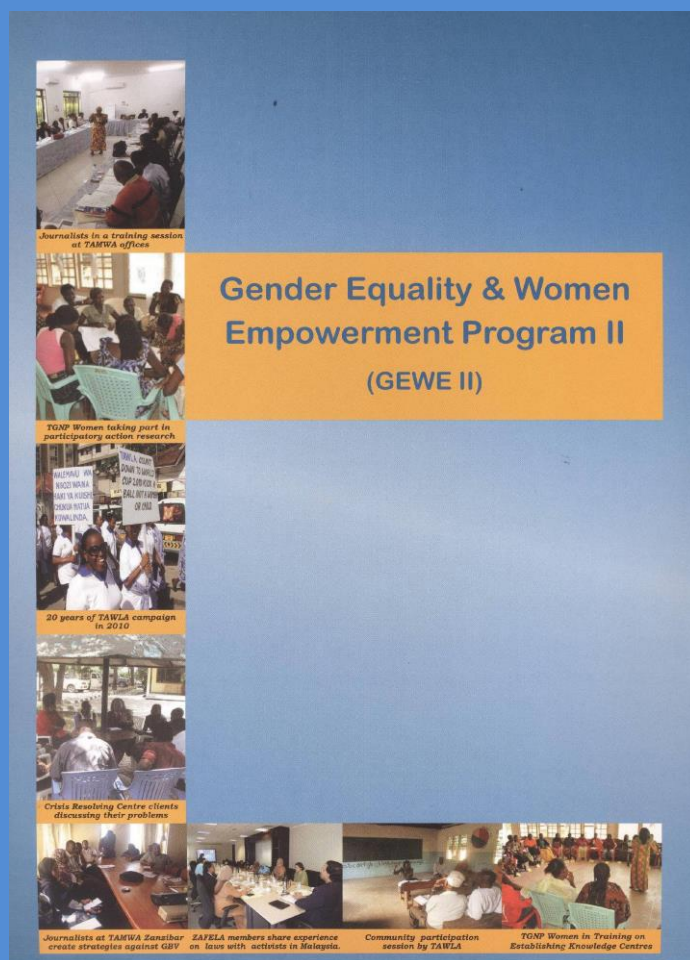


GEWE II MEDIA REPORT

October 2012 – September 2013



Prepared by
Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA)



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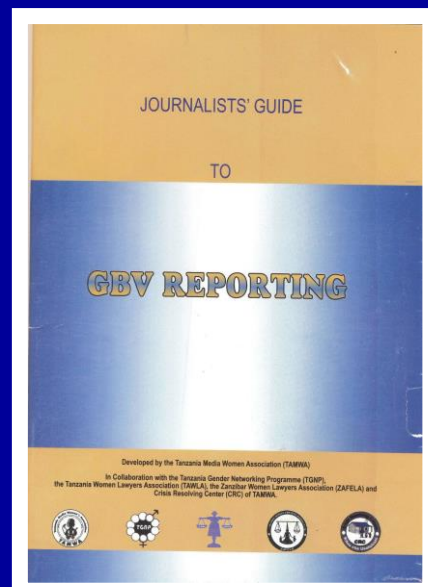


TABLE OF CONTENT

Acronyms	3
Introduction	4
 ACTIVITIES.....	 4
Launching of GEWE II Programme.....	5
Mapping Survey Exercise	5
Reporting Manual	6
Training of Journalists	6
Journalistic Survey	6
 MEDIA ADVOCACY	
Press Releases	7
Sauti ya Siti Magazine	8
Anti GBV Song	8
Features and Stories	9
TV and Radio Programmes	10
PRESS CUTTINGS.....	12
Child Marriage	13
Rape	18
School Pregnancies	19
Abandonment of Women and Children	23
Constitution.....	25
Female Genital Mutilation	26
Sauti ya Siti Magazine	28
Press releases	33
Editorials	34

ACRONYMS

AMWIK	Association of Media Women in Kenya
AWC	African Women and Child Features Service
EASSI	Eastern African Sub Regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FEMNET	African Women's Development and Communication Network
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GEWE	Gender Equality and Women Empowerment
TAMWA	Tanzania Media Women's Association
UMWA	Uganda Media Women's Association

INTRODUCTION

Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE II) is a programme supported by the Government of Denmark, through its embassy in Tanzania. The programme focuses on tackling issues of gender based violence through media advocacy, as well as providing legal and counseling services for GBV survivors.

The overall Objective of GEWE II is to improve the living conditions of women and children in Tanzania through support that promotes gender equality and empowerment of women and children.

The programme is being implemented in ten districts of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. The districts are Wete (Kaskazini Pemba), Unguja West (Unguja urban West), Unguja South (Unguja South), Kisarawe (Pwani), Newala (Mtwara), Mvomero (Morogoro), Lindi Rural (Lindi), Ruangwa (Mtwara), Kinondoni and Ilala (Dar es Salaam).

Output 1 of the GEWE II programme is aimed at increasing print and electronic media coverage on GBV related issues. To achieve this, TAMWA did a number of activities as well media advocacy on GBV issues so as to create awareness, sensitize and advocate as part of the GEWE II programme.

This media report highlights the coverage, both print and electronic, of the activities as well as the strategic use of the media to advance the campaign against GBV- Media Advocacy.

Activities: A mapping exercise to understand the issues involved, such as knowledge of GBV or the related laws as well as the level of education; production of a GBV reporting manual for journalists as a resource tool in understanding GBV and effective reporting of GBV issues; training of media actors (journalists and editors) from Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar on understanding GBV, its magnitude and on reporting GBV and a journalistic survey that allowed TAMWA to conduct an evidence based media advocacy.

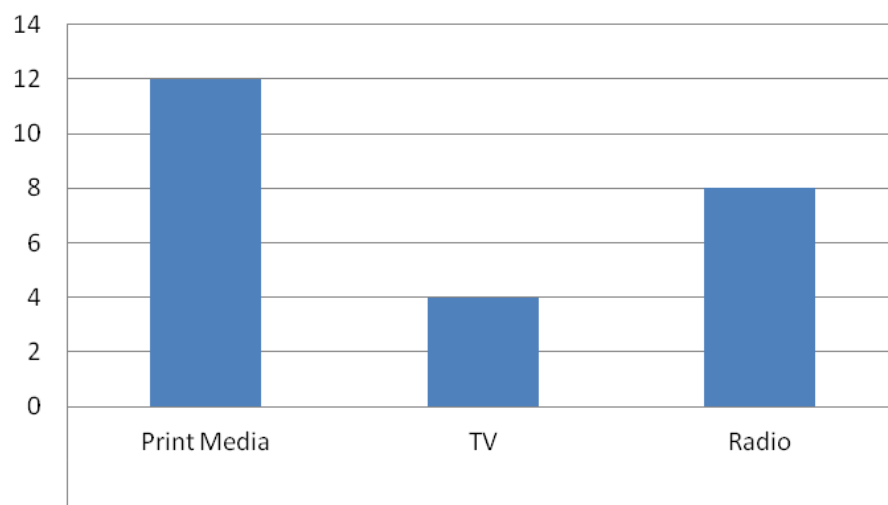
Media advocacy: Included articles (features and stories) on school pregnancy, child marriage, rape, abandonment of women and children, denial of widow inheritance rights, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and the constitution making process. There was also the release of press statements, press conferences, regular media visits and coverage in targeted areas, regular participation in TV and radio programmes; production of TV and radio spots, TV and radio programs. A ‘Sauti ya Siti’ edition on GBV issues and song against GBV were also produced.

ACTIVITIES

1. LAUNCHING OF GEWE II PROGRAMME

The launching of the GEWE II component was held on 30th October 2012 and was officiated by the Deputy Minister for Legal and Constitutional Affairs Hon. Angela Kairuki. The four other partners implementing the programme and other gender activists participated in the event. To mark the event an information kit was produced.

Figure 1: Media Coverage – GEWE II Programme Launching

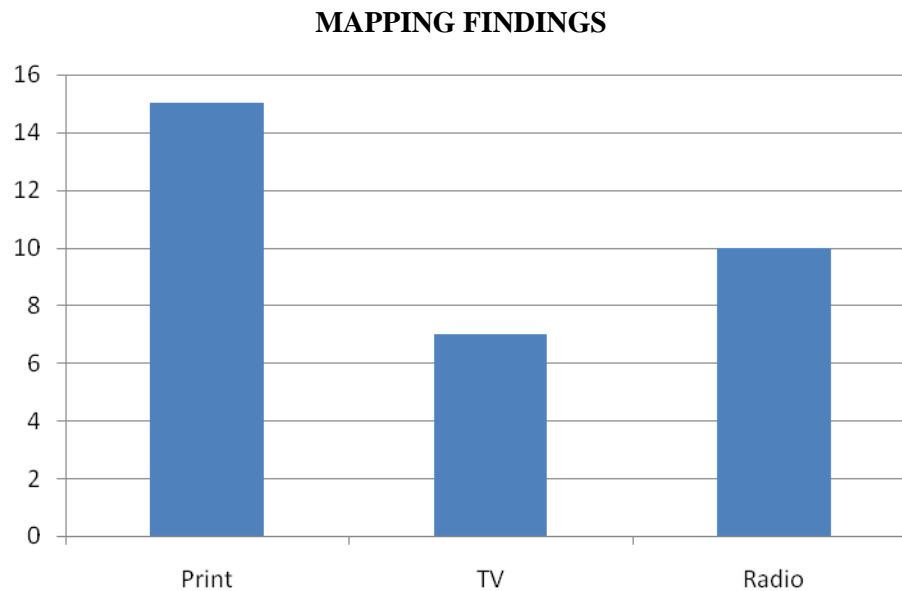


2. MAPPING EXERCISE

The result of the mapping exercise conducted in ten districts of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar was released in February 2013. The survey was done to identify people's perspectives on GBV, family structures and response mechanisms at the village and district level. The survey was conducted in partnership with other GEWE II partners namely ZAFELA, TAWLA, TGNP and TAMWA's Crisis Resolving Centre (CRC).

Figure 2: Release of mapping findings

This event was well covered by the media as shown in the figure below;



3. REPORTING MANUAL

TAMWA and her partners prepared a GBV reporting manual for journalists. The manual was translated into Kiswahili, printed and distributed in both Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. A total of 2,500 copies of Kiswahili and English were produced and distributed to the media houses, press clubs in various regions and journalism colleges and universities.

4. TRAINING OF JOURNALISTS

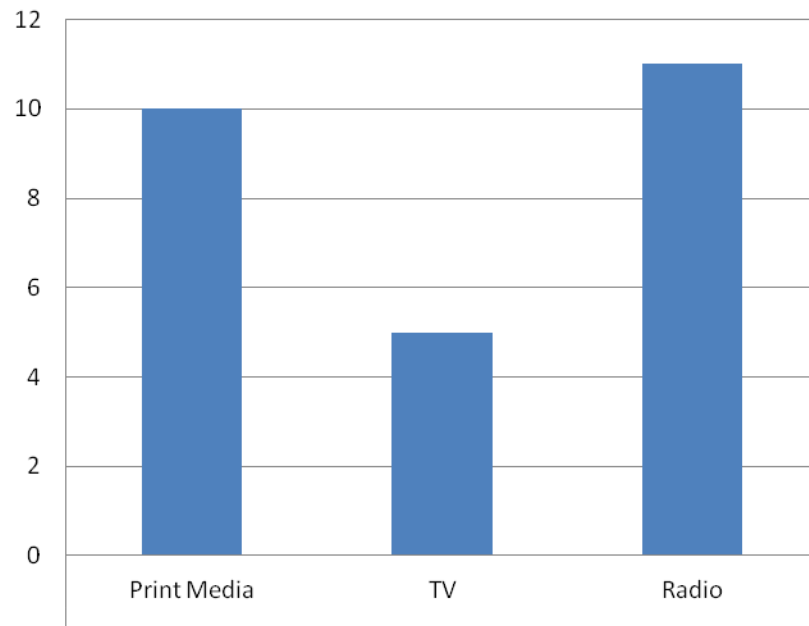
A total of 29 journalists from both print and electronic media were trained on how to report gender based violence stories and the TAMWA produced manual was used as a resource tool. The training was expected to increase the quality and number of gender and GBV based stories in various print and electronic media.

5. JOURNALISTIC SURVEY

A journalistic survey was carried out in ten districts of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar by journalists from Zanzibar Leo, Nipashe, Daily News, Habari Leo, Majira and The Guardian. Journalists were able to conduct the survey based on a survey tool prepared by TAMWA. A press

conference to release the survey findings was held and a total of ten feature stories were published, five TV stations and 11 radio stations covered the event as shown in the figure below.

Figure 3: Media Coverage – Journalistic Survey launching



MEDIA ADVOCACY

1. PRESS RELEASES

For the project's first year, TAMWA released nine press releases including one that condemned the presidential appointment of men only as board members of the Zanzibar Electoral Commission (ZEC) and another that condemned the act of a primary school teacher in Dodoma Municipality who for a period of five months had allegedly been living with a 14 year old girl student as his wife. The launching of the GEWE II programme as well as the establishment of the anti-GBV committees were also part of the press releases.

The press releases received a wide coverage from different media houses mainly The Citizen, Daily news, Majira, Zanzibar Leo, Jambo Leo, Zanzibar Broadcasting Corporation and Zenj FM.

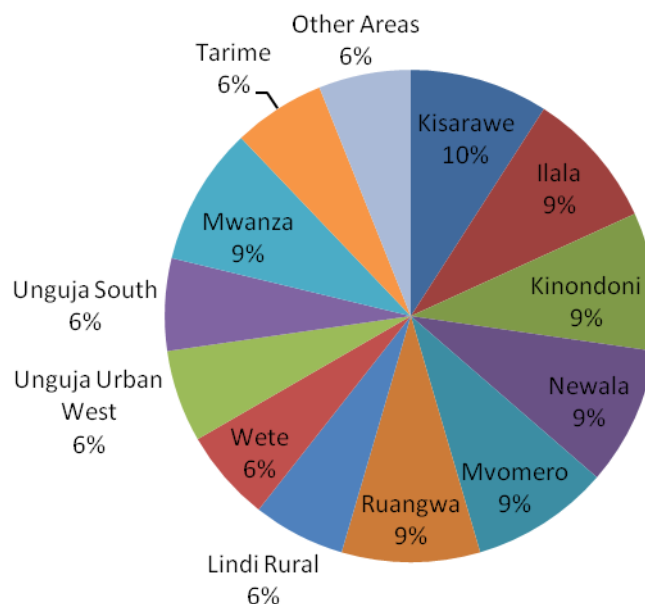
2. SAUTI YA SITI MAGAZINE

A total of 5000 copies of the TAMWA magazine, Sauti ya Siti, were produced and disseminated in the programme areas. The magazine featured issues of child marriage, school pregnancies, wife battery, rape, abandonment of women and children and female genital mutilation.

