**INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT**

Interviewer Name: Fiona Atukunda

Interview date: 11/10/2019

Name of respondent: Sylvia

H.H I. D: 4890181

Title status: Drop out

Interview start time: 11:25 am

Interview stop time: 1:05 pm

Age: 30

Marital status: Married

No. of children: 4

No. of people living in the household: 6

Occupation: Farmer

Second source of income: buys and sells coffee

Highest level of education: Senior 2

No. of years living in the village:

Roofing material: Iron sheets

Housing material: Bricks, cement and solar

Interview Duration: 1:40:39

The interview happened in the respondent’s kitchen as we left the men to stay in the house. The only interruption we had was rain and she had to go prepare her containers to get rain water and remove her coffee then we continued with the interview. Their house is made of cement, bricks and they have iron sheets for the roofing, they were not badly dressed and according to the conversation we had, I would classify them in middle class. She was conversant, engaged and out spoken. Asked about titling, she informed me that her husband refused to title because he didn’t want to add her on the title and didn’t see why women should be added on titles. This according to her is the main reason they dropped out although she had talked to her husband to consider the idea, he kept moving in circles in that the day they were supposed to meet them finally for the title, he left the home intentionally and didn’t meet with the titling people. She told me she has her own land that she got as a share from her father and it is in her name.

Together with her husband, they have 4 children, where they live was s share given to the husband form his father but they also have a banana plantation. She told me her husband later kept buying land form his other siblings who had already shifted from the village and preferred to remain where they are so they sold to him and went to buy land adding on what they have where they live. They don’t look to be having a friendly marriage, she told me how when she consulted her husband about him trying to sell land without her knowledge, he beat her and she separated from him for some time then she came back for the sake of her children. Though she said that he has tried to change, he still has a drinking problem and they quarrel a lot. She doesn’t look happy and lively but she sounds to be hardworking. She sells bananas and some other crops and buys coffee form the village people then she sells it to the factory as a means of earning a living. She has lived in the same village all her life; her family is in the neighborhood of her marital home.

**Warm up**

I: How has your day been? Seems like you are just coming from the garden.

R: Yes, I am just coming, I was weeding and cutting in the banana plantation.

I: You have come back early today.

R: There is someone who came and told us to wait for you, so I just went nearby so that I can come back home.

I: That is our colleague who passed by.

R: We thought you were coming tomorrow, in the morning he passed by and told us that you were coming today. So I went to the garden and worked for a little while because I knew you were coming.

I: How was yesterday?

R: It ended well.

I: How is everyone else, I don’t know if there are children.

R: We are fine these days.

I: What was wrong in the past days, seems like you weren’t fine?

R: The children were sick of malaria.

I: Sorry about this, are they now fine?

R: Yes, they are, they have gone to school.

I: Tell me about how your normal day goes like.

R: It goes well for me.

I: Tell me what you do on a normal day.

R: I wake up and prepare the children to go to school, after them going to school I also go to the garden. I come back from the garden at about mid-day, I prepare lunch then do some other home chores that are there which I finish and then get into preparing supper.

I: Don’t the children come back for lunch?

R: No, they eat at school.

I: How many children are they?

R: They are 4, they come back in the evening.

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I: Well done taking care of them and coming from your work today to talk to me.

R: Thanks for appreciating.

**Background, household structure and land ownership**

I: In our first part of the conversation today, we will talk about your household, how you are and what you do and land. You said you have 4 children, how many boys and girls are they?

R: They are all girls.

I: Okay, how old is your first one?

R: She is 10 years old and the last one is 4 years.

I: Well done, I haven’t found any baby breastfeeding means you have done it so fast that you don’t look like you have all the 4 children. Sorry about the rain, your coffee must be taking long to dry.

R: Yes, but it will dry up, the sun is very little because it is mainly a rainy season. When the sun comes up, you put it out to dry.

I: How old are you Mama?

R: I am 30 years old

I: You studied up to what class?

R: I stopped in senior 2.

I: What activities give you money?

R: I trade in coffee.

I: Is this one yours?

R: No, mine is not yet ready. When mine is not ready, I buy for others and dry it but I also have mine.

I: So you buy form people and take to the factory.

R: Yes

I: I am inquisitive to know how you benefit. How do they trust you and they sell to you rather than them taking it themselves to the factory?

R: They always want quick cash, and if they want this kind of money, they don’t have time to dry it. There are some that have coffee trees but they are few so when they pick it up, they can’t make a sack so they decide to sell it very early immediately after picking it.

I: How much do you buy their fresh coffee at?

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R: We buy a kilogram at 600 or 700 shillings.

I: Then when you dry and take to the mill, how much do you get?

R: The clean one after removing the husks, we get 4000 or 4500 form a kilogram.

