

PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS AND IMPACT OF BRIDE PRICE

Presented by: Dr. Catherine Keko

Domestic Violence Health Officer

The Mifumi Project Box 274, Tororo – Uganda Email: Mifumi@mifumi.org

CULTURAL MEANING

Bride price is seen as a process of marriage.

It is the only type of marriage many homes know of.

Many women think they are valued when bride price is paid.

Bride is transferred culturally to another home.

Witness from both homes come for the ceremony and they are known as married.

MARRIAGE IN THE CHURCH

With the coming of the missionaries, education and religions, teachings on what marriage is taught.

But families still work up both types of marriages, church and traditional marriages.

Few families reach the church because they think a church wedding is expensive but no, it is important.

Some think that culture links the marriage better than the church.

CHURCH WEDDING VS TRADITIONAL MARRIAGE

Church marriage

- Educated men and women tend to marry in the church
- Marriage in church has a meaning for them
- Bride Price has less meaning as marriage
- They value the marriage as seen by God
- It is witnessed by the priest and church and both families
- Seen as the main marriage
- It is important for the educated men and women

Traditional marriage

- Has links with culture
- Families are brought up knowing bride price is important
- Women are valued as bride price and to be returned when the marriage breaks up
- Witnessed by the chiefs, community and both families
- Main marriage and churches wedding is secondary
- Traditional marriage is important to them.

Effects/Impact of Bride Price

- Women are regarded as property at the man's home
- Treated badly and used as labour force because bride price has been paid
- Threatened if they do any thing wrong, they are sent to their families and bride price has to be returned
- Women have symbol of the cow in their image
- Men can look at women as the bride price they paid for
- They fear leaving the home when they are beaten because bride price has to be returned
- Women can be severely beaten because of strong emphasis being linked with bride price compared to the real value of marriage
- They can be subdued and intimidated by being valued as bride price paid for and you treat, as you like
- Oppression of other value of women takes place like no education for the girls

- **Women have no rights, and this is not realized by the majority of women.**