Copies of the magazine were also distributed outside the programme area such as Mwanza, Morogoro, Dodoma, Iringa, Mbeya, Arusha and Iringa.

Additionally, copies of the magazine were sent to sister organizations in the region, EASSI and UMWA in Uganda, AMWIK, AWC and FEMNET (Kenya).

Figure 4: DISTRIBUTION OF SAUTI YA SITI



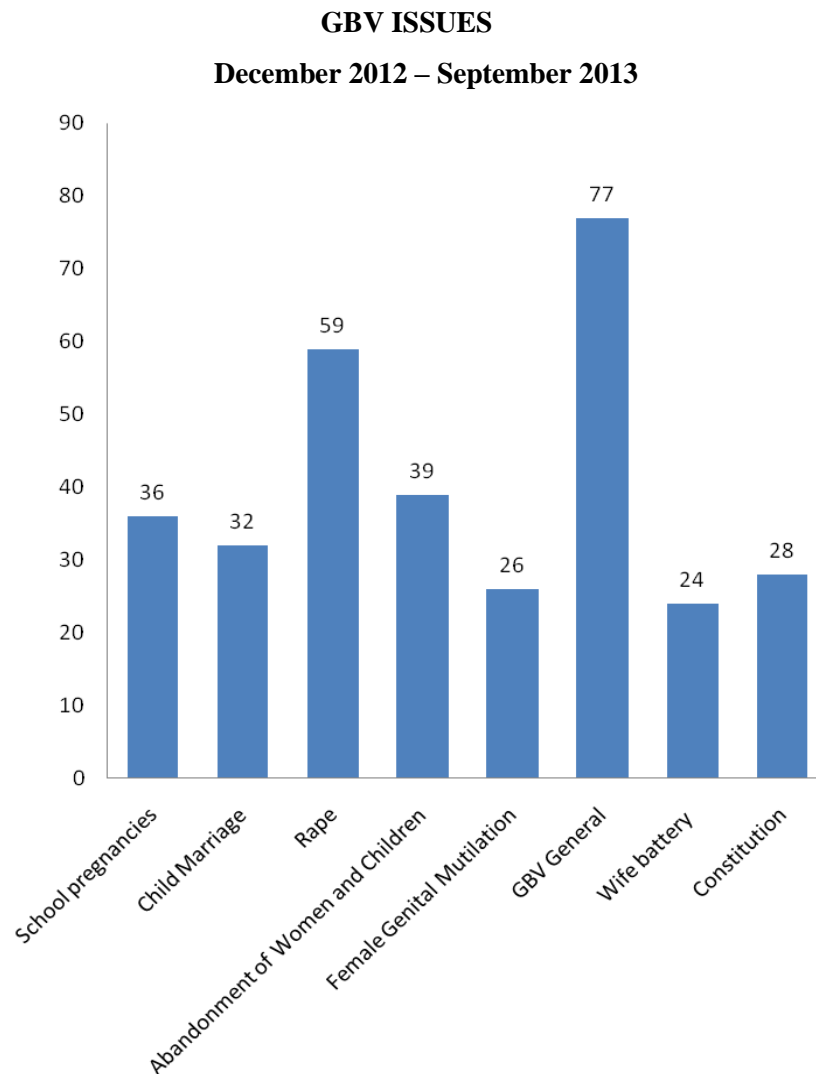
3. ANTI GBV SONG

TAMWA produced a music song to sensitize people against GBV acts on women and children; the song called “**UNYANYASAJI SASA BASI**” calls on people to take action. The song has been used in various national and community radio stations across the country. These include; Radio Maria, East Africa Radio, Radio One, Newala FM, Ruangwa FM, Radio Tumaini, and ABM radio in Dodoma and in various radio programmes that cover GBV issues.

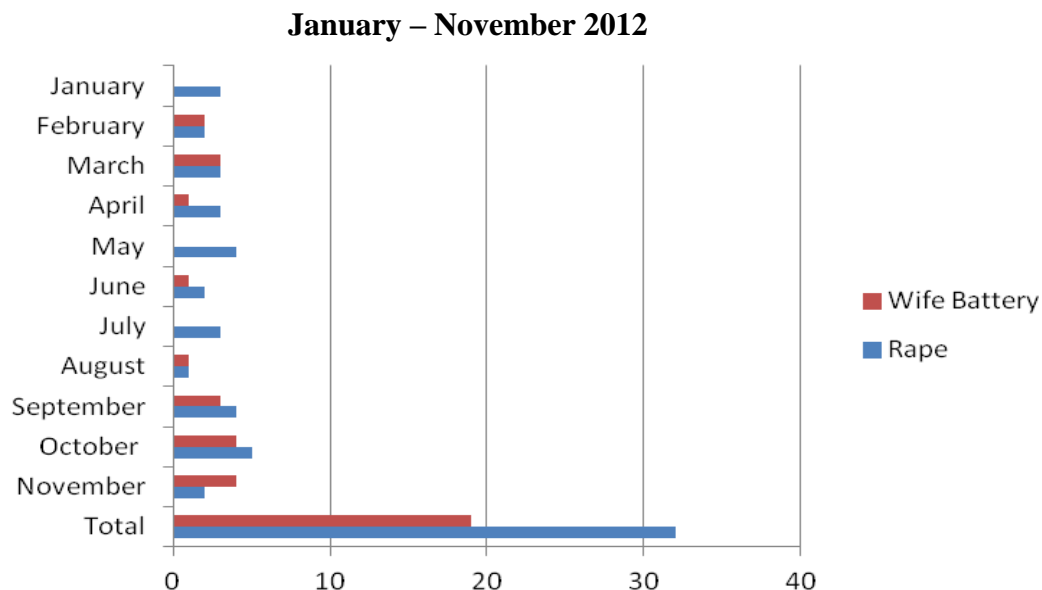
4. FEATURES AND STORIES

The past year has seen an increase of media coverage on GBV issues, an indication of the benefits of the training media engagement and understanding of issues by Editors and Journalists. For the period of November 2012 to September 2013 a total of 321 feature and stories on different gender based violence issues were published in various news papers to create awareness to the public and call for action from both the public and relevant bodies.

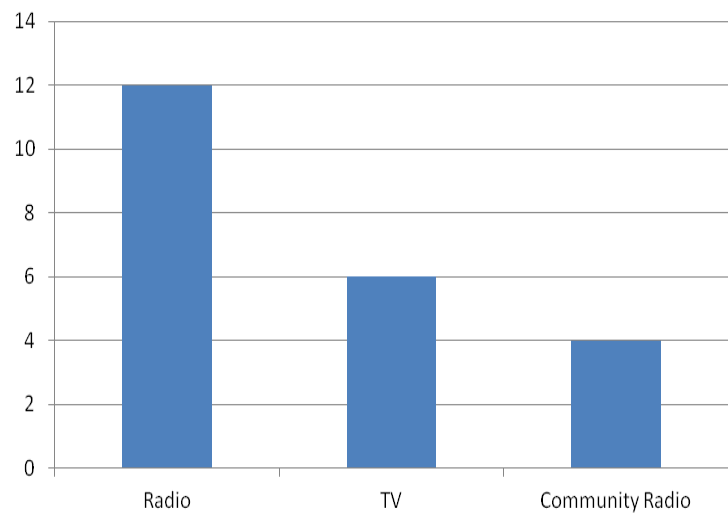
Figure 5:



The amount of stories for the above period show media coverage on GBV issues has changed as compared to the period of January to November 2012.

Figure 6:**GBV ISSUES****5. TV AND RADIO PROGRAMMES**

Apart from the print media, the electronic media also joined in the fight against GBV in the home, community and society in general. To this end TAMWA, and sometimes with other partners in the programme participated in 6 TV, and 12 radio programmes to mobilize communities across the country to take action against gender based violence. The programmes covered issues of school pregnancies, female genital mutilation, rape and the constitution making process. The programmes were aired

Figure: 7 TV, RADIO PROGRAMMES

on TBC1, Tumaini TV, Mlimani TV, ITV, ZBC, Star TV, Radio one, Wapo radio, Radio Tumaini, TBC Taifa, Radio Maria and East Africa radio.

TAMWA continues to be regularly invited to participate in Radio and TV programmes.

Additionally, four programmes have been produced from two

programme areas and these have been aired on TBC 1 and on **community radios** in Ruangwa and Newala districts.

PRESS CUTTINGS



The following press cuttings from different print media are a reflection of the media coverage of GBV issues as part of the GEWEII programme.

RIGHTS ABUSE

Most of the girls who undergo *unyago* initiation become victims of early pregnancies in Newala District

Rite turns into agent of early pregnancies

Little awareness on legal rights is also a major problem to Newala residents as most of them do not know of the laws that help in preventing early pregnancies

By Flora Nzema

The Citizen Correspondent

Newala. Under normal circumstances the traditional culture of initiating young women for motherhood, popularly known as "*unyago*," is meant to build productive family relations. However, it has turned into a powerful magnet for attracting men to impregnate teen girls in Newala District.

Most of the girls who undergo *unyago* become victims of early pregnancies in this district which is renowned for cashew nut farming and traditional music known as Sindimba.

"I wanted to be a nurse, but my dream is no more. I am now a mother," says Bahati Mmole, 16, a mother of a one-year old male baby who dropped out of Makote Day Secondary School last year. She dropped out of school after only six months of *unyago*.

Bahati who lives with her grandmother says she decided to quit school after realising that

She says that most of the students who drop out of school at an age lower than 18 years are just victims of circumstances and do not plan to leave.

Asha Mohammed Athumani, 17, is also the mother of a nine-year-old boy. She dropped out of Nambunga secondary school last year when she was in Form One and she still lives with her two parents.

She says her parents did not realise she was carrying a baby until she was seven months pregnant. This is because she hid it with a hijab and a school uniform, which her mother Ziada Mponda has complained against for hiding pregnancies.

Asha's mother (Ziada) named the man who impregnated her daughter as Juma Seif who is her neighbour but failed to expose him because she claims he is unable to help take care of the child.

Little awareness on legal rights is also a major problem to Newala residents as most of them do not know of the laws that help in preventing early pregnancies.

Newala District hospital has opened up a special file for checking up pregnant second-



MORE INFO: UNYAGO

In Swahili culture, most notably in Zanzibar and in some areas of western Kenya, the word *unyago* refers both to a set of rituals and to the music and dance styles that are traditionally associated with such rituals.

The *unyago* rituals were prac-

"I wanted to be a nurse, but my dream is no more. I am now a mother," BAHATI MMOLE, 16, THE MOTHER OF A ONE-YEAR-OLD MALE BABY

STATISTICS At least 5 girls drop out of primary school every month, according to the district education and logistics officer

They're crying out for help, but nobody cares

This year 74 per cent of the students, most of them girls who were selected to join secondary education in Newwala District, did not report to school even as statistics showed that only 1,822 out of the 2,452 did so

By Flora Nzema
The Citizen Correspondent

"I had plans of becoming a teacher after school, but my dream has changed," VICTIM OF CHILDHOOD PREGNANCY, MA FAUDHIA RAMADHANI, 13, A STANDARD SIX PUPIL AT MAUMBILKA PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Newwala. Early pregnancies have forced over 70 per cent of girls out of secondary schools, defying the national policy that envisages universal education.

A random survey has recently shown that a majority of girls in various villages in Newwala District do not complete school as they get pregnant during their teenage years.

On the average at least five girls drop out of primary school every month, according to statistics released by the district secondary education and logistics officer, Mr Magnus Munyuku.

Mr Munyuku says most students do not complete their education due to parents not committing to take care of them while they are schooling.

Education is not a priority to most parents in Newwala and that

is why many girls do not complete school as they become victims of pregnancies and absenteeism.

Last year alone, within six months, more than 30 students became pregnant, says Mr Munyuku.

This year 74 per cent of the students, most of them girls who were selected to join secondary education in Newwala District, did not report to school, he says.

District Education statistics indicate that 2,452 students were selected to join secondary schools, but only 1,822 reported at their institutions of learning.

One of the victims of early pregnancies, Ma Faudhia Ramadhani, 13, a Standard Six pupil at Maumbilka Primary School is now a mother of a one-week old child. Faudhia dropped out of school due to early pregnancy.

"I had plans of becoming a teacher after school, but my dream has changed," the teenager sobs as she speaks to the Citizen at Maumbilka Village recently.

She wanted to continue with studies, she says, but she is now grounded at home where she



Faudhia Ramadhani, 13, holds her baby on her lap. The teenager says she was supposed to be in Standard VII in 2013 but she is now at home taking care of her child. PHOTOS BY FLORA NZEMA

is taking care of her male baby whose father ran away after he realised that Faudhia was pregnant.

opportunity to go back to school. However, Faudhia's dream might end as the District

MORE INFO: SCHOOL PREGNANCIES IN TZ

Last year, 2012, Education minister Dr Shukuru Kawambwa said a total of 5,157 girls dropped out of primary schools due to pregnancies in the previous calendar year.

Dr Kawambwa said, the number of girls in secondary schools had decreased from 48 per cent

education due to parents not committing to take care of them while they are schooling.

Education is not a priority to most parents in Newwala and that

Citizen at Maumbilka Village recently.

She wanted to continue with studies, she says, but she is now grounded at home where she

CARE OF HER CHILD. PHOTOS BY FLORA NZEMA

is taking care of her male baby whose father ran away after he realised that Faudhia was pregnant.

"Thanks to my grandmother, Khadija Kitenje, who is taking care of me and my child...my parents died two years ago and I have no any other support."

Faudhia says she did not know that she was pregnant until Seven months when she was taken to Newwala District Hospital for a pregnancy test.

"I continued going to class until one day my teacher took me outside and asked me to follow him to Newwala hospital," says Faudhia.

She adds: "Even after coming back from the hospital I continued attending classes until when I was asked to stop."

Faudhia says the father of her child, Mr Abdallah Fakhil, later came back into the picture and supported her financially by giving her money for buying books, school uniforms and other important items as her grandmother did not have the resources to help her.

"I regret for discontinuing my education... if given an opportunity, I am ready to go back to school."

