
Promote age-appropriate sexuality education

Media reports indicate that child marriage is on the rise in Uganda, with cases of young people as low as 15 years of age being encouraged by their parents to get married. The Uganda Constitution sets the age of consent at 18 years hence getting married before turning 18 is illegal. To the Christians, marriage is a blessing from God, when appropriately done at the right time with the right person, and ready to own total responsibility.

It is, therefore, imperative that we all

fight early marriages through empowering young people with knowledge and skills. Studies show that adolescent mothers are twice as likely to die from pregnancy and delivery related complications compared to those who are older, have high fertility rates and their babies or children have higher chances of dying. In addition, young motherhood has negative effects on the social economic status of the mother, and hence inhibits girl's participation in education and limits her

economic opportunities.

Other negative consequences of young marriages include limited decision making. Young people who marry are more vulnerable to gender-based violence. They are also more likely to enter into informal unions, which deny them basic protection and social status and leads to isolation with limited support structures.

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