents to work as co-workers with God.
- The bible emphasizes hope and equality for the oppressed people like the poor, old, weak and laws were instituted to protect the rights of individuals in society e.g. Exodus 20:22-27.

### **EXAMPLES OF WOMEN WHO PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

- In the O.T, there are a number of women who play an important role in life of their nation. They became symbols of the acting post which all women were entitled to copy in all societies.
- In the book of Esther, Queen Esther pleaded for the fellow Jews before king Xeraces and due to her courage and devotion, she saved her people the Jews from extermination and destruction from enemies.
- In the book of Judges 4:1-10, Deborah ruled her people as a prophet and as a judge during the time when survival of the Israelites was threatened.
- In 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 14:1-14, Tekoa. A clever woman requested King David to pardon and forgive his son Absalom who had revolted against him and threatened to give away his thrown.
- Ruth, the grandmother of David is remembered for her courage and determination to stay with the mother in law.
- Judith a widow, single handedly assassinated a commander of the enemy force and brought peace to Israel.
- Susanna was devoted to the lord and refused judges to seduce her to the extent of sacrificing her life in order to remain pure.
- In 1<sup>st</sup> kings 10:1-14, queen Sheba showed courage to travel along distance to see and hear the words of wisdom from King Solomon.
- In 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel 2:1-8, Hannah echoes the message of hope to all Israelites women who were suffering to trust in the power of prayer.
- Sarah was able to endure barrenness until God gave her Isaac as a covenant child.
- Rehab protected the Israelites spies and helped them to escape during Israel's entry to Canaan.
- Bathsheba the wife to king David pleaded to him to fulfill his promise which helped Solomon to become a King in Israel.
- Jezebel the wife to Ahab used the royal seal and wrote a letter to the Israelites nobles directing them to kill Nabboth on grounds that he had insulted the king.
- The widow at Zarepheth saved the man of God Elijah from hunger by making bread for him from the only remaining flour and oil she had.

## **SEX DIFFERENCES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

- Jesus proclaimed the dignity of each person as a basic law of love which governs all relationships. John 13, Jesus encourages people to love one another as He loved man without discrimination.
- Jesus stresses or emphasizes the basic reality of men and women being children of God. All people are equally important in God's sight, whether poor or rich man or woman, learnt or ignorant all equally deserve respect and love.
- During His life ministry, Jesus associated with all of the people e.g. men, women, young, old, all were His friends. Jesus loved all people this is why He joined feasts, discussions, parties and gave himself to anyone who approached Him.
- In Luke 1:45-55, Mary praises the Lord for choosing her to be the mother of Jesus and she is the most honoured lady in the N.T. The birth of Christ was salvation of all mankind and Jesus is the savior of both men and women.
- Jesus was open to all kinds of people irrespective to their race John 4:1-10, Jesus talked to the Samaritan woman and promised her life giving water, their social status. Mark 1:40-45, Jesus healed a man with a deadly skin disease.
- Luke 7:36-39, a sinful woman washed Jesus' feet with tears, dried them with her hair, smeared them with perfume and kissed them.
- Luke 10:38-42 and John 11:1-15, Jesus visited the women Mary and Martha.
- The death of Jesus was to save mankind and give them eternal life. According to Mark 16:1-18, the first people to see and announce Jesus' resurrection were women and Mary Magdalene was the first to see Jesus after His resurrection.
- Both female and male have a role to play in the kingdom of God.
- The Holy Spirit was sent to both men and women.
- Jesus preached the good news to both men and women and tried to save all. The miracles were performed to both men and women as this helped them to come closer to God.
- Jesus had followers who were women e.g. Mary Magdalene, Martha
- The judgment day is for both men and women and will all be judged equally.
- St Paul says that loving people as Jesus did means removing anything that discriminates people and treating them unfairly.
- Galatians 3:27-28, as a Christian we should avoid discrimination because all people are united in Christ.
- St Paul says that the law of mutual love and respect is the basis of all relationships, Galatians 5:13-18 and Philippians 2:3-5, Christians should try to love others unselfishly and should be ready to overcome their prejudices.
- Therefore, Christian ideal is the equality of man and woman as persons although each sex has its unique tasks. There should be no room for discrimination but Christians should be reconcilers, bridge builders and destroyers of barriers because all people are equal in God's sight.