I: Is there any other way you get from money apart from coffee?

R: In the banana plantation. I sell bananas.

I: Okay. I see other women also harvest their crops and sell to get money.

R: I also sell these others when I get a good harvest.

I: You live here with your 4 girls, you and your husband. Is there anyone else?

R: There is no one else. May be in the last route when your team was moving around, we had my father in law living with us but he died later.

I: Sorry for your loss. You were the ones taking care of him.

R: Yes, my husband is his last born.

I: Meaning this was his home.

R: Yes, and we were living with him, my husband took this part as his share. He didn’t have a wife so he had to get a child to live with him and take care of him.

I: Well done taking care of him, it is rare with other people. How many years have you spent here?

R: 10 years

I: Before you came here, where were you coming from?

R: I am not born from far, I am still in this same sub county and village.

I: For you to go back home, what would bring about this?

R: I go to check on them.

I: You still have both your parents?

R: Yes, they are all alive.

I: What birth number are you?

R: I am the first born of 4 children. But my father had another wife before our mother, she died and then he married our mother. There are other older children of my father.

I: After how long do you go back home?

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R: Because it is near, 6 months can’t go by.

I: Do you go and sleep over or you come back?

R: I can’t sleep there; it is very near here. I usually meet them around. I can go there on foot.

I: I see you didn’t look very far out there.

R: I used to study from very far and I used not to stay in this area but I used to come back in the holidays.

I: Okay. So do you have land that you own?

R: I have one at my home.

I: Were all of you given your shares?

R: He gave us our shares long time when we were young because we had the other older siblings, they wanted to get their shares so he deiced to give us all at once.

I: How big is it?

R: It is close to a quarter acre of land.

I: Is it mainly land or?

R: It is a banana plantation.

I: Do you normally go and cut bananas from your plantation?

R: No, I left it for them to be using it.

I: After giving you, did he put it into writing?

R: He wrote a will and gave it to our uncle.

I: Your uncle is also still living?

R: Yes, my father just did it early and finished even if he died today, we know everything. He did not hide anything form us, he showed us our shares early, he gave our told us he gave our writing to your uncle, he also gave the other children there shares and they sold them and left.

I: After them selling and leaving, haven’t they come back yet to ask him for more?

R: They haven’t come back yet maybe if they come back after he is dead. Even if they come back, we know everything and they sold their shares, he took his will and agreements to the sub county offices and they put a stamp on it.

I: This is the only land you own personally. Is there any that you own with your husband?

R: No, they are his alone.

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I: He is the only one with proof over the land.

R: I found when he had bought his land. There is nothing I have added on yet.

I: Here where you live belongs to your husband. Do you have any approved shares or proof of ownership?

R: I thought that everything he has also belongs to me. For the years I have spent married here and for the children I have given birth to.

I: But there is no where you have a signature.

R: If I found that he had his things already.

I: Did he buy this land where you are?

R: This is his share he received form the father.

I: Does he have any other land apart from this one?

R: Yes, he has. It stretches from her up to that side up.

I: In your view, how big is it?

R: It is 1 acre of land.

I: How about there in the banana plantation where we found him weeding, is it his also?

R: That is for someone else, he does such work to get money.

I: So you have a house here and a plantation.

R: Yes, and we have another banana plantation up there. Our land is one.

I: What do you mean by this?

R: It is all together and we don’t have any land on the side. His father gave him 1 acre of land, then he added on through buying land from his older siblings. It all becomes one piece of land.

I: How big is the land he bought form his siblings?

R: It is big and I have never measured it.

I: Tell me according to what you see.

R: They are close to 2 more acres which makes it 3 acres of land altogether.

I: I would love to know why his siblings sold to him.

R: You know when you grow old, you want your family to be close to one side together. They sold their plots to him and went to buy their side where they live. One of them is ahead of us.

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Then the other one shifted and went to Nyabushozi.

I: Does he have all the writings showing these transfers of land?

R: His father left him with a will.

I: And the one he bought from his siblings?

R: He has the agreements.

I: It is true people want to be together so I understand why they left.

R: Having your land together as one big piece is better than having scattered pieces.

I: Okay. Is there any other person that works on your land apart from you?

R: It is only us.

**General land**

I: In this part that we have moved to, it is about land in general. We would love to get your thoughts on land in general. How do people come about to own land in this village generally?

R: They buy it.

I: How about for those who own land but have not bought it, how have they acquired it?

R: Their fathers have given it to them and others when their parents die they leave them with the land or for those who shift and go elsewhere, they can leave them with the land.

I: Most of those in this village have land through, buying, wills or?

R: All of them are in here.

I: In what ways can someone access and use land that they do not own?

