**Research Design For a survey on Early Marriages in Budalangi**

1. **Introduction**

Early Marriages remain a significant social issue in our society today. In a way to understand this, research is going to be conducted in Budalangi, which is one of the areas that is highly affected. Early marriages affect education, health and economic development of young people, particularly girls. This study will help to investigate the prevalence, causes, effects and provide potential interventions to mitigate the practice.

1. **Objectives**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

* To determine the prevalence of early marriages in Budalangi
* To identify the causes of early marriages in Budalangi
* To explore the effects of the practice
* To provide recommendations to curb this practice

1. **Research Questions**

As part of the study, questions that the research will answer will be as follows:

1. What is the prevalence of early marriages in Budalangi?
2. What are some of the socio-economic reasons that lead to early marriages?
3. How does the practice of early marriages affect the participants?
4. What are some of the measures that can be adopted to mitigate the practice?

**4. Research Methodology**

**4.1 Research Design**

Descriptive survey design will be used for this study. This is a research methodology where the characteristics and behaviours of the population are studied from the sample.

**4.2 Study Area**

The area of study will be Budalangi constituency, an area known for high practice of early marriages

**4.3 Target Population**

* Married individuals who entered marriage before the age of 18
* Parents of married individuals who are below the age of 18
* Local community leaders like religious and cultural elders
* Local institutions that get involved with the topic of early marriages

**4.4 Sampling methodologies and sample sizes**

A stratified random sampling methodology will be used for this research. This is whereby, the population is subdivided into distinct subgroups called strata and random samples are selected from each stratum to form the sample to be used. The sample will be calculated as follows:

n = [((Z^2)\*p\*(1-p))/(e^2)]

where:

n = required sample size

Z = Z-score (based on confidence level)

p = estimated proportion (assumed 0.5 if unknown)

e = margin of error (usually 0.05 or 5%)

Z-Score Values for Different Confidence Levels

90% = 1.645

95% = 1.96

99% = 2.576

We will use 95% confidence level, 5% margin of error and 32% as our proportions as previous studies indicate this proportion for the whole county where Budalangi is situated.

Our sample will therefore be 335

**4.5 Data Collection Methods**

* Questionnaires with different types of questions such as Open Ended, Single choice and multi select will be administered during the survey
* Focus Group Discussion will also be utilized during the survey

**4.6 Data Analysis**

* Quantitative data will be analysed by SPSS to determine frequencies, percentages or/and correlations
* Qualitative data will be analysed through thematic analysis so as to identify any trends and patterns

1. **Ethical Considerations**

Ethics that will be considered will include the following:

* Consent from the respondent to take part in the survey before it begins
* Confidentiality of the information will be upheld
* Participation will be entirely voluntary
* Necessary approvals from the local authorities will be sought before the beginning of the research

1. **Expected Outcome**

The research is expected to provide the outcome below:

* A comprehensive understanding of the prevalence of early marriages in Budalangi
* Causes of early marriages in the area
* Effects of the practice to the community and individuals who practice that
* Recommendations for policy changes to curb the practice

1. **Conclusion**

This research will provide valuable data to help inform the policy makers about effects of early marriages and enable them to provide effective intervention strategies to mitigate the issue