Her grandmother Khadija agrees to stay with her great-grandson if Faudhia gets the

opportunity to go back to school. However, Faudhia's dream might end as the District Education officer, Mr Rashid Mandoo, says she will be prevented from going back to school according to the current law.

"Parents should be blamed for not settling in their marriages...as a result, children are suffering because they have to shift from one school to another to follow their parents or stay with their grandmothers," says Mandoo, explaining that most students shift schools three times a year.

According to Dr John Kamtande, the medical officer incharge of Newwala District Hospital, this year alone from January to March about 10 students under the age of 18, were found pregnant.

The students are from Nangwala Secondary School, Dr Alex Ward Secondary School and Maumbilka Primary School. Five students dropped out of Mpangalanga Secondary School in 2010 because of pregnancies.

"These are only students who were sent to our hospital for pregnancy tests... but most of the girls do not visit hospitals as they strive to hide their pregnancies so that they can deliver at home," says Dr Kamtande.

ous calendar year.

Dr Kawambwa said, the number of girls in secondary schools had decreased from 48 per cent in 2004 to 45 per cent in 2009 because of the problem. The minister made the revelation in Dar es Salaam during a press conference for a charity walk aimed at raising funds to set up 30 hostels in the country in a quest to accommodate primary schools girls.

According to Faudhia's neighbor Amina Haji, poverty has led many girls in the villages to drop out of school. Some girl students drop out of school to help their parents in business and farming activities.

Beatrice Marwa, the headmistress of Nangwala Secondary School where four students got pregnant this year, says the problem is increasing as parents fail to cooperate with teachers in disclosing the identities of people impregnate school girls so that legal measures are taken.

"When a student fails to show up in class and you ask parents to visit the school to explain the situation they refuse. When a student is impregnated parents receive bribes from the culprits to hide the matter," says the headmistress.



Halima Chindema, 17, a teen mother, is currently engaged in farming activities in Maumbilka Village in Newwala.

I became a mum at the age of 12, so this is my story

Halima Seleman was 12 when she became pregnant with her son Godwin. And it all began when she left her village in search of education in Dar es Salaam

By Esther Kibakaya

At face value, Halima Seleman is just like any other young girl. But the 14-year-old is not that. She is one of the 16 million young girls below the age of 19, who are already mothers, and nursing their own babies in the developing world. And hers is the familiar tale of young girls falling prey to lustful men, who waste no chance in taking advantage of innocent souls.

So, while her peers were busy schooling and enjoying their teen life, it was a totally different story for Halima, who was busy preparing to bring a new life to the world.

While she is happy that she finally safely delivered her baby boy after a gruelling nine months, she does not forget the bumpy road she has traversed since she was only eight.

In her soft-spoken, childish voice, the baby-mother recently narrated her ordeal to Sound Living.

"I was born 14 years ago in Kilosa Distinct. I was the last-born, who sadly, never had the chance to know her father. He left my mother when she was still pregnant with me.

My mother later decided to get married again. However, our stepfather was not very fond of us. So, we had to go and live with our grandmother to avoid creating problems in my mother's marriage.

We endured a lot of hardships. I lived with my grandmother till I turned eight when a woman, who was our neighbour in the village, asked if I was interested in joining her in Dar es Salaam.

She promised to take me to school and offered me a decent life in the city. I was very excited about it. My grandmother too, was over the moon! She had always desired to send me to school. That was a God-sent opportunity, she assured me.

Too good to believe

Looking back, I regret it. I should have never agreed to this deal. It was just too good to be believed. Everything turned out to be a nightmare.

When we arrived in Dar es Salaam, everything was new to me. Instead of school, the woman forced me to be her housemaid. How cruel! I was only eight.

All my life, and young as I was then, I

eight had never occurred to me. Yet I was there, and I was going to be a maid.

The woman had two children. I had no option. Her children were both very young. She told me to take care of her children first, and thereafter she would find a school to enrol me. I agreed. I would sacrifice something to be in school; it's all I had ever wanted.

Years go by

It is so surprising how time flies. Before I knew it, one year went by. Another one came and was gone. There was no more talking about school.

Then one day I braved her. I politely asked her about the school promise. Her response was what I had feared the most all along. She told me in no uncertain terms that I was just dreaming.

There was going to be no school for me. 'You are a nanny, that is why I brought you here, to be a maid,' she told me. So, until her children were all grown up, I was not going to go to school.

I told her it was not fair. I kept on reminding her that she had made a promise. That angered the woman. To punish me and kill my spirit, she started beating me up. It did not end there.

Many times she forced me to sleep outside the house. This cruelty was despite the fact that I did everything for her - from cleaning the house, fetching water and washing everything to taking good care of her children without hanging my frustrations on them.

Gushes of fury and vitriol

Life became a living hell. She would come from work and look for the slightest excuse to beat me up or at least unleash verbal terror on me.

Her sudden gush of fury and vitriol were terrifying. But I got used to it. I endured it. I ignored her and slowly came to accept that this was my fate.

It is the fate of many young girls from the village, who are lured by women from the city with promises of jobs and school, only to find when it is too late that everything was a huge lie.

But because we are desperate, we accept. Our parents too, agree because all they want is the best for us. They don't want to see us suffer and not being able to attend



This woman ruined my life. She used me and threw me away to the dogs without feeling any remorse. After her younger child turned five, she told me I would be taken back to the village because she no longer needed me!

I felt helpless. I pleaded. She would not listen. Her cruelty had taken the better of

her. Pleading was like asking for a beating.

Deep inside my heart, I yearned for help. That 'help' finally came in the form of a young man, a neighbour who, apparently, knew my plight.

He volunteered to help me. He offered me to stay in his rented room, because most of the time he was away. The man is

Family: Teen mother Halima with son Godwin. Top right: Mother and son with foster parent Consola Meena.

PHOTOS: ESTHER IBAKAYA



a truck driver. He would go out of the country to places like Congo for two to three months.

In addition, he would leave me with at least Sh30,000. But that was not enough to see me through the three months he would be away. I could not ask help from neighbours because the woman was an 'angel' as far as they were concerned.

My newfound joy was short-lived. The man who had pretended to be a prince all along finally showed his goal – to get me into his bed.

Sex for a roof and food

One day he told me he could no longer continue to support me because we were not related in any way. That I was not his sister, and so did not deserve what he was doing for me.

He took advantage of me. I could not resist his advances because I was trapped in a dire situation. The fear of being chased away – where would I go if he kicked me out?

A few months after he started sleeping with me in exchange for his roof, bed and food, I fell pregnant. I was just 12, and had little knowledge about the changes taking place in my body.

I remember the first time he demanded to sleep with me, it was a whole new experience. I had no idea that I would become pregnant. No one had ever told me about these things.

So, suddenly, I had to learn how to live like any expecting mother, only that I had no clue how to do it. Worse still, I had no food. The money he left for me was not enough.

Most of the time, I was weak. My neighbours

made it worse. They scared me, telling me I would die because I got pregnant at a young age.

Told to abort

Some of them had the guts to tell me to abort. I asked the father of the baby, and he told me not to do that. It was scary, but I had to 'grow up'.

When I was five months pregnant, a friend of mine introduced me to the woman, who is now helping me. Her name is Consola Meena. I wasn't sure she would accept me the way I was.

But she took me in. She gave me clothes, took me to a clinic for medical checkups. She became my foster mother. A few months later I safely delivered my baby at Amana Hospital.

I have named him Godwin. He means a lot to me. It's been one and half years since I gave birth to him. I don't regret having him. I love him.

But I am also a child. When I feel like playing, I leave him with my foster mother and go out there to play with other girls.

I am learning to be a good mother. But sometimes when he cries I have no idea why he is crying. His father does not have a proper job, and he is just 20. I have not lost all hope. Actually, I hope that one day I will be able to go to school.

My foster mother has hired a private teacher who comes here to teach me at home. She struggles to pay my school fees because she takes care of many other girls.

I love to learn new things, and I know with education I can have a bright future.

Email: ekibakaya@tz.nationmedia.com

Rape

Tanzania
Media Women
Association
Executive Director
Valerie Msoka
addresses the
media during the
launch of findings
on gender violence
in Dar es Salaam
yesterday.

PHOTO | FIDELIS FELIX



Schoolgirls bear the brunt of rape: Tamwa

Continued on page 2

2013. Of the cases, 104 cases occurred in the Isles' southern districts.

Tamwa Executive Director Valerie Msoka said during the report's launch that the incidence of rape was highest in Newala among districts surveyed in Tanzania Mainland, adding the majority of victims were young schoolgirls.

Last year, 15 cases were reported at the police gender desk in Newala and 14 cases were reported in the first half of this year.

The report comes at a time when serious allegations of

human rights abuses have been levelled against security personnel in Mtwara, who are said to be key perpetrators of rape in the region.

Political party leaders and civil society organisations have on separate occasions accused members of the military and police of torture and sexual assault. Districts surveyed in the study are Wete in Pemba, Unguja West and Unguja South.

Others are Kinondoni and Ilala (Dar es Salaam), Kisarawe (Coast), Mvomero (Morogoro), Ruangwa and Lindi Rural (Lindi) and Newala (Mtwara).

According to Ms Msoka, rape of schoolgirls was fuelled by poverty, superstition and drunkenness, adding that many girls dropped out of school after getting pregnant.

"Many cases have failed to proceed in the courts because of corruption among law-enforcers who collude with perpetrators to undermine investigations," she said.

According to the findings, early marriages were also on the rise in all districts surveyed, and it was revealed that schoolgirls between the ages of 12 and 16 were being married off, contrary to the marriage Act of 1971. The report further

reveals that domestic violence is also up. The report contains photographs of women who were seriously injured after a battering by their husbands.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) has also been cited in the report. The report says in In Ilala District, Dar es Salaam, FGM has become a common trend, with most of the girls involved hailing from Dodoma and Mara regions.

"Our researchers found out that FGM has become rampant due to outdated traditions and customs of some tribes which still believe in the practice," said the Tamwa boss.

EDUCATION/Hurdles

How long distances to school put girls at risk

By Lucas Lukumbo

MOST of the constructed community secondary schools in the country are non-residential. The most vulnerable group in the problem of lack of dormitories being girls living very far from schools.

Girls' education is one of the most challenging tasks in the education sector in Tanzania.

Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP) in Tanzania has led to more demand for secondary education. PEDP has also increased the number of pupils enrolled in Primary education from 4,381,588 in 2001 to 8,419,305 in 2010.

Through Secondary School Development Programme (SEDP) efforts, the number of public secondary schools has increased from 1,745 in 2005 to 4,266 in 2010. As a result students' enrolment in secondary schools increased from 524,325 in 2005 to 1,638,699 in 2010.

Despite these efforts challenges abound. According to Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT) statistics 28,600 girls left school between 2004 and 2008 because they became pregnant. While a total of 16,656 girls were expelled from schools between 2008 and 2010 due to pregnancy cases.

This means between 2004

and 2010 a total of 45,256 female students dropped out of school due to pregnancy cases.

Lack of dormitories in secondary schools has forced students especially those who reside in areas far away from the schools to rent rooms in neighbouring surroundings.

This situation puts girls at high risk of sexual harassment, pregnancies, early marriages, poor academic performance due to poor learning environment like cooking, fetching water, causing them to fail or drop out of school.

According to Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) most ward secondary schools do not have hostels or dormitories for their students.

Its recent research indicates that even though there is an explanation that most of the schools were built in the vicinity of the students' homes so as to save parents from incurring unnecessary costs, the construction of hostels is increasingly becoming a necessary demand that has to be met to save students from walking long distances every day – and starving while studying.

In Mtwara District, Mwanza region, the report says there are no schools with hostels.

"On average students walk for between 45 and 120 minutes from home to school every day," according to the TAMWA report.

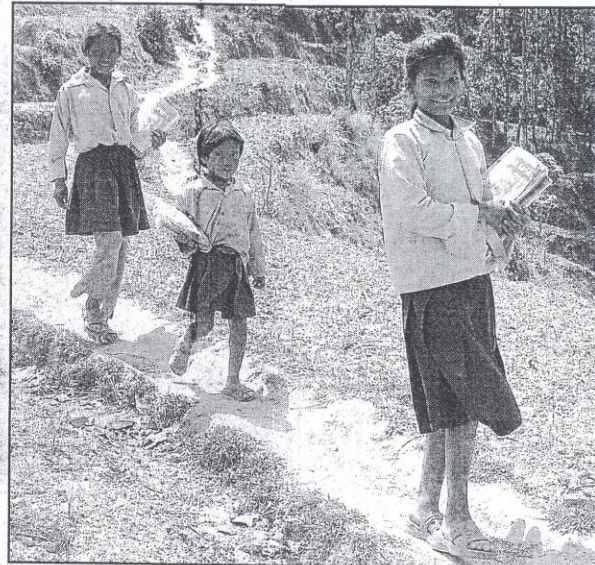
In its May survey on gender-related challenges facing female citizens in rural areas of Iringa, the Tanzania Gender Network Programme (TGNP) found out that there were a lot of challenges including teen pregnancies, among students at Iwaleje Community Secondary School. The school is located very far from many households.

Students walk between 4 to 8 kilometers from their villages to school. In order to be able to be close to school, many students hired rooms famously known to them as 'ghetto'.

According to Education Analyst, Masazi Nyirenda, living in such environment, girls spend a lot of time to fetch water and firewood and cooking their meals, and other distracting issues instead of concentrating on studies.

"In these 'ghettos' a mix of ordinary community members, boys and girls live together, which has led girls to be exposed to immoral behaviours," he says.

This has led to failure in academics, girls face sexual abuse such as rape, teen pregnancies and threats of contracting HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections, Masazi says.



Children walking long distance to their school: a risk to school girls. (File photo)

behaviours," he says

This has led to failure in academics, girls face sexual abuse such as rape, teen pregnancies and threats of contracting HIV and other Sexually Transmitted Infections, Masazi says.

Another study meant to check the size of the problem of gender-based violence in Iringa district revealed an appalling situation.

The survey reported that rape incidences to secondary schoolgirls are fuelled by lack of dormitories as most secondary schools lack dormitories and the schools are located far from the villages.

Therefore, parents are forced to hire rooms for their children close to the schools. Even rooms considered as dormitories are not safe, as a result men force their way inside and rape girls.

According to the report, Dr Jabir Juma, the acting Iringa District Medical Officer, said most of the raped girls are exposed to Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and in some cases they are infected with

HIV, the virus that causes Aids.

The third scenario was also reported in one Swahili newspaper in the country.