R: You rent it or someone gives it to you that you take care of it so you cultivate it and you take the harvest. You just keep on looking after his land.

I: Is it often that people give others land to take care of it on their behalf?

R: Not really, of late there are very many people in this village, this is not here but if you are lucky, you can only get land to rent and it is becoming harder these days because the land is getting scarce.

I: Why is the land getting scarce?

R: Because we have a good road and we are closer to the town, many people have come in here and bought land. People love it because of the transport availability.

I: Can someone use land maybe cultivate it but not pay? Is it possible?

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R: No, you have to pay money or if they grow crops, they share the harvest.

I: If someone wanted to sell land that he owns, can he sell it or he must first consult someone?

R: It depends on how he carries his family, but you have to ask your family and spouse before. Some talk to their friends as well and get counsel.

I: Supposing the land is in his names on an agreement, why can’t he sell as he wants since the land is in his name?

R: Even though I don’t have a signature, and I watch him sell and sell where will the children am giving birth to go or how will they survive. He has to consider his children and family before.

I: Let us say someone has land in this village but they don’t live on it, so they still maintain control over it?

R: It remains his land and none can touch it.

I: If there comes someone who wants to use it, how can they go about it?

R: You can ask the people close to the land and they tell you on how to reach him and he allows you and if he doesn’t allow, you can’t use it.

I: When someone says this is family land, how do you understand it?

R: I think it is land for the family and everyone can do something that they want to on it.

I: I would love to know who you mean when you say everyone.

R: The ones born in that family plus the land owner.

I: Who is the land owner then?

R: For example, me, the land is all in my husband’s name meaning he is the owner. We can use it all of us as a family, me and the children I have given birth to.

I: What if he wants to sell this land, does he have to first consult you?

R: He is the owner but if he wants to sell he has to first ask and if we refuse then he can’t sell.

I: Supposing he is no longer around, will it still be family land?

R: Yes, it will be. If he is not around then I am around.

I: Have you rented land before?

R: Yes

I: How big have your rented?

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R: Quarter an acre.

I: What have you planted there?

R: Millet.

I: Is there any agreement for this renting?

R: You just pay money then you go to the garden to dig.

I: This is all you do

R: Yes

I: Have sold or bought land before?

R: No.

I: When your husband was buying form his siblings were you here?

R: I found when he had finished buying. I just see his agreements.

I: For you to own land as a woman, what does it mean to you?

R: It means that I was born to my father and mother so I am of that family and they gave me land so that it can help in the days to come.

I: Assuming it is land you have acquired but not through a share from your parents, what would it mean to you?

R: Most of the time, tomorrow if the marriage fails I go there and do my own things. This is why I can’t sell my share and bring it here. If I happen to sell my share that side and I bring the money here and we buy land with my husband and out it in our names, it means tomorrow we will share it. It rather remains there at home, if I ever fail, I will go there. You can’t just trust life, should the world change, I may find that I am not still here.

I: In your view, what benefits are there in having a woman’s names included on such land documents?

R: You see the world changes, if you agree you can take that agreement to the bank as leverage and get a loan and buy another piece of land or do something else. If these marriage problems arise, a man can tell you that the land is his so you should go away but if as a lady you are on the documents you have a right to stay and grown your children from there. Also if a man wants to sell it without asking your first, you can stand up and refuse him to sell so that that land remains and takes care of your children. If you are not any document, it can be hard to pass through these scenarios but if you are there it is easy for you to get through them even if it means arguing in the law so that this land remains for your children to have something for themselves tomorrow.

I: Do you think there would be any disadvantage for including a woman’s names

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on these land documents?

R: They say where there is good, bad can’t fail to come, but I think the problems in this are not many.

I: What problems could arise from having a woman’s name on these documents?

R: If the woman doesn’t want to settle and get married she may steal form the man. You find a man marrying a woman but she comes with a plan not to get married and settle into having family but to take things form the marriage like land at the end and she gains. This could come about.

I: Do you hope to inherit more land in the future?

R: At home, it is finished. Maybe for the man though I don’t have ownership proof. It also depends, if he refuses I can’t inherit it.

I: You mean he van fail to give you yet you are his wife?

R: He can decide to give the children and refuses to give me.

I: Are people fearful or do they worry about losing their land?

R: When someone is neighboring a rich man, he steals their land.

I: How do they steal it?

R: When your boarders are near each other, he keeps shifting the boundary marks like *omugorora.*

I: Has this happened in this village?

R: Yes.

I: How was this resolved, did the person report?

R: They reported but the rich man will win the poor man because he has money to keep giving bribes.

I: What things are people putting into place to avoid losing land like this?

R: Those who are able that I see are trying to get title and mark stones in their land. But these are not many because I hear processing titles cost much money. Others that are not able still have their agreements but these are the fights that don’t end. They go to the chairman Lc1 and they put back the demarcations then again the wrangle comes back.

