

**FACTORS INFLUENCING EARLY CHILD MARRIAGES IN MANDERA
CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY IN MANDERA COUNTY**

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ABSTRACT

The main objective of this study was to assess the factors contributing to early child marriages in Mandera Central Constituency in Mandera County. The specific objectives include establishing the effect of poverty, culture, domestic environment and peer pressure on early child marriages. The study is beneficial to Government of Kenya, Parents/guardians and other researchers.

The study was carried out in 5 selected primary schools in Mandera Central Constituency. The study targeted 15 female pupils drawn from standard 7 or 8 pupils in the selected schools. Descriptive study design was used for the study because it is a design that is concerned with answering the questions of who, what, which, when or how much. Data collection was done through administration of questionnaires, which teachers in the schools assisted the pupils to complete. The data was analyzed through generation of frequency distributions. The results were presented in tables and explanations made in narrative form. Based on the results, the study established that culture is the leading factor that contributes to early marriages. Culture is followed by poverty then peer pressure and finally domestic environment. This means that efforts are required especially in the area of poverty and culture to address early marriages in Mandera Central Constituency