## **FACTORS THAT SUPPORT EQUALITY BETWEEN MAN AND WOMAN**

### **BIBLE ARGUMENTS (OLD TESTAMENT)**

- Both were created in the same image of God. Gen; 1:26.



- God created both man and woman to be companions and help each other. Gen; 2:18.
- They were created to become one bone and one flesh thus being equal. Gen; 2:24.
- Moses liberated both men and women, he also gave the ten commandments to govern men and women. (exodus.20 1-17)
- When man sinned in the book of genesis, God punished both male and female. Gen; 3:1 ff.
- God called both male and female to serve him. For example, Deborah was a female judge.
- The Old Testament uploads both male and female with great faith. For example, Hannah a woman of great faith. 1sum; I:1-28.

## **N.T**

- In the New Testament Jesus came to save all mankind and both sexes were equally saved.
- Jesus' death and resurrection gives hope to all.
- During his public ministry Jesus associated with male and female. For example, he associated with the Samaritan woman as well as with Nicodemus.
- Jesus was able to forgive both male and female for example he forgave the crippled man and the adulterous woman.
- Jesus also had friends of both sexes. For instance, Lazarus, Mary and Martha.
- Jesus also performed miracles for both. He healed both male and female. E.g. He healed a paralyzed man and a bleeding woman
- Both male and female showed equal concern for Jesus during his death. For example, Nicodemus and Joseph and the three Marys' during Jesus' death.

## **PRESENT SITUATION**

- Both sexes act as religious leaders. For instance, nuns in the Catholic Church, Deacons in the Anglican Church and pastors. E.g. pastor Namatebi of liberty Church.
- Both have a right to own property. Many women today own big property like men. For example, Nalubega arcade in kampala is for a woman.
- In education both sexes pass through the same education system and sit for the same exams.
- Both have the same political rights. They vote for leaders and they become leaders. E.g. Hon. Rebecca kadaga the speaker of parliament of Uganda 2011-2016.
- Both sexes are guided by the same law and under the same constitution.
- Professionally, both sexes do the same work for instance teaching, lawyers and doctors.
- Both sexes are required to pay taxes to the government.
- Both sexes engage in domestic work today such as mopping cooking cultivation etc.
- Today both men and women head families and provide to the needs of the family.

## **SEX EDUCATION**

This refers to the knowledge about sex and sexuality that is usually imparted to the youth in preparation for marriage.

It refers to all possible ways and means that are put up to ensure that the bond between sex and sexuality is shown in society.

## **HOW SEX EDUCATION WAS IMPARTED TO THE YOUTH IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY**

- The youths used to visit relatives especially aunties, uncles who were very instrumental in imparting sex education. Auntie's examples were highly respected because they taught the girls to deal with adolescence, bedroom manners, importance of virginity and how to preserve it and visiting the bush.
- Part of sex education would be obtained from peer group members. That is to say peers would speak about sex freely and share ideals.
- Nature of work depended on sex. Young people were to do different work depending on their sex example girls did cooking to prepare them for future motherhood. They did different work and while working they discussed sex related matters.
- Clan seminars in African Traditional Society were organized to impart sex education to the young generation. Here the leaders took the role of introduction.
- Sex education was imparted through initiation ceremonies examples Bagishu boys had their sex education through circumcision.
- It was through parents at home. Every family was like a school and fire places in evening were like classrooms where lessons were conducted.
- Public gatherings were also used for sex education. In the gatherings all girls could address issues concerning sex. The whole community was involved and sex offenders were punished.
- Ceremonies like marriage, funeral rites, naming of twins were avenues through which the youth were taught.
- Traditional dances and songs also had important information that was passed on to the youths.
- Through punishments, it helped to provide information regarding sex issues to the youth example killing of an unmarried pregnant girl taught girls not to fornicate.
- Through game played. These were also away of imparting sex education. The girls played soft games and games related to their future responsibilities examples playing with dolls, mock cooking and many others. All these prepared them for future motherhood.
- Stories, riddles and proverbs were used to impart knowledge to the youths and most stories were rich in information about sex.
- Spiritual leaders were also used. These also specifically gave warning to spiritual ancestors and spiritual gods. They too described some of the possible punishments to sex offenders and sexual immoralities.
- Through cultural beliefs and taboos. Different stories and different taboos example the baganda had a belief that women shouldn't eat grasshoppers so as to guard against adultery, scooting also was not allowed.
- Imitating elders (role models) was yet another way children copied their parent's behavior and later adopted the same in future.