Grace Nzingo is a Form Two student at Chanzuru secondary school in Kilosa district, who reveals that despite her passion for education, there are a number of hindrances toward reaching her optimal dream in education.

Grace has to walk a total distance of 30 kilometers (15 kilometers each way) everyday to and from school, which hinders her to concentrate on studies due to tiredness.

She has to wake up at 5 am and reaches school at 9 am! Finding the first period is over. This situation has continuously been demoralizing her. We might not be surprised if we hear

that she has dropped out of school, isn't it?

The above scenarios and more happen across the country.

However, given the distance that students have to walk to and from schools, need arose for construction of dormitories for both male and female students.

The Secondary School Development Programme (SEDP) has outlined key targets which include a total of 100 girls' hostels accommodating at least 48 students each are constructed by 2015.

Also a total of 50 ablution and latrine blocks for girls in schools are constructed annually and that communities are encouraged and organized to build and run hostels for at least 5 of their schools per council by 2013.

MJADALA

Wasichana kukatishwa masomo hadi lini?



Elimu kwanza

Na Jackson Kalindimya

UTATA wa kisheria unaoruhusu ndoa za kidini, kimila na kiserikali unakinzana na taratibu za nchi ambazo haziruhusu wanafunzi kuolewa.

Sheria ya Ndoa ya mwaka 1971 kuhusu umri wa mtoto kuolewa ikiwa pamoja na mila na desturi za baadhi ya makabila nchini, zinachangia wanafunzi au wasichana chini ya umri wa miaka 18 kulazimishwa kuolewa.

Mengi yanazungumzwa kuwa yanachangia kushamiri kwa vitendo hivyo vya ukatili wa kijinsia. Miongoni mwa hayo ni umaskini unaowakabili wananchi wengi mijini na vijijini na kuwafanya baadhi yao kuwaona wasichana kama ni kite-

wanafunzi wasichana.

Chama cha Waandishi wa Habari Wanawake Tanzania (TAMWA) kwa kushirikiana na Mtandao wa Jinsia Tanzania (TGNP), Chama cha Wanasheria Wanawake Tanzania (TAWLA), Chama cha Wanasheria Wanawake Zanzibar (ZAFELA) na Kituo cha Usuluhishi cha TAMWA (CRC), kinatekeleza mpango wa kutokomeza ukatili na unyanyasaji wa kijinsia dhidi ya wanawake na watoto (GEWE II) katika wilaya 10 za Tanzania bara na Zanzibar.

Utafiti uliofanywa na chama hicho katika wilaya 10 zilizo chini ya Mradi huo, umebainisha kuwa, tatizo hilo lipo siyo kwenye wilaya hizo tu ni pamoja na maeneo mengine ya nchi umebainisha kuwa ndoa za wanafunzi zinaendelea.

Kwa upande wa wilaya ya Newala mkoani Mtwara matukio ya mimba na ndoa za utotoni yameripotiwa katika dawati la jinsia kwa kipindi cha mwezi Januari hadi Juni 2013.

Ofisa Elimu anayeshughulikia takwimu za shule za sekondari katika wilaya ya Newala, Magnus Munyuku, taarifa yake inabainisha kuwa, mwaka jana zaidi ya wanafunzi 30 walisi-mamishwa masomo kwa sababu ya kupata mimba.

Kwa upande wa wilaya ya Mvomero mkoani Morogoro, ukweli uko bayana kuwa, tatizo la wanafunzi kulazimishwa kuolewa ni moja kati ya matatizo makubwa yanayovikabili karibu vijiji vyote utafiti huo uliofanyika.

Mtendaji wa Kata ya Mtibwa, Charles Msimbe, kwa upande wake

wilaya hiyo waliodadisiwa walibainisha kwamba, mahari ni chanzo kikubwa cha wazazi wengi kuwaoza mabinti zao na kuwakatisha masomo.

Miongoni mwa hatua zinazochukuliwa kukabiliana na adha hizo kwa mujibu wa Mtendaji wa Kata ya Mtibwa, ni kwamba wamepeleka halmashauri ya wilaya mapendekezo ya marekebisho ya sheria ndogo ndogo zitakazoweza mamlaka husika kuwachukulia hatua kali wazazi watakabainika wakiwaozisha mabinti zao wanafunzi.

Hali halisi ilivyo katika kijiji cha Mchangani, Kata ya Ruagwa, wilaya ya Lindi vijijini, imeripotiwa kuwa baadhi ya watoto waliozaliwa na kuwapoteza mama zao wakati waki-jifungua, yanawafanya wajikute wakilazimika kujikuta katika mazingira ya kubebeshwa mimba katika umri mdogo.

Mtendaji wa Kata ya Ruagwa, wilaya ya Lindi Vijijini, Ally Katoto, anasema kuwa, matukio yanayotokea katika eneo lake ni pamoja na wanafunzi kushindwa kuendelea na masomo hata baada ya kuchaguliwa kuendelea na masomo kidato cha kwanza ambayo huchangiwa na wazazi kutengana.

Takwimu kutoka hospitali ya wilaya zinaonyesha kuwa, jumla ya wanafunzi 11 walipatikana na ujauzito kati ya Februari na Machi, mwaka huu katika wilaya ya Lindi vijijini.

Kwa ujumla ni kwamba, athari za ndoa za lazima ni pamoja na kupata matatizo wakati wa ujauzito na kuji-fungua. Nyinginezo ni kusambaratika kwa familia, kutokuwa na uwezo wa kufanya kazi, hivyo kuendelea kwa utegemezi, kuongezeka kwa umaskini katika jamii, kurithisha ujinga na umaskini kwa vizazi vijavyo ikiwa pamoja na kukosa elimu.

Mwanafunzi mmoja mwenye umri wa miaka 16 (jina linahifadhiwa) aliyekuwa akisoma kidato cha pili katika shule ya sekondari Makote wilayani Newala, alipata ujauzito na kukatisha masomo yake.

Mwanafunzi mwingine mwenye umri wa miaka 17 (jina linahifadhiwa) wa shule ya sekondari Nambunga wilayani Newala alikatisha masomo mwaka huu akiwa kidato cha pili kwa sababu ya ujauzito.

Ofisa Mtendaji wa Kata ya Mikumi wilaya ya Newala, Rashid Mtungwe alihukumiwa, kwenda jela miaka 30 mwaka 2010 kwa kosa la kumuoa mwanafunzi wa kidato cha pili, kosa ambalo kwa sheria ya makosa ya kujamiiana ya mwaka 1998 (Sexual Offences Special

Na Fauzia Hassan

JAMILA Masoud (12) ni mwanafunzi wa darasa la saba katika shule ya msingi Loo wilaya ya Kondoia mkoani Dodoma. Ni mwanafunzi ambaye alipata mimba kutokana na shule kuwa mbali na sehemu anayoshi.

Shule hiyo ipo kilometa sita kutoka anapoishi. Mara nyingi alikuwa akitoka nyumbani bila chakula na inambidi kushinda njaa hadi atakapofika nyumbani usiku. Aliyemgundua kuwa huyu mtoto ana mimba ni mama yake mdogo, ambaye ni mke wa baba yake mdogo, alipomuona anachagua vyakula na kutapika hakuishi, ndipo alipomuita na kumuuliza na maongezi yao yalikuwa hivi:

Mama: We Jamila uko sawa kweli wewe?

Mtoto: Ndiyo mama niko sawa.

Mama: Kama uko sawa, mbona unachagua vyakula na kutapika hakuishi?

Mtoto: Mama naumwa mnipeleke hospitali.

Jamila anaishi na babu na bibi yake mzaa baba yake. Baba yake Jamila, Masoudi Athumani, anaiishi Chato mkoani Kagera. Wazazi wake Athumani wanaoishi na Jamila ni wazee, hawawezi kujua dalili zozote za mimba ya Jamila.

Mama huyo alimuuliza tena Jamila.

Mama: Umemwambia bibi na babu kuwa unaumwa?

Mtoto: Hapana, sijawaambia wala hawajui kama naumwa.

Baada ya hapo alipelekwa hospitali, akafanyiwa vipimo. Jamila aligundulika ana mimba ya miezi sita na nusu.

Mama akamuuliza mtoto.

Mama: Jamila, daktari amesema una mimba ya miezi sita na nusu, unamjua aliyekupa hiyo mimba?

Mtoto: Simjui mama.

Baada ya hapo walirudi nyumbani. Mama huyo alimweleza mume wake pamoja na bibi yake na Jamila, walichoambiwa hospitali. Wazee hawana cha kusema, ikabidi washangae tu na kufikiria ni jinsi gani wataimweleza baba yake Jamila.

Baba yake na Jamila alipigiwa simu kuwa nyumbani kuna matatizo, ilibidi aje kujua ni tatizo gani lililopo nyumbani kwao.

Alipofika nyumbani kutoka mkoani Kagera, aliwakuta wazazi wako salama; na siku ya pili yake waliitisha kikao ambacho kilikuwa ni cha kumwambia tatizo lililopo. Babu yake na Jamila, ilibidi amweleze kilichomtokea Jamila.

Alipata mshtuko baada ya kuambiwa kuwa binti yake, Jamila, ana mimba. Ameipata wapi? kwa hiyo huko shule ndiyo alikopata siyo?

Athumani aliiinuka na kwenda kukaa pekee yake na kuwaacha ndugu zake wamekaa hapo. Alimuuliza Jamila na kuuliza habari



Wanafunzi wakifua nguo.

Mimba bado zatatiza wasichana sekondari

■ Zawaachisha shule wanafunzi 5,157



Wanafunzi wakitoka porini kutafuta kuni za shule.

baadaye?

Mtoto: Matarajio yangu baba ni kusoma mpaka chuo kikuu.

Baba: Ni vizuri mwanangu, usiniangushie, lakini...

Mtoto: Sawa baba.

Jamila wakati anasubiri matokeo ya darasa la saba, anatarajia kujifunga mwezi wa 12 mwaka huu. Swali la kujuliza ni hili, iwapo Jamila atachaguliwa kuendelea na masomo ya sekondari mtoto atabaki na nani? Aliyempa Jamila mimba ni nani? yuko wani?

uungalizi wa karibu wa wazazi.

Tatizo la mimba shuleni nchini linachukuliwa kama tatizo la kitaifa, kutokana na idadi kubwa ya wanafunzi wanaopata mimba wakiwa shuleni, kuanzia shule za msingi na sekondari.

Wanafunzi wengi vijijini wapo katika wakati mgumu, kutokana na shule wanaozosoma kuwa mbali pamoja na ukosefu wa mabweni kwa watoto wa kike. Hali hiyo inawafanya wapange kaka mbali na wazi. Wanafunzi

Takwimu zinaonesha kuwa jumla ya wanafunzi 5,157 waliacha shule kutokana na mimba mwaka jana. Hayo yalisemwa na Waziri wa Elimu na Mafunzo ya Ufundi, Dk. Shukuru Kawambwa, alipokutana na waandishi wa habari jijini Dar es Salaam.

Dk Kawambwa alieleza hayo alipozungumzia matembezi ya hisani ya kuchangia ujenzi wa hosteli za wanafunzi wa kike wa shule za sekondari nchini. Matem-

Elimu Tanzania (Tea), imeandaa kampeni mahsusi ili jamii ishiriki kuchangia ujenzi wa hosteli kwa ajili ya watoto wa kike.

Alisema kwa kufanya hivyo kutasaidia kwa asilimia kubwa kupunguza tatizo la mimba kwa wanafunzi, pia serikali nayo kwa upande wake imeandaa mikakati ya kuboresha sera iliyopo ili kukabiliana na tatizo hilo.

Dk. Kawambwa alisema baadhi ya mikakati hiyo ni pamoja na kukamilisha shule 1,200 ifikapo mwaka 2015. Pia, alisema serikali imeridhia kujenga hosteli 100 kwa wanafunzi kwa wanafunzi wa kike 4,800.

Aliipongeza Tea kwa kuunga mkono jitihada hizo za serikali - kwa kuanzisha kampeni ya kushirikisha wadau wengi zaidi kuchangia ujenzi wa hosteli 30 zitakazohudumia wasichana 1,504.

Dk. Kawambwa alisema matembezi hayo yalikuwa na lengo la kukusanya Sh milioni 50 hadi 60. Tea inatarajia kukusanya Sh bilioni 2.3 kwa ajili ya kugharamia ujenzi wa hosteli 30 katika mikoa minane nchini.

Wizara ya Elimu kwa kushirikiana na wadau wa elimu nchini wanatakiwa wamulike tatizo la mimba shuleni pamoja na kulitafuta ufumbuzi ili kuwafunzi watoto wa kike, ambao ni taifa la kesho.

Taasisi zisizo za kiserikali zimekuwa mstari wa mbele kuzungumzia suala la mimba shuleni katika harakati za kuunga mkono juhudi za serikali za kupambana na tatizo hili.

Chama cha Waandishi wa Habari Wanawake Tanzania (TAMWA) ni miongoni mwa taasisi ambazo zimelivalia njuga suala la mimba shuleni.

TAMWA imedhamiria kutumia vyombo vya habari kutoa elimu kwa umma, kuhusu matatizo wanayokumbana nayo wanafunzi wa kike pamoja na mikakati inayotakiwa kuchukuliwa ili kupunguza, kama siyo kuondokana na tatizo hili.

Kwa mujibu wa TAMWA, tatizo la mimba shuleni linasababishwa na ukosefu wa bweni kwa wanafunzi wa kike, umbali mrefu kwenda na kutoka shule kila siku, wanafunzi kushinda njaa shuleni pamoja na umaskini wa familia unaowafanya wazazi kuwahudumia watoto wanaosoma shule za kutwa.

Kwa miaka ya hivi karibuni, TAMWA imekuwa ikilipigia debe suala la ujenzi wa hosteli karibu na shule kwa ajili ya wanafunzi wa kike.

Katika kuadhimisha siku 16 ya harakati za jinsia na utetezi wa wanawake na mtoto wa kike, TAMWA imezimia kuelimisha zaidi umma wa Tanzania umuhimu wa kulipatia ufumbuzi wa kudumu wa tatizo la mimba shule, ikiwa ni pamoja na kujenga bweni shuleni,



MWANDISHI
Godfrida Jola

Mmoja wa mtoto aliyepata mkasa huo, jina tunalo mwenye umri wa miaka (14) akizungumza na mwandishi wa makala hii huku akiwa na mtoto wake wa miezi miwili anasema, alikuwa darasa la sita katika Shule ya Msingi ya Chitekete mwaka 2011 mwezi wa tano akiwa anatoka shule alivamiwa na kijana aliyemtaja kwa jina moja la Hamadi (18) na kumbaka katika kichaka cha kuelekea nyumbani kwao.

