

The Effects of Forced Marriage

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IN OTUHO LANGUAGE FOR BROADCAST IN THE LOCAL RADIO STATIONS
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BILLBOARD.

Hallo and welcome to our school, today in our program we ask, how does force marriage affect your daughter's life?

CLIP: too many things, in fact I cannot even read something and even I cannot write my names anymore am just like a blind person who cannot see anything written on paper.

All that will come to you in the next few minutes.

CUE 1 (studio recording)

Hallo and welcome to our school, a programme that talks about girl's education am Jackeline Ihure.

In a previous program, if you might have missed, we talked about how strong is the law around forced marriage.

Clip: if such cases are reported to us or to police and the police brought the report to us here in the ministry, we follow up the issue and make sure the victims are arrested for some years in the prison.

However in our program today, we are looking at how force marriage can affect your daughter's life if you forced her to marry while in school and a man not of her choice. We are going to talk to a woman who faced the effects of force marriage and a school girl who was also forced to marry whom we shall not disclose the name.

CUE1: (FIELD RECORDING)

I am right now in the home of Miss Susan, this is a woman who was force to marry a man out of her interest by her parents, and we have one of our school girl who was force to marry but she got ways to escape out from it. We found Susan washing utensils but now we are sited under her good shaded tree. So Susan, how successfully did you have marriage to your husband?

A1: actually it's was not successful as you say, in the first place, I was in school studying in primary four then my parents ordered me to get marriage to my husband, I refused but they went on to pick that man's cattle's, and start to hand me over to him, so whenever I come to my parents' home they chase me away saying I should go back to my husband's place, I became frustrated and decided to stay with him up to now.

Q2: what do you think made your parents to force you to marry him?

A2: my parents were poor and they got that chance because my husband came from a rich family, but though he was rich he was not my choice.

Q3: So what challenges did you face in this matter of force marriage?

A3: I got many challenges by that time, the man use to make life difficult for me, he refused me to move with my friend, he beats me all the time saying why I don't conceive because I stayed for four years with him without getting pregnant so I was stressed up.

Q4: How old were you by then?

A4: I was fifteen year old.

Q5: How did you feel marrying out of your choice?

A5: I was not feeling well because I was still having interest in education, and it's really bad to force someone to marry.

Q6: but did you tell your parents to allow you to continue with your studies then you will marry later?

A6: yes I told them but they told me education is not important now than the cows my husband wants to give them, I talk to my friends and some elderly people to help me to talk to my parents but they refused and say its culture I have to accept marring him to avoid curses from my parents.

Q7: due to this force marriage do you think there is something you cannot do because of dropping out from school?

A7: yes my dear, too many things, in fact I cannot even read something and even I cannot write my names anymore am just like a blind person who cannot see anything written on paper.

Q8: what would you do different if you were given chance to continue with your studies?

A8: I think I was not going to suffer the way I am just staying here now like a goal keeper waiting for everything from a man, and I knew I was going to accomplish my dreams of being a doctor, or a teacher.

Q9: how did you really bear this challenges that you went through till you're able to have this kind of happy life you're in today?

A9: it was just when I started giving birth that's how our life start to change to somehow good and my friends also advise me to calm down because I have no way to escape and there was no one to help me all the men started avoiding me as some ones wife and I decide to dance according to his tune.

Q10: So were you having someone that you love before marrying this husband?

A10: yes, I had a guy whom I had wanted to marry but all didn't work out well, and I was force to this am staying with now.

Q11: what do think would be different if you were allowed to marry a man your choice?

A11: as I said he would not be beating me, like this one who tortured me before.

Q12: how many children do you have?

A12: I have four kids, three girls and one boy, all the girls are in school now and this boy is still young.

Q13: since you are having girls, will you also force them to marriage as your parents did to you?

A13: I will not even want to think about it again happening in my family, I will allow them to marry men of their choice and make them go to school so that they don't face the same challenges I faced.

Q14: How about if your husband ordered one of them to marry by force what will you do?

A14: I will take my husband to court if he tempers with them.

Q15: With this experience you have about force marriage, what advice will you give to this girl who is still struggling with forced marriage case?