## **CONTENTS OF SEX EDUCATION IN AFRICAN TRADITIONAL SOCIETY**

- Many tribes in Africa had puberty rituals for one or both sexes that are varied from culture to another. E.g. circumcision among the Bagishu of eastern Uganda.
- Young men and women approaching adulthood were taught values and roles of the society.
- The youths were taught skills belonging to their sexes and were given future instructions as fathers or mothers.

- In some communities it was mainly the aunts, uncles and grandparents who prepared the youth through a set of rituals. These rituals were usually corrective for groups of girls and boys.
- Initiation conveyed new privileges and respect such as getting married, bearing children, fighting for one's country, be able to take part in one's celebrations and possess property.
- Initiation was a mark of maturity, responsibility, respectability and productivity.
- During the part of education, they were taught the history, customs, culture and trade, responsibilities, wisdom of their people, man-woman relationship, family life, sex and other aspects of adult life.
- In some societies, initiated candidates underwent a lot of hardships as part of their training e.g. they were taught bravery, obedience, endurance, keeping secrets, self-sacrifice. After this training they became new people and acquired new names.
- The initiation period helped them to create a sense of community, unity and mutual interdependence and belongingness.
- Before initiation, children were kept ignorant about rituals until the right time.
- Boys and girls who had reached the puberty, adultery stage were separated and had to sleep in different houses. While in those houses, elder brothers and sisters would teach them riddles, proverbs and stories which discouraged them from promiscuity/ from sexual relations.
- Some communities, boys and girls were separated to limit sexual abuses.
- Others locked boys and girls in a single hut but were restricted from playing sex and this helped them to develop self-control.
- Taboos were used to scare those who had intentions of having sexual relationships before marriage because they were told stories relating to marriage.
- The children were taught songs concerning family life and poems were composed to encourage stable marriages.
- The girls were taught how to do house work, gardening and cleanliness while boys were instructed on how to build, graze and dig in order to fight famine.
- Sexual affairs were kept a secret from children. Sex education was carried out through storytelling, riddles, idioms, proverbs, songs, poems, rewards and punishments.
- The youths were taught how to relate to people especially the in-laws.
- Children were encouraged to respect and treat their husbands/wives well when they grew up and the use of vulgar language was restricted and punishable.
- Children were restricted from saying and touching some body parts in public e.g. private parts.
- In some societies, sex education was given by aunts who demonstrated physically e.g. the act of being romantic and how to behave romantically during sex relationship.
- Punishment was one of the very efficient ways of teaching sex education e.g. those caught fornicating were burnt. Some were speared to death, sent away from home; stones would be tied on their necks and thrown in a lake or river.
- In case of girls, rewards had to be given to them in case they kept themselves intact and parents would also be rewarded.
- Fertility was much stressed and in case of girls and in some societies like Sebeiyi, Masai, Kikuyu, Zulu and Nandi, they carried out genital mutilation so as to make girls less active hence minimize adultery and prostitution.

- Other tribes like Baganda, Banyankole, Basoga, Bagishu, carried out genital elongation to ensure sex satisfaction. This was done through pulling the clitoris for easy sexual excitement.
- Virginity was encouraged in most African traditional societies. The girls were taught sexual techniques and practices for fidelity, breast feeding, cleanliness, child birth, sitting properly, wearing magic charms and how to beautify oneself.
- Trial punishments and physical hardships were exercised so that candidates would show courage during pain less crying.
- Sexual techniques, administration in the home, digging, grazing were all taught to the boys. Divorce and polygamy were recommended because of childlessness.