UKATILI kwa wanawake na wasichana ni ukikwaji wa haki za binadamu kwakua unarudisha nyuma jitihada za kuwapa uhuru wa kufanya shughuli za maendeleo.

Utafiti wa Kitaifa wa mwaka 2010 unaonyesha kuwa zaidi ya asilimia 39 ya wanawake hapa nchini wamekuwa wakifanyiwa vitendo vya ukatili tangu wakiwa na umri wa miaka 15 na kwamba wengi wanafanyiwa ukatili na wanaume waume zao ambalo ndio wana jukumu kulinda usalama na maslahi ya wanawake, wasichana na watoto.

Hatua mbalimbali zimekuwa zikichukuliwa katika ngazi ya Kimataifa. Kikanda na kitaifa sheria zinazolingana zinazohusu haki za binadamu na kupiga vita ukatili wa kijinsia.

Mikataba hiyo ni pamoja na Mkataba wa Kuondoa Aina zote za Ubaguzi dhidi ya Wanawake, (CEDAW 1979), Azimio la Ulingo wa Beijing, (1995) Maazimio namba 1325, 1820, 1888 na 1889 ya Baraza la Usalama la Umoja wa Mataifa (2000), Azimio la kuleta Usawa wa kijinsia katika Nchi za Afrika, (2004).

Pia, Mkataba wa Afrika wa Haki za Binadamu za Wanawake, (2006), Itifaki ya Maendeleo ya Jinsia ya Nchi za Kusini mwa Afrika, (SADC, 2008), na Malengo ya Milenia.

Aidha, Umoja wa Mataifa umekuwa ukifuatilia kwa karibu utekelezaji wa mikataba hiyo kwa kuzitaka nchi husika kuandaa taarifa za utekelezaji na mafanikio

yalivyofikwa.

Pamoja na kuwa baadhi ya nchi zimesaini na kuridhia mikataba hiyo, bado tatizo la ukatili kwa wanawake na wasichana linazidi kuongezeka.

Hivyo juhudi za ziada zinahitajika ili kuzuia na kutokomeza tatizo hili katika jamii zetu.

Halikadhalika nchi husika zimekuwa zikichukua hatua mbalimbali kwa lengo la kukabiliana na hali hii. Hatua hizo ni pamoja na kurekebisha Katiba za nchi husika ili zizingatie masuala ya jinsia.

Kuwepo kwa sera mikakati, mipango inayozingatia masuala ya kijinsia, kutunga sheria mpya zinazozingatia masuala ya usawa wa kijinsia na kurekebisha sheria kandumizi ili kuhakikisha kuwa wanawake wanapatiwa haki zao za kibinadamu.

Tanzania kama nchi mwanachama wa Umoja wa Mataifa, Umoja wa Afrika, (AU), Umoja wa Nchi za kusini mwa Afrika (SADC) na Mwanachama wa Nchi za Maziwa Makuu, imesaini na kuridhia mikataba ambayo imezileleza nchi wanachama kuweka mifumo ya kikatiba, kiseria na kisheria kwa ajili ya kutokomeza tatizo la ukatili wa kijinsia.

Kwa mujibu wa utafiti uliofanywa na TAMWA mwanzoni mwa mwaka huu ulibaini kuwa tatizo hilo limeendelea kupoteza mwanga wa watoto wa kike, kwani wengi wao hukatisha masomo kwa kupata

ujauzito.

Mfano halisi ni katika Mkoa wa Mtwara ambapo mwaka 2011 wanafunzi 214 katika Wilaya sita za Mkoa huo walikatisha masomo yao kutokana na mimba. Kati yao wanafunzi wa shule ya msingi walikuwa 66 na sekondari 148.

Wanafunzi wamekuwa wakikatisha masomo baada ya kupata ujauzito na kushindwa kuendelea na masomo huku familia zikibaki njipanda kwa kukosa mtaalamu ambaye angewaongoza katika maisha.

Chanzo cha ubakaji ni tamaa za mwili za wanaume, hali hii hufanywa hata na vijana wasio na shughuli maalumu pia watu wasio na huruma kwa watoto hao.

Mmoja wa mtoto aliyepata mkasa huo, jina tunalo mwenye umri wa miaka (14) akizungumza na mwandishi wa makala hii huku akiwa na mtoto wake wa miezi miwili anasema, alikuwa darasa la sita katika Shule ya Msingi ya Chitekete mwaka 2011 mwezi wa tano akiwa anatoka shule alivamiwa na kijana aliyemtaja kwa jina moja la Hamadi (18) na kumbaka katika kichaka cha kuelekea nyumbani kwao.

Anasema, baada ya kufanyiwa unyama huo hakumweleza mzazi wake kwa kuhofia kupigwa na kijana yule, kijana huyo alikimbilia Masasi huku mtoto akiendelea na masomo yake na kufanikiwa kujiunga darasa la saba mwaka 2012.

Binti aliendelea kuficha siri hiyo hadi alipogundulika na mzazi wake January mwaka 2012 ambapo alikuwa amekaribia muda wake wa kufungua, baada ya kuliona hilo alipata pia taarifa toka kwa Mkuu wa shule kuwa walingundua mtoto wake kuwa ni mjamzito na hivyo hawezi kumaliza elimu ya msingi.

Huo ndio ulikuwa mwisho wa ndoto ya binti huyo ambaye alitaka kuwa mwalimu hapo baada ya kuhitimu elimu yake ya juu.

Anaishi maisha ya taabu kutokana na kukosa uelewa wa kumtunza mtoto mdogo ambapo hushindwa kumpatia mahitaji muhimu.

"Siku nyingine nakosa hela ya kununua sukari, sijui mwisho wa maisha haya utakua lini," anasimulia huku akilia.

Baba mzazi wa mtoto huyo (jina tunalo) amethibitisha kubakwa kwa mtoto wake na kuwa kesi hiyo inaendelea na ana walakini kuwa haiwezi kuendelea kutokana na mwendelezo wake.

Anasema mara ya mwisho ilitajwa Aprili 6 ambapo alijiibiwa na mwendesha mashtaka kuwa, kesi hiyo ni ya kubaka na kusababisha mimba na inahitaji muda kusikilizwa na kuelewa kuwa hawatakiwi kufika mahakamani hapo hadi watakapoitwa kutoa ushahidi.

Mtendaji wa kijiji cha Chitekete, kata ya Chitekete, Shaibu Hatibu ameoneshwa kukerwa na tukio hilo na kuahidi kukomesha matukio hayo ili kuwasaidia wanafunzi kujikwama kiuchumi kupitia elimu wanayopata.

Sheria ya elimu ya mwaka 1978 inayomtaka mwanafunzi anayebainika kuwa mjamzito kufukuzwa shule ni moja ya chanzo cha kushamiri kwa matukio ya mimba kwa kuwa haiwabani wapachika mimba.

Ni wakati mwa faka sasa kwa serikali kuliangalia upya suala hili ikiwezekana kuzifuta sheria zilizopitwa na wakati ili kuwanusuru watoto ambao ni Taifa la kesho.

Kila mtu katika jamii atambue wajibu wake katika kuwalinda na kuwajengea mazingira rafiki ya kumaliza masomo kwa kuwaepusha na vishawishi, na wenye tabia ya kuwavamia wanafunzi hao wakiishi katika bweni.

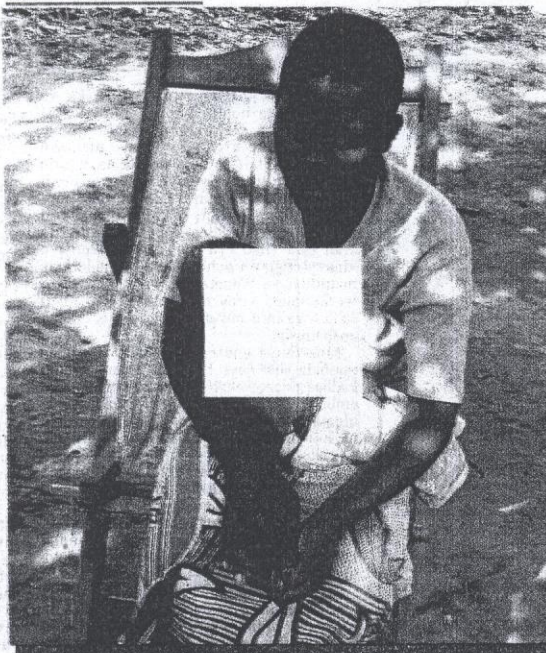
Kitendo cha jamii kuendelea kuwaficha wahusika wa vitendo hivyo kinarudisha nyuma juhudi za Serikali na wadau wa elimu zinazolenga kuboresha elimu ya sekondari kwa wanafunzi wa kike nchini.

Serikali inatakiwa kuangalia uwezekano wa kuifanya marekebisha sheria ya ndoa ya mwaka 1971 inayoruhusu wasichana wenye umri wa miaka 14 kuolewa kwa idhini ya wazazi.

Hii pia inasababisha watoto wengi kukatisha masomo kwa kisingizio kuwa ni watu wazima.

Pia, taasisi na mashirika yanayotetea hali ya mtoto wa kike nchini yaungwe mkono ili kukomesha unyama huo na kulinda haki ya mtoto kuoreshwa kwa lazima.

UKATILI



Mtoto wa miaka 14 akiwa na mtoto wake aliyepata baada ya kubakwa huku kijana aliyefanya kitendo hicho akitokomea kusikojulikana. Ni jukumu la kila mtu kuwafichua wanaoharibu maisha ya watoto wa kike ili kunisuru nguvukazi ya Taifa la kesho. Picha na Maktaba yetu

Agony of abandoned children escalates in Newwala

By Correspondent FLORA NZEMA, Newwala

SINGLE parenthood due to divorce in Newwala District, Miwara Region has resulted in doubly increased numbers of abandoned children.

"When we talk of street children in Newwala, we mean children whose fathers are nowhere to be seen," says Christina Kambunga, Newwala District Community Development Officer.

Fatuma Abadallah is a disabled nine year old child from Nambunga village in Newwala District, who is undergoing tremendous hardships each passing day. Her father locks her indoors, spending her day lying in bed without even visiting the toilet or doing anything.

"She was born normal until when she was three years old, but now she cannot speak, walk or eat on her own like her agemates. She stays in bed all the time," says Sharifa Juma (36), Fatuma's mother.

Fatuma is the last born in a family of five. According to her mother, the husband contributes nothing in the provision of the family's basic

needs such as food and clothes. He takes no part in the up-bringing and the general welfare of his children and family. "I have to work hard so that I can support my five children alone," says Sharifa.

When she was divorced by her first husband, she had three children and now she has two children from her new husband with Fatuma being the last born.

She says her current husband neither goes to farm nor does he do any kind of business to generate income. Instead, he stays with friends playing traditional game of *baa* and drinking the local brew.

When they had their first child, she could go with her to the farm while others were going for primary school. Even when Fatuma was born before she became disabled it was somewhat easy for her to carry the child and go to the farm.

Sharifa's farm is far from where she resides. She has to wake up as early as six o'clock every day, sometimes without properly feeding her children.

"I only give them food twice a day, early in the morning when I

prepare food for my husband and late in the night after coming back from the farm," says Sharifa, adding: "maybe that is why my daughter's health deteriorated fast."

When my daughter fell sick, I asked my husband to take our child to the hospital, but he refused, explained Sharifa. She says by then it was not harvest time, so she had no money because she could not sell her crops.

She says at one point in time her daughter became seriously sick but she had no means other than giving her cheap medicine like Paracetamol to bring down fever.

"I took care of her until September 2007, when I sold part of my crops to earn money that enabled me to take my child to Newwala District Hospital for treatment. Fatuma was admitted for two months, but it was too late to save her, the treatment did not help her, she could not walk any more, she could not talk or play as she used to before."

"Doctors told me that it was convulsions and that there was nothing they could do to reverse the situation," she sadly said.

According to her, this time it was more difficult attending to her farm because she had to carry her daughter (Fatuma) to and from the farm. She says her husband became less concerned when their daughter became disabled.

The mother says when Fatuma was eight years old, she could not carry her anymore, and so she asked her husband, Dimila to look after their child while she goes to the farm. He agreed, but when she left her neighbours informed her that he locked her inside and went away, she says.

Her husband had been locking their daughter in the house when she went to farm for almost a year, but she had nothing to do until this year when she decided enough was enough and reported him to the community development office.

This did not help, because two months after she reported him, she was divorced. Sharifa and her daughter are now staying with her mother (Sharifa's mother) in the same village.

Her mother, Fadna Juma helps to look after her grandchild. Sharifa

received nothing as alimony when she was divorced.

According to her neighbour, Fatu Siri, the child could have been treated with proper medication at big hospitals which have all facilities. The only problem was lack of financial support.

George Martin, District community officer, says they receive more than 10 cases a day requesting for children affiliation services which is an indication that most of Newwala men are not committed to taking care of their families.

He says they punish the offenders according to the law. He, however, complains that the law is weak. For instance, George says according to the Affiliation Services Act, if found guilty a parent is fined ten shillings only, but in reality it takes a hefty amount of money to take care of a nine year old child.

On the other side, religious leaders in the District have been blamed for not giving proper marriage guidance to couples when they get married.

"If the couples are given proper education on the importance of mar-

riage, divorce cases will be reduced in this area, says Halima Nambunga, secretary of Newwala network of Non-Government Organisations, arguing that divorce should be the last resort when it is only necessary to do so.

Disiku Adhunan, a villager and a father of five, condemns men who do not take care of their families.

"Most men in this area, especially those from districts blessed with high yields of cashewnut, use women as their tools of sex and income generation. They work as slaves, they are mistreated and they end up being divorced alimony," says Disiku.

The Executive Director of Newwala District Council, Abdallah Chikola argues that marriage is not a strong bond to most of Newwala families, because of early marriages and matrimonial issues, hence causing couples to take quick divorce decisions without considering the consequences.

Newwala District Commissioner, Christopher Magala says Newwala families are averse to family planning and that is why the population

is very high in the area.

"There is no space between one village and another as compared to other places in the country. The number of people in the family is increasing because of lack of proper family planning," clarifies Magala urging parents to consider family planning.

According to the 2012 population and housing census, Newwala has a total population of 205,492, including 110,474 women and 95,018 men, compared to the 2002 census which indicated a total of 183,930 people.

Rachael Mchopa, in-charge of police gender desk at Newwala District police station, says most of the reported rape cases are always linked to parents refusing to stay without children.

