

A real life film documentary on the power of girls' education to end child marriage


Documentary Synopsis


The documentary depicts a compelling real story of Tumaini (not her real name), a young rural girl in Kuria sub county who escapes FGM and runs to stay with a maternal uncle in Bondo. The uncle is single and alcoholic. At Bondo she is enrolled in standard four in a school six kilometers away. Her uncle is known to be a strict "disciplinarian" and a no non-sense man who has no time to listen to "children stories".

When Tumaini experiences her 1st menstruation, she is seriously disturbed. It happens in class and gets her unawares. Despite having been given a sanitary towel in the school program she didn't believe that she was old enough to experience it and also has challenges with short supply of her underpants. The embarrassment by an impolite and irresponsible teacher makes Tumaini the class laughing stock.

On her way back home she meets a boda boda rider who offers her a ride back home. On their innocent ride back she meets her uncle's drinking buddy who immediately calls her uncle to inform him of Tumaini's "new boyfriend". When she gets home she is seriously beaten by the uncle and she disappears from the home and goes to stay with her friend's family several kilometers away.

Tumaini now in standard seven, ends up being married as a child, nearly dies while giving birth, then gets rescued by the church and a community social volunteer working with Plan International. These "good samaritans" manage to find a safe haven for Tumaini from where she gets re-admitted back to school. She pursues her education and later performs so well in her secondary exams and proceeds to university.

 As a university student, she enters in global essay writing competition in stopping child marriages in Sub Saharan Africa and consequently wins the coveted award. She gets some significant amount of money from the award and decides to use this to sensitize her peers and girls back home. She later returns to Bondo where she visits her former primary school and conducts her first community outreach on teenage pregnancy and early marriage, targeting girls.

As a result of her work and journey, Tumaini has now been approached and appointed the Girls Ambassador to champion rights of girls  girls in Kenya.