### **HOW SEX EDUCATION IS IMPARTED TODAY**

- Sex education has changed with its course today example virginity which was highly emphasized in African Traditional Society has less value today. It is very surprising today those even young children know everything about sex unlike in African Traditional society. This has been as a result of degeneration.
- Sex education is imparted to the youths by parents. Girls are instructed by their parents in menstruation periods and fathers give information to their sons about sex wet dreams, masturbation and how they should prevent sex before marriage because of problems like STDs, AIDS and many others.
- Teachers in schools work in collaboration with parents. In schools, matrons, senior ladies, wardens are meant to help students by offering sex education to them.
- The government has also tried to bring out awareness on the importance of sex education example safe guarding, rape and dirty literature.
- Through novels watching blue movies, reading magazines has been a major way through which youths learn about sex.
- By aunties and uncles, some aunties and uncles in some societies today teach their sons and daughters on how to go about sex issues.
- By religious personals. In church priest, reverlands, pastors are trying to impart sex education through discussing moral righteousness.
- Through conferences, especially the youth conferences organized by the first lady and Nabagereka.
- Counseling centers, counseling centers have been set up to the youths on issues concerning sex example Naguru Teenage Center located in Naguru and Serenity center located in Ggaba Bbunga.
- Through mass and media example New Vision, Red paper, Kamunye, Bukedde
- Also through clubs like Y.C.S Drama, Legion of Mary and so many others.
- By reading Christian literature like the bible, leadership and magazine.
- Through listening to music or songs that educate people like the gospel music, church hymn and kadongo kamu songs.
- Through punishing wrongdoers and rewarding achievers.

### **PROBLEMS PARENTS FACE IN TEACHING SEX EDUCATION**

- Lack of confidence to face their children and offer solution to the child's problems and challenges.

- Indifference from children who think they know much and their parents have less knowledge to discuss such topics.
- Some Parents/Elders feel shy to discuss matters of sex with their children.
- Some parents are ignorant about matters of sex as they were not also taught by the elders.
- Some parents who are illiterate feel small in front of their children as they think children are more knowledgeable than them in all areas and therefore fear to discuss such matters.
- Some parents suffer from false assurance and thinking that children are taught sex education at school yet teachers also think that parents give it to their children.
- Abundance of pornographic literature and films which children think that they offer better sex education than their parents.
- Lack of privacy as people may have small compounds and houses.
- Lack of time as parents are work oriented and too busy hence the children are not sex education.
- Lack of good written literature to help parents.
- Lack of money to buy documentaries which can help parents to teach sex education.
- There is a problem of individualism that is to say such issues are left to parents and close relatives while in the past it was an obligation of the community members.
- Western influence is a big setback since the youth tend to despise such regarding it as backwardness. In addition to that many children disregard traditional values example virginity being conservatives.
- Permissiveness makes it impossible for children to take into consideration what they are taught.
- Aunties and uncles have neglected their work mainly because of extended families have been disregarded in favour of nuclear families.
- The existence of boarding schools has separated children from their parents. Even when they come for holidays the time is limited to make an impact.
- Bad role models hence children copy wrong deeds from their parents and elders.
- Generation gap because of formal education and western culture. Many youths refuse to listen to their old generations. They disrespect them and give them less attention claiming that they are outdated.

### **REASONS WHY CHRISTIANS SHOULD SUPPORT SEX EDUCATION**

- It improves morals of adolescents and they would be able to use God given powers of sex properly as our bodies are temples of God.
- It provides valuable knowledge about sex and its role in marriage.
- It shields one against false information against sex e.g. abstaining from sex leads to infertility and causes backache.
- It shapes one's future in life and one is able to get a good established marriage.
- It assists the youth to cope with the adolescent challenges e.g. having a healthy relationship with others and accepting one self.
- It promotes a health relationship between boys and girls and they become strong when dealing with that relationship.
- People become aware of the impending changes in involvement of early sex.
- It prevents children from sexual problems such as rape, prostitution, homosexuality
- It prevents sexually transmitted diseases like syphilis, Candida, gonorrhea, etc.