"If you visit most of the families in Newwala, majority of their children are malnourished, because there are large numbers of family members and so people have to struggle on their own to look for food to feed their families and that's not easy," says Ding's Mwangibepo, a resident in Newwala.

Faini ya Sh. 10,000 kwa wanaotelekeza watoto haimalizi tatizo

By Christina Gauluanga

Mtanzania AGOSTI 2, 2012

NA MWANDISHI WETU, DAR ES SALAAM

UMASKINI uliokithiri na baa la njaa, imekuwa ni tatizo kubwa katika jamii, hali inayochangia wanawake na watoto kutelekezwa.

Katika matukio ambayo yameonesha unyanyasaji kwa watoto na wanawake, utelekezaji familia nalo limekuwa ni tatizo sugu miongoni mwa jamii.

Kwa mujibu wa tafiti mbalimbali zilizofanyika, sababu zinazowafanya wanaume wawatelekeze wake zao ni kukosa uaminifu, ugomvi usioisha na maisha magumu hasa pale wilaya au eneo husika linapokumbwa na baa la njaa.

Matokeo ya tafiti hizo yanasema tatizo hilo lipo katika wilaya zilizofanyiwa utafiti ambazo ni tatu za Zanzibar na saba za Tanzania Bara. Tatizo hili kwa kiasi fulani limekuwa likichangia ongezeko la watoto wanaoishi kwenye mazingira magumu wakiwamo wasichana wanaouza miili yao.

Sheria zinazaowalinda wanawake na watoto zipo lakini kwa kiasi fulani zinaonekana kupuuzwa na baadhi ya wananchi kama sheria ya mtoto wa mwaka

2009, jamii kutokuwa na elimu ya ndoa hivyo wanaume kutumia vibaya uongozi ndani ya familia zao. Pia rushwa kutawala katika vyombo husika, kukosekana kwa uaminifu ndani ya ndoa talaka na kupotea kwa maadili katika.

Familia ikitokea mafarakano na wazazi wakatengana imekuwa ikileta athari kwa wanawake na watoto kutelekezwa hali ambayo inachangiwa na watoto kukosa malezi ya wazazi wawili, kuacha masomo kutokana na ugumu wa maisha.

Hali hiyo pia huchangia watoto kulazimika kuingia kwenye ajira mbaya ikiwamo uasherati na kazi ngumu kama vile kupasua kokoto ili kuingiza kipato katika familia zao.

Kwa mujibu wa watafiti wa Chama cha Waandishi wa Habari Tanzania (TAMWA), katika maeneo mbalimbali wamebaini kutengana kwa wana ndoa kumekuwa kukisababisha wanawake kubeleshwa mzigo mkubwa wa kuilea familia na kuwafanya kurudi nyuma kimaendeleo.

Mkurugenzi Mtendaji wa TAMWA, Vallery Msoka anasema katika wilaya tatu za Zanzibar, jumla ya matukio ya utelekezaji wanawake ni 381. Anasema matukio ya kutelekeza wanawake na watoto Zanzibar

yapo Wete (131), Magharibi Kusini (239) na Unguja (11).

"Jeshi la Polisi Pemba, limethibitisha kuwa tatizo ni kubwa kutokana na waathirika kutoripoti matukio katika vyombo vya sheria," anasema Msoka. Kwa mujibu wa jeshi hilo mwaka 2011, Dawati la Wanawake na Watoto la Polisi Kaskazini Pemba, walipokea jumla ya kesi nane ambapo mwaka jana, kesi sita na kipindi cha Januari hadi Machi mwaka huu ni tukio moja tu lililoriipotiwa.

Pia taarifa za wizara zimebainisha kuwa Idara ya Ustawi wa Jamii kwa Wilaya ya Wete, mwaka juzi ilipokea kesi 12, mwaka jana kesi tisa na kati ya Januari na Machi mwaka huu, matukio matatu yameripotiwa.

Kwa upande wa wilaya ya Newala, Katibu wa Mtandao wa asasi zisizokuwa za kiserikali Wilaya ya Newala mkoani Mtwara, Halima Nambunga, anasema asilimia 60 ya familia wilayani humo zinalelewa na bibi au mzazi mmoja kutokana na kutelekezwa au talaka.

Naye Mkuu wa wilaya hiyo, Christopher Magala, anasema utamaduni wa kusafisha ghala au kuanua umechangia kuongezeka kwa tatizo.

"Utaratibu huu ni utamaduni ambao wanaume wa Newala

anapopata fedha hasa katika kipindi cha korosho hutoa vitu vyote ndani ya nyumba yake akiwamo mwanamke na kuingiza vitu vipya," anasema.

Magala anasema utamaduni huo umeonekana ni kandamizi kwa wanawake kutokana na kutothaminiwa hali inayowasababisha kudhalilika na kuyumbisha familia kutokana na familia kuwa na mlezi mmoja.

"Utamaduni huo si mzuri kwani wakati huo mtoto atabaki na mama peke yake au kupelekwa kwa bibi yake na hatima yake watoto kukosa huduma muhimu," anasema Mgala.

Naye Hakimu Mfawidhi wa Mahakama ya Wilaya ya Newala, Samwel Maeda anasema sheria ya matunzo kwa mtoto imepitwa na wakati. Anasema mpaka sasa faini kwa mwanamume anayetelekeza watoto ni Sh. 10,000 jambo ambalo linawapa kiburi wengi kwa kuona kwamba wanaimudu faini hiyo.

"Ipo haja kwa sheria hiyo ifanyiwe marekebisha ili iendane na wakati pamoja na uzito wa kosa lenyewe," anasema. Watendaji wa vijiji katika Kata ya Mtibwa Wilaya ya Mvomero mkoani Morogoro, wanasema wanaume wengi huzitelekeza familia zao wakati wa njaa na

kuhamia vijiji vya mbali.

Wanasema kwa nyakati tofauti kuwa wanaume hao huwaacha wanawake wakihangaiwa kuzilisha na kuzitunza familia peke yao.

"Katika kipindi cha mavuno wanaume hao hurejea kwenye familia zao na kuuza mazao na baada ya kupata fedha hutoweza tena hali ambayo inazidi kumnyanyasa mwanamke," anasema mtendaji mmoja ambaye hakutaka jina lake liandikwe.

Afisa Mtendaji wa Kijiji cha Kidudwe, Marco Mwakatundu, anasema amekuwa akipokea malalamiko ya wanaume kuzikimbia familia zao hasa katika kipindi cha njaa ambacho mara nyingi ni kati ya Machi na Mei ya kila mwaka.

Hata hivyo, Mratibu wa Elimu Kata ya Nachingwea (MEK), Benedict Barnabas Nyuchi, anasema tabia ya baadhi ya wanawake ndiyo chanzo cha wao kutelekezwa kutokana na majibu ya dharau kwa wenza wao.

Nyuchi anasema mwanamke anayemjibu mumewe kuwa watoto wote si wake eti kwa kuwa hana uwezo wa kuzaa watoto kama hao, ni dhahiri atamuudhi mumewe na kusababisha ugomvi.

Sheria kandamizi kwa wanawake zisiwamo katika Katiba Mpya

TUZUNGUMZE KIDOGO



Beatrice Bandawe

Rasimu ya Katiba ya Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania, hivi sasa iko katika hatua ya kutolewa mapendekezo kwa kuboresha ibara mbalimbali baada ya wananchi kutoa maoni yao.

Rasimu hii ni maandalizi ya Katiba Mpya ya Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania ambapo mabaraza yaliyochaguliwa yanatakiwa maoni yao yazingatie kuwa Katiba Mpya itakayotengenezwa itaongoza shughuli za kiserikali katika taifa kwa miaka mingi ijayo, ingawa itakuwa inafanyiwa mabadiliko ya mara kwa mara, kulingana na mahitaji mapya ya taifa yatakavyokuwa yanajitokeza.

Ingawa Katiba hiyo haitakuwa dawa ya matatizo yote ya nchi, lakini itakuwa sheria mama ya nchi ambayo inatakiwa kuweka mambo machache yatakavyokuwa ya msingi kwa taifa ambayo serikali ya chama chochote cha siasa itakayolingia madarakani, itapaswa kuyasimamia na kuyaendeleza.

Kwa kawaida Katiba huwa inaweka mambo machache kama kutamka kuwapo kwa nchi yenyewe, pamoja na kuainisha mipaka yake, misingi mikuu ambayo inatakiwa kusimamiwa na kuendelezwa na mamlaka mbalimbali za hiyo na huwa inaweka mihimili ya dola ya nchi, ambayo inajulikana kuwa ni Serikali, Bunge na Mahakama.

Hata hivyo, kwa kuwa serikali huwa ina vyombo vyake vya utekelezaji, baadhi ya Katiba huwa zinatabua kuwapo kwa baadhi ya vyombo hivyo miongoni mwa sura zake.

Kwa kuzingatia misingi hiyo, Chama cha Wanahabari Wanawake Tanzania (TAMWA) kwa kushirikiana na taasisi nyingine zikiwamo za Mtandao wa Jinsia Tanzania (TGNP), Chama cha Wanasheria Wanawake (TAWLA) na Kituo cha Sheria na Haki za Binadamu (LHRC), zilika na kutoa mapendekezo ambayo wanaona hayatakandamiza haki za binadamu wakiwamo wanawake na watoto.

Katika mapendekezo hayo TAMWA ilipendekeza Katiba Mpya ibatilishe sheria zote zinazokinzana na haki za msingi za wanawake na watoto wa kike. Hususan, ardhi na mali, kubatilisha sheria na mila zote za ubaguzi wa jinsia.

hatua zote za kisera na sheria ili kulinda na kuhifadhi haki za wanawake katika maeneo hayo.

Katiba hiyo pia iweke misingi ya kuulinda utu wa mwanamke dhidi ya uonevu na ukatili wa jinsia ndani ya ndoa na kwenye jamii. Ikiwa ni pamoja na kukataza ubakaji ndani ya ndoa, kukataza mila zinazomdhalilisha mwanamke (ukeketaji, kurithiwa bila hiari) na kubainisha haki za ndani ya ndoa. Katiba mpya pia ikataze ndoa za watoto.

Mapendekezo mengine yalitaka Katiba iweke msingi wa kusikilizwa kwa haraka kwa kesi za ukatili wa kijinsia hasa ubakaji, ugawanaji wa mali baada ya ndoa na kukatishwa kwa masomo wasichana.

Aidha, Katiba ibainishe misingi itakayozuia madaraka ya utawala kushikiliwa na jinsia moja. Serikali iwajibishwe kuchukua hatua za kisera na sheria ili kuhakikisha wanawake wanashiriki kwa uwiano sawa katika uongozi wa mihimili mikuu ya utawala.

Harakati za TAMWA ambazo zimeshirikisha vyombo vya habari pamoja kuwa na ushirikiano na asasi nyingine zimefanikisha kuibua masuala ambayo yanapinga kuwepo kwa uhuru na haki kwa watanania wote, hususan wanawake na watoto. Harakati hizo zinatokana na mikakati ya TAMWA ambayo inalenga kuwapo kwa haki, usawa na demokrasia kwa jamii ya Tanzania.

TAMWA inapendekeza kuwa Tume ya Katiba itambue kwamba sheria zilizo kandamizi ndiyo chanzo cha unyanyasaji wa kijinsia iwe katika nyumba, ofisini, hospitalini, serikalini, vyombo vya serikali, shuleni na hata katika maeneo ya wazi. Kwamba mila, desturi na tabia zinachangia katika hili na kwambahaki za msingi za wanawake na mtoto wa kike zinakiukwa.

Kushirikishwa kwa TAMWA katika kutoa maoni katika Katiba Mpya ni hatua moja ya ushiriki wa wanawake kidemokrasia katika nchi yao.

Ni matumaini ya wanaharakati wa haki za binadamu hasa wanawake na watoto kuwa mapendekezo haya vataziniwa ili kundi hili

Concerted efforts needed to curb FGM

BY JAMILA SHEMNI

Attaining higher goals for women is a multi-dimensional process which results into interaction of both women and men in development activities.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), early child marriage, early girl pregnancies, wife battering and other violence done to women, tend to isolate women and make them feel inferior creatures in society.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is still an obstacle factor to women's development. In some societies, the problem is to a lesser extent since the intervention of different laws to defend and protect the rights of women, has already begun to take its role.

Female genital mutilation is a procedure which involves partial or total removal of external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non medical reasons.

It is typically carried out on young girls, sometimes between infancy and age 15 by a traditional circumciser using a knife, a razor or scissors.

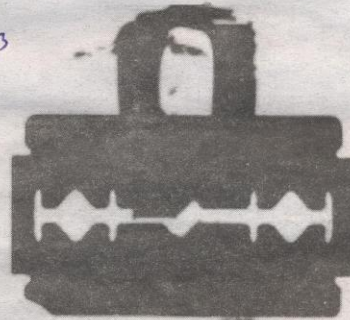
In most societies, FGM is considered a cultural tradition which is often used as an argument for its continuation.

Since the violence done to women is socially constructed in the society, each individual find it normal and they think that they do abide by their traditions and customs.

There is nothing like traditions and customs, by doing this is simply harassing women and contributes to their failure to meet the intended goals.

The research based on the gender equality and women empowerment programme (GEWE II) implemented by TAMWA and four other organizations in defending the rights of women and children.

*The African
Sept. 30, 2013*



I STAND AGAINST FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

**“ IN ORDER
TO PROMOTE THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF
CITIZEN REPORTING
VARIOUS CASES OF
GENDER VIOLENCE,
THE AGENCIES
SHOULD ALSO BE
MOTIVATED LAWS
TO BE ENACTED TO
THOSE WHO VIOLATE
WOMEN.
JAPAN**

(TAWLA), the Zanzibar Female

citizens in the sense that women are in the forefront to report to agencies the various violent incidents done to them since the establishment of various agencies as compared to the past where women were submissive to whatever was done to them since no any committee was there to end violence done to women.

Since the establishment of these agencies, the citizens are now in a better position to report on various gender violence occurring to them.

In order to promote the effectiveness of citizen reporting various cases of gender violence, the agencies should also be motivated laws to be enacted to those who violate women.

According to various studies, it has been estimated that more than 25 African countries are still circumcising women.

Female genital mutilation is still practiced in European countries and the Americas where 100 million women were circumcised while 2 million of young girls were proved to

Ukeketaji mila inayofanyika kwa usiri mkubwa jijini Dar

KWA muda mrefu Serikali kwa kushirikiana na asasi mbalimbali za kiraia imekuwa mstari wa mbele kupiga vita mila na desturi zinazokandamiza wanawake.