A15: my advice to you is her don't ever allow anyone to destroy your plan for bright future, they will not be there when you will be suffering, keep to your promise of education and later if you finish and stable then you find a good man of your choice who will listen to you when you have concern to raise. Okay thanks

FIELD LINK:

That's how life challenged Susan as the outcomes of force marriage. Now let's hear from our sister who is experiencing the same challenge now. Can you tell me how yours happen?

A1: my elder brothers beat me up saying I should get marriage, I refused and tell them I still want to continue with my studies then I will marry later if I finish my senior four, but they said I am wasting time in school when all my age mate are all marriage their parents are now celebrating, when I insisted they beat me up until I was unconscious and lock me in the house for one week so that I don't get any treatment not until my school administration went there to rescue me and took me to the hospital, and I got helped until I am back to school now, they chase me away from home and tore all my books now I got an empty house that I am sleeping in while going to school, and I told them though you beat I will not leave school because it's the one which will help me in future.

Q2: and why did you refused to marry?

A2: I still want to continue with my studies, and I knew if I had accepted to marry I will not have access to school again because that man will not allow me to go back to school, and that will make my life more miserable since I grew up in difficulties as being an orphan, and I know education is the only thing which will help me to improve my poor life experience.

Q3: so how did you feel when you were force to marry and also tortured?

A3: I didn't feel good because I had already made my mind not to marry before completing my senior four, though I was seriously beaten and I didn't know that I will survive, though they beat me or want to kill me because I am not ready to suffer the whole life time of mind because of other forcing me to marry and I am sure if I did not get that chance to go to the hospital I would have be feeling worse now.

Q4: did you find any help from anyone?

A4: when I was being tortured, the elderly men and women in the community came around to talk to my brothers to leave me and allow me to follow my heart but they were not listening until our school administration came in to rescue me and made brothers to allow me to go to the hospital and also other NGOs and the government have help me with some items non-food items to use and continue with my studies.

Q5: now that you're back to school, how do you feel?

A5: I am feeling good, in fact I am happy and committed to my studies though I have a lot to do now in coping notes because of those days when I was locked inside and not allowed to go to school.

Q6: since you heard the effect for force marriage now, what confident will you have about your education?

A6: I will make sure I study hard to finish my studies so that I don't fell to this kind of work my colic have just said that she does like being restricted to talk about my rights.

Q7: if your brothers insist again to force you to marry, what will you do?

A7: since I have known the procedures, I will take them to court; I will not forgive them again because they are playing with my life.

Q8: now are you having some challenges as the result of force marriage?

A8: yes, whenever I see the scar I got during that time or if I see those brothers of mine it makes me annoyed or sometimes I end up crying, even when I am reading in the class and I remember about each thing which was done to me I lost focus and concentration in whatever am doing or reading.

Q9: according to the story of Susan, do you have any question to ask Susan or any inquiry?

A9: no I don't have anything to asked, but I will just tell her to calm down her heart and continue with her husband since they have children together to take care.

Ok thanks.

FINAL RECAP

That has brought us to the end of our school, which we had been looking at the effect for force marriage to yours daughters life.

Although many people know it's bad to force young girls to marry because of the numerous effects of the forced marriage some people still practise this act.

Susan is an old lady who was forced to marry at 15 while in school, she says she ended up facing many challenges as young bride. She was often beaten by her husband, got stressed, abused and stopped from moving friends and lost her education which could have made her life much better.

She says, parents' insistence on forced marriage as the fulfilment of avoiding curses from the parents and the ancestors should be discouraged and girls be allowed to go to school and marry at the appropriate time and make their choices. She adds that if a girl is educated and married in future parents would get more.

A school girl who spoke to us and we kept her name for personal reason says, although she was beaten and locked up in the room to accept the proposed forced marriage, she confidently resisted her relatives to continue with her education. She

]says, although her relatives have thrown her away from home, she is confident of]completing her education. She says temporary threats from her relatives cannot stop ``her from achieving dreams.

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With all that we have come to the end of this programme our school.

Thanks so much for listening...I'm jack line. Our School is brought to you by BBCMA for girls' education in south sudan, funded by the UK department for international development.