- People are able to know the role of sexual satisfaction in marriage hence making their marriages stable.

### **IMPORTANCE OF SEX EDUCATION**

- It helps to pass on news to youths about sex and their general sexuality.
- It helps young people in relationship with the opposite sex and guide them on how to relate with each other. To control immorality that is to say control evils like fornication incest, among others and more important to the purpose of virginity.
- To train young people for marriage by teaching them how to enjoy the marriage and how to make it successful example visiting the bush in some societies like Ganda do that in future they should satisfy their husbands sexually.
- Sex education within marriages makes the marriage stable as it emphasizes faithfulness and teaching about hygiene.
- It promotes personal hygiene and helps people to prevent contracting diseases example, Candida, and having bad body disorders.
- It helps in promoting responsible parenthood through teaching people on how to relate with their children.
- It helps in alerting children about biological changes examples girls are guided before puberty periods, preparation for changes like breasts, menstruation periods and emphasis on hygiene.
- Sex education helps to prevent un wanted pregnancies among unmarried girls because it helps teaching about the dangers of having un protected sex.
- It promotes culture through emphasizing virginity circumcision, going to the bush, kneeling while greeting.
- It strengthens relationship between people example it strengthens the relationship between children and elders who pass on sex education to them example aunties, mothers, and many others.
- It makes people calm and be satisfied with what they have. It controls and reduces feelings, anxiety and frustration due to lack of satisfaction of bodily desire.
- Sex education promotes harmony among members of society example between children and their parents understand the changes that their children go through during adolescence, between husband and wife as the husband will understand the mood swings of his pregnant wife.
- It teaches discipline through emphasizing good behavior in public, hospitality to neighbours and socially relating to others.
- To get more bride wealth especially in African Traditional Society where more bride wealth was given for virgin girls.
- To provide sexual techniques in marriages so as to satisfy their partners example twisting the waist and making sweet noises during sex.
- It helps to provide the young with knowledge of dangers of sex misuse and how they can control it.

### **DANGERS OF SEX EDUCATION TODAY**

- Exposes young people to sex abuse because it is so open and generalized example the media shows different ways of having sex which is read by everyone.

- Wrong information can be passed on to people especially by peers who may force their friends into sex abuse.
- Sex education today erodes culture example some information on the internet advocates for lesbianism, encourages the young to date which may erode the culture of virginity.
- It brings conflicts between young people and the elders because the information the young get from the media about sex is opposed by their parents and elders.
- Sex education today causes embarrassment to elders because it is very open and includes obscene language; exposure of children to intense sex scenes yet sex is supposed to be sacred.
- It destroys religious values as it promotes condom use rather than abstinence. It promotes homosexuality, fornication, prostitution, lesbianism.
- It can bring about addiction and retardation among people as they may feel like they can't do without sexual programs. It may also make others believe that they can't do without their girlfriends and boyfriends.

### **WAYS IN WHICH SEX IS MISUSED IN THE PRESENT SITUATION**

- Through fornication where people who are not married also have sex.
- Adultery where a married person engages himself outside marriage.
- Incest sex where a person involves in sex with a family member e.g. a father with a daughter or with any relative.
- Bestiality where a person involves in sexual relationship with an animal e.g. a woman with a dog, men with cows
- Gayism where a man has sex with a fellow a man.
- Lesbianism where a woman involves in sexual intercourse with another woman.
- -Pedophilia- This is where a very old person has sex with very young one e.g. sixty yr. old man having sex with 8-year-old girl.
- Masturbation- Self manipulation of one's sexual organs to get sexual satisfaction
- Prostitution refers to offering one's body for sexual purposes in return for money and other favours.
- Voyeurism- It's getting sex pleasure from secretly watching other people's sex activities. watching of someone bathing, to attain sexual satisfaction.
- Necrophilia – This is sexual intercourse with dead bodies.
- Froterorisim – This is the rubbing of one's erect penis in crowd area
- Rape is forceful sex/ sex without one's consent e.g. Kony's rebels raped the Aboke girls.
- Defilement- sex with an underage or sex with someone who is below the age of consent which is below 18 years in Uganda.
- Oral sex using the body parts e.g. nose, mouth on the sex organs of the opposite sex to derive sex satisfaction.
- Group/public sex.