Mila hizo ni pamoja na zile zenye madhara kiafya na wakati mwingine kuwasababishia vifo.

Jitihada hizo za Serikali na asasi za kiraia zinaonekana kuwa chachu kwa makabila yanayokumbatia mila hizo, kwa kubuni mbinu za kuhakikisha mila kandamizi hazijulikani.

Miongoni mwa mila hizo ni pamoja na ukeketaji, ambao awali ulikuwa ukifanyika mikoani. Miongoni mwa mikoa hiyo ni Mara, Singida, Kilimanjaro, Mtwara, Lindi na Dodoma.

Lakini kutokana na kuongezeka kwa mwingiliano wa watu mila hiyo imepiga hodi hata mikoa mingine ikiwemo jijini Dar es Salaam. Kwa Dar es Salaam mila hiyo imekuwa ikiendelezwa na watu wanaotoka kwenye makabila yenye mila hiyo ambao yanahamia Dar es Salaam.

Utafiti uliofanywa na Chama cha Waandishi wa Habari Wanawake (TAMWA), kupitia mradi wake wa kuwezesha wanawake kiuchumi na kutokomeza vitendo vya ukatili (GEWE II) katika Kata ya Kivule na Kitunda, wilayani Ilala, jijini Dar es Salaam umebaini kuwa tatizo hilo lipo kwenye kata hizo.

Ukubwa wa tatizo hilo unachangiwa na wakazi wake wengi kuwa ni Wagogo kutoka mkoani Dodoma na Wakurya mkoani Mara, ambao ndiyo waumini wakubwa wa mila hiyo.

Ofisa Mtendaji wa Kata ya Kivule, Bw. Eligius Mulokozi, anasema Wagogo na Wakurya, wao hawaoni kama ukeketaji ni tatizo, bali wanaamini kuwa hiyo ni mila nzuri inayostahili kuendelea kuenziwa.

Anasema kutokana na mila hiyo kupigwa vita na Serikali na asasi, ukeketaji unafanyika kwa siri kubwa, tofauti na ilivyokuwa awali. Anabainisha kuwa wanavizia kipindi cha kutahiri watoto wa kiume, ndipo wanakeketwa watoto wa kike pia.

Mjumbe wa Serikali ya Mtaa katika Kata ya Kipunguni, Bw. Sabai Sabai, anasema ukeketaji upo, ingawa si kwa kiwango kikubwa, kwani kutokana na elimu ambayo imekuwa ikitolewa, tayari watoto wameanza kujua athari zake na kukataa mila hiyo wenyewe.

Naye Bi. Elizabeth Mwenda, anasema kwa hapa Kivule, ukeketaji upo, lakini unafanyika kwa siri. "Siku hizi wamekuwa wajanja wanasema wanakeketa ki-CCM (kuondoa sehemu ndogo za siri)," anasema Bi. Mwenda.

Kuhusu chanzo cha tatizo hilo Bw. Sabai anasema ukeketaji ni mila kama ilivyo kwa mila nyingine. Bw. Sabai ambaye ni mwenyeji wa Tarime, Mkoa wa Mara, anasema mwanamke ambaye hajakeketwa anaonekana hajakamilika ndani ya jamii.

"Kwa mila za Wakurya, mwanamke hawezi kuolewa na mtu wa kabila letu, hata akiolewa hawezi kushirikiana na wanawake wengine, mfano kwenye vyama vya kijamii na wakati mwingine anayimwa haki ya kushirikiana na wanawake wengine, kwa hiyo mila hii inabagua yule



MWANDISHI

► Reuben Kagaruki



Kwa hiyo kesi inapopeleka kwao ni sawa na kesi ya ngedere kufikishwa kwa nyani, kunakuwa hakuna ufumbuzi unaopatikana

ambaye hajakeketwa," anasema Bi. Mariam Mwita.

Kwa msingi huo anasema kubaguliwa kunamlazimisha mwanamke akubali kukeketwa ili aweze kukubalika ndani ya jamii.

Mwenyekiti Mstaafu wa CCM katika Kata ya Kivule, Bw. Dickson Nyende, anasema mwanamke ambaye hajakeketwa hata tabia yake inakuwa mbaya ndani ya jamii.

"Hii mila ni nzuri, kwani mwanamke ambaye hajakeketwa muda wote anacheza na wanaume (kufanya nao ngono)...lakini aliyekeketwa anajiheshimu, hata ukimpeleka katika familia yako utamuona," anasema Bw. Nyende, mkazi wa Kivule na mzaliwa wa Tarime, mkoani Mara.

Pia anasema ukeketaji ni sehemu ya usafi kwa mwanamke. "Kama mtoto wa kiume anatahiriwa kwa ajili ya usafi ni kwa nini mtoto wa kike na yeye asitahiriwe? Mtoto ambaye anakutana kimwili na mwanamke ambaye hajakeketwa atakwambia uchafu anaokutana nao," anasema.

Watu wa makabila wanaofuata mila hiyo wanasema mwanamke asiyekeketwa mara nyingi anataka ndani ya ndoa, hivyo njia ya kumbana ni kumfanyia ukeketaji ili asiwe na vishawishi vya kufanya tendo hilo na ni njia kuzuia na magonjwa kama vile lawalawa.

Bw. John Mwaluko, mkazi wa Kivule jijini Dar es Salaam anasema mila hiyo kupigwa vita kumechangia mmononyoko wa maadili ndani ya jamii.

"Ukeketaji ni ufundaji wa kujua

Pia anasema watoto wanaotikisha umri wa kukeketwa wamekuwa wakirudishwa vijijini kwao, mikoani kwa ajili ya kufanyiwa mila hiyo na baadaye kurejeshwa mijini, hali ambayo inachangia ugumu wa kuwabaini.

Kwa mujibu wa Bw. Mulokozi, anasema bado kunahitajika elimu kwa wakazi wa mikoa inayoabudu mila hiyo, kwani wanasema ukeketaji hauna madhara kama inavyodaiwa.

Mfano, Bw. Nyende, anasema tangu mila hiyo ianze kufanyika katika kata za Kitunda na Kivule, hakuna tukio ambalo limeripotiwa kuwa mtoto amefaniki akikeketa.

Kwa msingi huo, anatofautiana na wataalamu wa masuala ya afya wanaosema mila hiyo inasababisha vifo. Changamoto nyingine ni kuwa katika maeneo mengine viongozi wa ngazi ya mitaa wanatoka kwenye makabila yanayokeketa wanawake.

"Kwa hiyo kesi inapopeleka kwao ni sawa na kesi ya ngedere kufikishwa kwa nyani, kunakuwa hakuna ufumbuzi unaopatikana," anasema.

Hatua ambazo zimekuwa zikichukuliwa kumaliza tatizo jijini Dar es Salaam ni pamoja na kuanzishwa kwa programu za kutoa elimu ya kutokomeza mila hiyo kwa kushirikiana na asasi. Hatua hiyo imechangia kuleta mwamko ndani ya jamii.

Mbali na kuwepo kwa programu hiyo vinatolewa vipeperushi vinavyopiga vita mila hiyo. Mratibu wa Jinsia na Watoto Manispaa ya Ilala, Bi. Bertha Masagasi, anasema mbali na kuwa na programu hiyo, pia wamekuwa wakitumia vikundi vya sanaa kutoa elimu kwa umma kuhusiana na athari za ukeketaji.

Hatua nyingine ni elimu hiyo kutolewa kupitia mikutano ya hadhara. Bi. Nosmi Mesanga, anasema elimu ya kupiga vita mila hiyo, imekuwa ikifanyika kupitia vikundi vya akina mama.

'I will not forget the rape by my cousin'

By Praxedta Mtani,
Mvomero.

Debi Matola (17) (fictitious name) is a form two student at Kasanga Secondary School in Mvomero District. This girl says she won't forget the incident in March this year, when her cousin she had trusted all along raped her.

The girl, who is an orphan, says she has not received any legal help due to her guardians' indifference after learning that the culprit responsible for the rape is her own cousin.

Narrating the ordeal, Debi says it was in the evening when she was sent by her grandmother to collect a wrapper commonly known as kitenge from her aunt.

"On my way I passed near a house belonging to a friend of my cousin Msafiri Chandu. As I passed by Msafiri called me and I heeded the call. When I asked him why he had called me he only laughed. As I was about to leave Msafiri started to tell me that I habitually torment him. His friend who had been in the room left and my cousin grabbed me and threw me on the floor. He covered my mouth to cut off any noise," Debi reports.

Debi was too frightened to tell her aunt about the unpleasant incident. However, two days later she was detected limping and the aunt got suspicious.

"When my aunt finally learned the truth, she reported the matter to the police and I was given the PF3 form so that I could go to hospital for treatment. Nevertheless, no sperms were found during the medical examination because it was two days later and I had already washed my underwear." Debi recounts with embarrassment because there was no evidence.

Acts of sexual harassment including rape continue to thrive in various areas of this country, in spite of there being the 1998 Sexual Offences Special Provision Act which carries a maximum life sentence or 30 years imprisonment to people convicted of the offence.

Morogoro is among regions with high incidences of rape in all its

districts including Mvomero. Mvomero district ranked fourth in cases of rape in 2011 with 61 incidents while Morogoro district topped the list with 190 incidents, Kilosa district came second with 81 occurrences and Ulanga had 77.

Despite most incidents being reported to the police, it is only 14 cases that were filed at the Mvomero district court and of these only four suspects were convicted of the offence.

One of the reasons why most incidents are not taken to court is the lack of adequate incriminating evidence. Moreover, some victims or their relatives are uncooperative to police officers.

» Pg 4



REHEMA: 500/- cost me my education

By Shadrack Sagati

When 13-year-old Rehema Mohamed (fictitious name) sat for her Standard VII examinations in September last year, she was sure of joining form I. She passed her national exams with flying colours, but failed to join secondary school because she was pregnant.

"At the time I sat for my class seven national exams, I didn't know that I was pregnant," she says.

Rehema is a resident of Mchinga II village in the southern Tanzania region of Lindi. She is one of hundreds of girl pupils in the country who last year missed their classes because of pregnancies.

"It's true that I passed my standard VII final exams but couldn't enter form one after it was discovered that I was pregnant. I could do nothing but stay at home," Rehema says dejectedly.

The young girl now lives with her grandmother because her parents were separated three years ago. She says her engagement in early sex while at school paid dearly for her mistake.

"I fell into the trap because of the difficult life after my mother and father, who supported me financially, were separated," she says, adding "my father neglected his duty to pay for my school fees and other special needs while my mother is too poor to support me."

She continues: "the Mchinga II primary school, where I was schooling, is very far from home. I spent the whole day with an

empty stomach as my grandmother was unable to give me some money."

Rehema got into relationship with one, Salum, who used to give her 500/- every day as an inducement. This gave room for Salum to treat the hapless schoolgirl as his wife.

According to Lindi District Education Officer, in-charge of domestic science and health, Sophia Chinjala, in 2010 her office recorded 27 schoolgirl pregnancies, 14 in 2011 and 9 in 2012.

"These figures are sometimes confusing. The real situation on the ground suggests that many girls dropout in primary schools because of pregnancies," she says.

Mchinga Secondary School headmaster Maftaha Nachuma, where Rehema was enrolled to join form one in January this year, says ten girls selected to join form one have not reported due to pregnancies.

"We summoned Rehema's father at the ward office for questioning. However, to date no legal action has been taken against the person alleged to have made the girl

pregnant," he says.

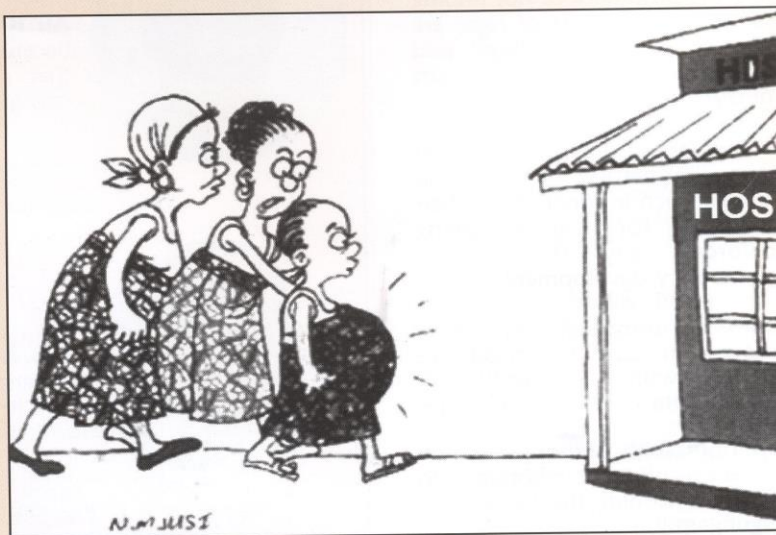
He says the problem of school pregnancies is slowly being fought through awareness of the adverse effects of early pregnancies and encouraging the youths in taking their studies seriously. "This seems to be working because the school recorded only two pregnancies last year," he said.

Mr Nachuma says statistics on truancy and dropouts in schools due to pregnancies are not reliable because many cases are not reported. He adds, "the problem comes from ward offices because when we report truancy and cases of pregnancy nothing is being done. Our job as teachers is to teach and not to prosecute."

On his part, the Mchinga Ward Executive Officer Said Makinda said since January this year his office hasn't received any case of pregnancy.

"I have received four cases in four years. They were all forwarded to the police and one proceeded to court. Rehema's parents were among those summoned to the ward office for questioning," he says.

» Pg 7



Women, children bear the brunt of desertion

By Beatrice Bandawe

It's a three-hour bus drive from Lindi town to Ruangwa district. As a passenger, I decided to sit near the window just to see the landscape of this southern Tanzania district.

It took us a few metres before we finished a small portion of the tarmac and started cruising on a rough and dusty road at Nanganga area to Ruangwa town.

Along the road, I could see children cheering and waving at the bus which was entering Ruangwa's central bus stand. Many of them had plates on their heads with edible wild roots.

These children also carried sugarcane, boiled groundnuts and mangoes for sale. Their clothes all had a red tinge depicting the red soil in the district.

Many of the children are bread winners engaged in various businesses to help their families meet daily basic needs including school fees, uniforms and exercise books.

The 2012 Housing and Population Census shows that Ruangwa district has 131,080 people, with more than half (67,815) being women. The largest tribe in the area is the Mwera.