### **REASONS WHY THE YOUTH INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN SEX BEFORE MARRIAGE**

- They involve themselves in sex due to lack of guidance and counseling because elders are work oriented.
- Due to pressure for sex to fit into the group of friends around them.

- Curiosity among the youth drives them into sex before marriage so as to know what will happen and how they will feel.
- Influence of pornographic materials on the press such as internet, newspapers and television.
- Hard economic conditions which force the youth to have sex in exchange for goods e.g. prostitutes.
- Influence of drugs and alcohol which influence the decision making of the brain and they end up having sex.
- Due to the urge to know whether one is fertile or active influences people to have sex e.g. boys want to test their manhood by making the girl pregnant.
- Presence of contraceptives and doctrines of safe sex e.g. condoms, pills, encourage them to have sex since there is no risk of getting pregnant.
- Lack of self-control where people cannot control their motives and end up having sex anyhow.
- Permissiveness of the society where people do what they want without question e.g. the youth dress seductively hence ends up having sex.
- The punishments for committing adultery and fornication are light hence people end up having sex.
- Bad influence from elders where some are prostitutes or carryout offences like rape.
- Some youths fear to be dropped by boyfriends/girlfriends if they do not give in and boys fear to be granted impotent.
- Late marriage causes early sex as a lot of time is spent in school where some people are old enough to meet demands of the body sexual urge.

### **PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH FORNICATION.**

- Usually a girl is left in doubt of lack of guarantee/ security that the boy/man she fornicates with will become her husband. This applies to boys too.
- Unwanted pregnancies among girls.
- In the theory of practice makes perfect, the participants often lose credibility, what ought to bring honor and respect rather no respect is given to a girl who sleeps with a man before marriage there is attendance of a woman being loose even can give to other men when married.
- Most societies are negative about it. It is immoral and opposed to the purposes of sex.
- The kind of so called love is actually selfishness not love but lust.
- The church regards it as sin. The church is clear. I.e. fornication gives license to couples to distort the purpose of sex. Therefore, morals, and behaviors of society may no longer be controlled.
- While according to Genesis both men and women are equal, fornication implies superiority of men to women which makes it wrong.
- The church sees no steadfast love in fornication and no security for girls.
- To the church father, sex must be kept holy. Fornication makes it wicked. Sex curiosity is fulfilled in marriage.
- Some chronic and incurable diseases can be acquired through pre-marital sex e.g. syphilis, gonorrhea and deadly AIDS. Most AIDS sufferers in Uganda today are said to be in the ages of 15-35 years.



- To school girls it may lead to pregnancy and early dropping out of school, unplanned children and death.
- Where girls are held by sugar daddies, marital faithfulness and stability of families are undermined.
- Where it involves consumption of contraceptives. Some girls may become barren (interruption of reproductive system). Early conception is also discouraged among girls because it affects their health.
- It may encourage prostitution as its continued practice may render one's body loose and uncontrollable.
- Traditional values of virginity are lost in this practice.
- In certain cases, it leads to enmity especially where the so called friend refuses to marry a girl he has been fornicating with, or even conflicts between children and parents.
- Those used to fornication when they marry they may fail to build stable families as they attempt to look for other more women friends.
- It often causes some youths to become day dreamers. Some try stealing or robbery to acquire money with which they ruin girls. It often causes early or sometimes forced marriages.
- It can lead to poor performance in schools.
- Fornication destroys the body of a Christian which acts as the temple of the Holy Spirit. Thus making some one impure.

### **SOLUTIONS.**

- Parents and teachers should supervise and set limits on the social activity of the youth without necessarily invading their privacy.
- Discussion between parents and teachers and youths should be encouraged.
- Sex education i.e. instruction concerning private and inner most personal expression between husband and wife involving checks both preventive and positive behavior should be encouraged. All elders should participate in such education.
- There is need for society, church and state to come together to check and censor such also there should be checks on disco, traditional social cultures should be revived.
- The youths should be given room to judge and make some intelligent decisions on the use of contraceptives as a measure to prevent pregnancy. (They are made for marriage).
- Girls and boys should be informed about consequences of premarital sex and how it can destroy their future.
- Older people should set a good example for the youths to follow. Irresponsible old people should be educated to avoid frustrating efforts of those who want a moral society.
- There should be family planning to avoid family irresponsibility which renders children especially females careless with their lives.
- Parents who seem not to care for their daughters need to be taught.
- The church ought to make its firm stand on sex and sexuality. Youth programmes should be carefully planned in church.
- The church should fight against permissiveness the main cause of sex deviation. Through radio programmes, youth magazines, seminars, field shows etc.
- There is need for the government to check against some traditional sexual practices for example trial marriages among the Alcohol, female submissiveness (inferiority) among the

Bahima example. (Laws should be specifically put to define sex, defilement and victims should be punished accordingly).

- Revive culture by encouraging cultural workshops to bring back respect for virginity. For example, Ekisaakate by the Nabagereka of Buganda which is organized annually for the youth.

## **QUESTIONS**

### **1. a) Show how education has improved the status of women today.**

- Today women realize the same education and from same schools
- Women have equal opportunities at places of work.
- Both men and women now participate in politics, there are both men and women members of parliament.
- Both are taught by same teachers in the same class and school
- Both follow the same syllabus and do the same exams
- Both are paid same salaries for doing same jobs at same qualifications
- Both contribute to the development of the society e.g. paying taxes
- Both are allowed to preach/speak in the church
- Some women are bosses to men because of education

### **b) Explain the values that were passed on children in traditional Africa**

- Respect for elders such as parents, grand parents
- Hard work
- Communal way of life
- Spirit of sharing was taught at an early age to prevent selfishness
- They were taught to be self-reliant and creative
- Virginity of girls until marriage
- The geography of their areas such as names of trees and grasses
- Payment of bride wealth and marriage
- Faithfulness to gods and spirits through offering sacrifices
- Hospitality to strangers and visitors
- Living in harmony with others
- Forgiveness and reconciliation among themselves
- Inculcation of traditional norms and values through informal education.

### **2. a) What has the church done to promote the position of women today**

- Formed associations like YWCA
- In Anglican church women serve as reverends
- Use of mothers and fathers' union
- Encourage women to make their own marriage choices
- Church projects support both sexes
- Baptism is for both men and women
- Both sexes give their views in church conferences
- Church ceremonies are attended by both sexes

- The 10 laws are supposed to be observed by both
- The Eucharist is attended and celebrated by both
- The church set up school for girls to educate them
- Offering employment opportunities for women
- Income generating projects started for women groups.

**b) What were the roles of men and women in the traditional African family?**

**The role of men**

- The husband is the head of the family
- To provide protection to the family members
- To marry women, they were to look for and provide bride wealth
- He is the chief provider for the family for example food, shelter
- To settle disputes in the family
- To give moral instructions to the boys
- To get bride wealth for their male children
- Fathers were supposed to love and show concern for the children and above all help the children to love one another.
- He is to administer discipline through giving the necessary punishments
- The male administered the society and community
- They protect community values and rituals for example fathers were in charge of offering sacrifices, prayers to the ancestors, spirit and the gods
- They organized and supervised initiation rituals such as circumcision

**The role of women**

- To instill discipline in the children
- They had to bear children
- To give instructions and guiding to the children
- Educate children about traditional values and customs for example secrets of their tradition and sex education for the girls
- They provide food and cook for the family
- They participate in cultivation of food for the family
- They introduce their children in different stages of life
- Protect their children from all forms of danger and aggression
- They provide care to the children
- Pass on skills to the children such as weaving mats, baskets, cooking, digging etc
- Provide medicine to their children and husband
- To keep the home clean
- To satisfy their husbands sexually (obligation)