According to Mwera norms and customs, it is the women who carry the burden of taking care of their families while it is the men who leave their family homes to live with their in-laws.



Mwanaidi Hamdani one of abandoned women in Ruangwa District.

husbands because the Mwera tradition allows men and women to cohabit and stay in courtship for more than ten years. And these men can leave whenever they please leaving the women with the children.

"When in courtship they bear several children and in the course of time, a man gets bored; he abandons the woman and the children and jumps to another woman to start a new life," says Julieth Killo, Ruangwa Community Development Officer.

In a week, Killo's office receives an average of five cases of children who do not attend school due to lack of parental care.

"There are times when these cases flood my office, especially when schools open," she says.

parents to discuss on the problems facing their children. "When you listen to them carefully, you find that sometimes women anger their husbands by insulting them that they are not the children's father.

"I have received more than four cases whereby a woman gets married to more than one man. Sometimes we're forced to give her child to a man who is not a biological father just to settle the matter and help children get their rights," she says.

She says many cases are settled by her office and those which appear difficult are referred to courts.

In the past, she says, many cases were mediated at ward offices or between the couples. "In the past they could divide the matrimonial assets among themselves because they had some knowledge of

Safisha Ghala ➡ New wife

By Flora Nzema, Newala

It is harvest time in Newala, and the crop being harvested is cashew nuts, one of the major cash crops in Tanzania. The harvest brings both happiness and sadness to the people of Newala.

Happiness because with the harvest comes cash earnings and marriages in many households but there is sadness because it is also the time when there is a rise in divorce in many households.

It is the time when households clean their warehouses for the new crop, unfortunately it is also the time when houses are also cleaned and repaired and in the process many 'old' wives are also divorced to leave room for a 'new' wife.

This is a custom called '*kusafisha ghala*' which loosely translated

means cleaning the warehouse and has been taken further to mean out with the old and in with the new.

"This has always been our way, when we clean the warehouse for the new crop; we also clean the house for a new wife. I found it when I grew up and people still do it" explained a Newala resident when asked where this custom came from and why it continues.

Few people in Newala consider it an outdated custom as it continues to be practiced

contributing to the continued suffering and discrimination of women and children in the country. *Kusafisha ghala*, is also said to have increased poverty among families.

ALLY NACHIGAMO's STORY

"I regret my habit of marrying and divorcing women which has left me poverty-stricken," says 70-year-old Ally Nachigamo.

The old man says he had married and divorced 10 wives during his youth. He also says that all his 16 children and 60 grandchildren ended up uneducated.

"The culture of marrying and divorcing many women is good when you are young and energetic" he says.

» Pg 17



"Safisha Ghala" survivors in Newala District

SOPHIA SIMBA: “We shall review conflicting laws on women and children”

By Ludovick Kazoka

Some 15 years have elapsed since the Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act 1998 (SOSPA) was passed, which is part of the penal code. However, incidents of Gender Based Violence (GBV) are on the rise while only a few of such cases are taken to courts of law.

SOSPA was passed in order to control acts of GBV including, Rape, Child Marriage as well as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

As opposed to the previous legislation, which provided lenient penalties to rape offences, SOSPA provides a sentence of 30 years in jail or life imprisonment to people convicted of rape.

Section 130 of the penal code was reviewed in order to give rape a wide meaning. Page two of the penal code highlights the diverse forms of GBV, including a partner's violent acts in a relationship, rape, sodomy, human trafficking, deprivation of economic ventures, bodily harm, psychological torture, or injuring



Minister for Community Development, Gender and Children Affairs, Sophia Simba

the feelings of an individual. The Minister for Community Development, Gender and Children Affairs, Sophia Simba, says despite gender violence being a big problem in this country, the government has continued to deal with people perpetuating violent acts on women, children and in the society in general.

"To curb the situation, the government has enacted a tough law including the Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act 1998 ... this law makes gender based violence a criminal offence and not a civil offence as it was previously, and carries a jail sentence for those convicted and not mutually settling the matter

paid a fine," she says.

The Minister says GBV incidents seem to be on the increase, but that increase is due to the people's awareness of the law such that they report these incidents of violence as opposed to previous years whereby most families felt ashamed to report the cases to the police.

"To me, this is a big step forward. Previously, a woman would be torched on the ear or a child would be burnt and when the matter was reported to the police, it was dismissed as a family matter and the issue ended there."

TAMWA condemns gender-based violence

By DAILY NEWS Reporter

THE Tanzania Media Women's Association (TAMWA) has expressed disappointment over the behaviour of some teachers towards girl students that ultimately contribute to their poor examination performance and dropping out of school.

Recent media reports have highlighted the case of a 30 year old teacher at Sokoine Primary School in Dodoma Municipality who for a period of five months has allegedly been living with a 14 year old girl student as his wife.

A statement made available to this paper yesterday, said TAMWA is also disappointed by the lack of cooperation from the police as reported by the girl's parents who sought their support.

"Such attitude builds the perception that acts of gender based violence are condoned within the society," read the statement in part.

TAMWA has urged the said teacher's employer in collaboration with Teachers Services Department – (TSD) to take legal action as soon as possible and completely remove

him from the teacher's list as a lesson to others.

"This will send a clear message that acts of gender based violence cannot continue with impunity," further reads the statement signed by Tamwa's Executive Director, Valerie Msoka.

The association also hailed the parents for standing firm in defending their daughter and urged officials and the community at large to take action against perpetrators of GBV and to ensure that law and justice are upheld in the communities.

GIVE WOMEN A FAIR CHANCE

The Citizen, July 26, 2013

The Tanzania Media Women's Association report on the situation of women in Tanzania sends a clear message--a lot more needs to be done to cancel out gender inequities.

Property ownership, child marriage, getting an education and wife battering are just some of the many issues that make the word "justice" sound hollow in the ears of our womenfolk.

The thinking that a woman is inferior to a man just because she is female is still common in our society despite concerted campaigns by civil society and human rights activists. There is no shortage of laws designed to protect women and their rights.

Granted, our Parliament has a sizeable number of female MPs at 129 out of the total number of 350. But lest we forget, only 17 are elected; the rest are in the august House courtesy of either the Special Seats or presidential nomination.

At this point in our history, we should be speaking of a fair playing field that allows women to compete effectively for political and other forms of leadership. We should be in a position to end male dominance of power without having to apply "positive discrimination."

There is ample evidence everywhere, barring matters that entail brute force, that women can do virtually everything that men do. However, they must be given the chance that has always been availed to men as a matter of course.

majira

Kutoka kwa Mhariri

Tunakwama wapi kukomesha ukahaba kwa watoto wadogo?

UKAHABA ni tendo la kufanya biashara ya ngono nje ya ndoa ambapo wanawake hufanya biashara hiyo kwa makubaliano na wanaume ambao ndio wateja wao.

Zipo sababu nyingi zinazochangia wasichana wenye umri mdogo kujiingiza katika biashara hiyo. Miongoni mwa sababu hizo ni ugumu wa maisha baada ya wazazi kufariki dunia au kutengana.

Hali hiyo imewafanya watoto wengi wa kike, kupoteza mwelekeo wa maisha na kuamua kufanya ukahaba kama njia mojawapo ya kujipatia kipato.

Baadhi ya watoto hao, wanaamini biashara hiyo inawezakutumiza lengo lake la kupanga chumba, kuwa na maisha mazuri na kuhudumia familia yake.

Kutokana na hali hiyo ni wazi kuwa watoto wengi hukosa haki zao za msingi kama malezi ya wazazi (baba na mama) na elimu ambayo ina umuhimu mkubwa kwa maisha yake.

Hivi karibuni, Chama cha Wanahabari Wanawake nchini (TAMWA), kwa kushirikiana na wadau wengine, kimezindua ripoti ya utafiti kuhusu ukatili na unyanyasaji wa kijinsia dhidi ya wanawake na watoto.

Wadau wengine ni Mtandao wa Jinsia Tanzania (TGNP), Chama cha Wanasheria Wanawake nchini (TAWLA), Chama cha Wanasheria Wanawake Zanzibar (ZAFELA) na Kituo cha Usuluhishi cha TAMWA (CRC).

Ripoti hiyo ni utekelezwaji wa mradi uliolenga kutokomeza vitendo hivyo unaofahamika kama (GEWE II), uliofanyika katika Wilaya 10 za Tanzania bara, Zanzibar.

Wilaya hizo na mikoa yake kwenye mabano ni Wete (Pemba Kaskazini), Unguja Mjini Magharibi (Unguja Magharibi) na Unguja Kusini, Kinondoni na Ilala (Dar es Salaam), Kisarawe (Pwani), Mvomero (Morogoro), Ruangwa na Lindi Vijijini (Lindi) pamoja na Newala (Mtwara).

Katika utafiti huo, yapo mambo mengi yaliyobainishwa ambayo kwa namna moja au nyingine, yataisaidia Serikali kujua wapi pa kuanzia ili kukomesha vitendo vya ukatili na unyanyasaji wa kijinsia dhidi ya wanawake na watoto.

Sisi tunasema kuwa, Serikali inapaswa kutumia utafiti huo ili kupambana na changamoto zinazowakabili wanawake na wasichana hasa wenye umri mdogo wasiweze kujiingiza katika biashara ya ukahaba.

Moja ya matukio yanayoonekana kushamiri katika jamii ni wanaume kutelekeza wake zao na watoto. Hali hiyo inatokana na kukosekana uaminifu, ugomvi usioisha, ugumu wa maisha.

Ni wazi kuwa, sheria zinazowalinda wanawake na watoto, hazitumiki ipasavyo ikiwemo Sheria ya Mtoto ya mwaka 2009, jamii kutokuwa na elimu ya kutosha, wanaume kuutumia vibaya uongozi ndani ya familia na kupotea kwa maadili.

Athari za wanawake na watoto kutekelezwa ni watoto kukosa malezi ya wazazi wawili, kuacha masomo kutokana na ugumu wa maisha na kulazimika kuingia kwenye ajira mbaya ikiwemo ya ukahaba na kupasua kokoto.

Wanawake hubebeshwa mzigo mkubwa wa kulea familia

majira



Septemba 11, 2013. P96

Kutoka kwa Mhariri

Walimu wanaobaka wanafunzi ni fedheha kwa taaluma hiyo

SEPTEMBA 6 mwaka huu, Mahakama ya Wilaya ya Ludewa, mkoani Njombe, ilimhukumu kifungo cha miaka 30 gerezani mwalimu wa Shule ya Msingi Ingwachanya.

Mbali ya adhabu hiyo, pia mahakama hiyo iliamuru mshtakiwa huyo Bw. Romanus Msango, mkazi wa Lupembe, wilayani humo, achapwe viboko 30 baada ya kufiwa hatiani kwa kosa la kumbaka mwanafunzi wa miaka 14 na kumuumiza vibaya sehemu za siri.

Hukumu hiyo ilisomwa na Hakimu Mkazi Mfawidhi wa Mahakama hiyo, Bw. Fredrick Lukuna, ambaye alisema mahakama imejiridhisha pasipo shaka yoyote kuwa mshtakiwa alitenda kosa hilo.

Bw. Lukuna alisema, adhabu aliyotoa kwa mshtakiwa ni fundisho kwa wengine wanaofanya vitendo vya aina hiyo hasa kwa wasichana wadogo (wanafunzi).

Inadaiwa mshtakiwa alimfuata mwanafunzi huyo shambani wakati akivuna mahindi na wenzake, kumkamata na kumpeleka porini ambako alimfanyia kitendo hicho cha kinyama.

Sisi tunasema kuwa, kitendo kilichofanywa na mshtakiwa ni fedheha kwa taaluma ya ualimu ambayo imebeba dhamana kubwa kusimamia na kuimarisha malezi ya watoto.

Ni muhimu ifahamike kuwa, wanafunzi waliopo shuleni ni nguvukazi ya Taifa la kesho hivyo ni wajibu wa kila mwanajamii, kuhakikisha wanaheshimiwa badala ya kuwanyanyasa, kuwataka kimapenzi na kuwabaka kwa kigezo cha tamaa ya mwili.

Kilichofanywa na mshtakiwa ni kinyume cha maadili yetu kama Watanzania na kuwadhalilisha walimu wenzake ambao kwa umoja wao, wanapaswa kukemea vitendo hivyo kwa hali na mali.

Tukio hilo ni mfululizo wa matukio mengi yanayopingwa na wanaharakati ambao hufanya tafiti mbalimbali za kihabari na kuandika ripoti za ukatili wanaofanyiwa watoto, wanawake.

Hivi karibuni, Chama cha Wanahabari Wanawake nchini (TAMWA) na wadau wengine, kilitoa ripoti ya utekelezaji wa mradi uliolenga kutokomeza vitendo vya nyanyasaji vinavyofanywa kwa wanawake na watoto unaofahamika kama (GEWE II).

Mradi huo uliofanyika katika Wilaya 10 za Tanzania bara ambazo ni Wete (Pemba Kaskazini), Unguja Mjini Magharibi (Unguja Magharibi) na Unguja Kusini, Kinondoni na Ilala (Dar es Salaam), Kisarawe (Pwani), Mvomero (Morogoro), Ruangwa na Lindi Vijijini (Lindi) pamoja na Newala (Mtwara).

Wadau wengine walioshiriki katika utafiti huo ni Mtandao wa Jinsia Tanzania (TGNP), Chama cha Wanasheria Wanawake (TAWLA), Chama cha Wanasheria Wanawake Zanzibar (ZAFELA) na Kituo cha Usuluhishi cha TAMWA (CRC).

Matokeo ya utafiti huo katika eneo la ubakaji yanaonesha sababu kubwa zinazochangia vitendo hivyo ni ulevi, imani za kishirikina, umaskini katika familia na tamaa iliyoipitiliza.

Baadhi ya watuhumiwa wa vitendo hivyo, hawafikishwi katika vyombo vya sheria (mahakamani) na wachache wanofikishwa huachiwa katika mazingira ya kutatanisha kwa kisingizio cha kukosekana ushshidi kutokana na rushwa iliyotawala.

Jambo la kusikitisha, baadhi ya familia ya mtoto aliyeanyika ukatili huo huamua kusuluhisha kesi za ubakaji katika ngazi familia kwa sababu ya uelewa mdogo wa kutojua sheria zinazoshughulikia makosa ya ubakaji.

Athari zinazowapata wanafunzi waliofanyika ukatili huo ni pamoja na kubeba mimba, kukatishwa masomo, ongezeko la watoto wa mitaani na kuolewa katika umri mdogo.