I: If you are able to get more land, in what way would you access it?

R: If I have money and I buy it

I: Thanks Mama for telling me about this. I would love to know if you have family land.

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R: The banana plantation and here.

I: Do you have any approved shares?

R: I don’t know yet but he showed me my part of the planation where he said I would cut bananas from that part. Because the banana plantation is big, he divided it into parts. One part he said I can cut food for the family, in the other one he told me to cut and sell and get money and the other part is his and he said he will also cut bananas from there and sell to get his own money.

I: Okay. How big is your part where you get food for the family and the one where you get your personal money from?

R: These two are bigger than his side.

I: I would love to know, if you sell from your side, do you tell him how much or he allowed you to keep it as a woman?

R: There are certain things we can wanting as women that we don’t ask form them, so I take care of these. When the bananas are many and I get more money, both of us decide on how to use it whether we pay for the children school fees but we see what it has gone to do.

I: How about when he sells from his part, does he tell you about it?

R: Yes, we know that the money has gone to do this.

**Baseline awareness of titles.**

I: Thanks Mama for explaining all of that to me. In this part, we would like to know your thoughts on title and titling. What does a title mean to you?

R: I understand it like how you have an agreement. They do the same thing.

I: They do the same thing meaning that there is no difference between the both of them.

R: They are different

I: How are they different?

R: The agreement is just a written paper but for the title, they come and plant stones demarcating your land.

I: In your view, of what use if the title?

R: If you have a title, your neighbors can get into your land because you have evidence of your land.

I: Is there any other use of the title apart from not taking your land?

R: Like I told you that if someone wants to sell land not using the agreements I told you that I have no signature on, if I am on the title, this means that the land is for the both of us.

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He can’t sell the land without asking me or telling me what he is going to use it for. Also if a man chooses to marry another woman, he can’t give her a share without the both of you agreeing, you first have to agree before giving her a share.

I: Okay. What have you liked about this titling process?

R: I loved it but I don’t know about my husband?

I: Were you apart of the tiling process?

R: Yes, but we didn’t get a title.

I: Please tell me why you didn’t.

R: They came and passed by us educating us. When we reached at the end, my husband refused.

I: In your view, why do you think that your husband refused at the end?

R: He said that he can’t get his land and put into the names of a woman.

I: I would love to get this clearly; you were asked to title together?

R: I think he understood it that way that we were supposed to be on it together and he couldn’t allow.

I: Were you given any condition before you get a title?

R: From the way they were educating us, they used to tell us that on the title you sign and also your wife signs on it too. After this he said that he can’t get his title and add a woman’s name on it. Just like you would say that you can’t make your agreement and your wife also puts a signature. This how I saw that it was.

I: When he refused, how did this affect you as a wife?

R: What would I have done, I just left it and kept quiet but it made me angry because I knew that if they put this land in a title, this land will safe and even though I am not around tomorrow and he is also not around, my children can be safe.

I: sorry about this. In the end it isn’t your land and there is not much you can do. Is there a way he first sat with you to tell you why he didn’t title?

R: No, he didn’t explain anything to me neither did he tell them anything or that maybe he doesn’t want to. Whenever they be coming, he would not be around and if they tell us that they are coming on this day and he has his plans, he goes away. They would not find him here.

I: In your view, do you think women prefer it to be on titles with their husbands?

R: Yes.

I: What reasons lead them into loving it?

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R: It is what I was telling you about. If you are on the title, you know that the land is safe for your children should you be away tomorrow even if their uncles come to take it. No one else can touch it, it will be for your children because they have their proof of a title and even if they report in the case that their uncle wants to grab it form them, or another person in the neighborhood wants to take it from them, it becomes easy for them when they have their title to argue and win that case on the land.

I: So you would have loved it to be on the title.

R: Yes.

I: What advantages would it be there in having both a husband and wife on a title?

R: It helps you know and have an assurance that whatever you are doing is for your husband and children but if it is not that then you have no hope to stand.

I: Why do you think a husband would decide not to put his wife on a title?

R: Most men have their aim of old to dis respect the woman not to be on land. You may find that he wants to bring another woman in the future. He knows he can do anything on this land as he likes.

I: Before meeting these people that have been educating you on titles, how is it that people in your village got titles?

R: I don’t understand the process they used to go through well.

I: In general, what do you think people in your village think about titles?

R: Most people like them but they know that they are bought at a high price.

I: Do most of the people have title or they don’t?

R: Most people don’t have them.

**Intra household discussion and bargaining**

I: Thanks for telling me that. In our next section we want to know if you had any conversations about titling with your husband and how the whole journey has been. When they came and told you they wanted to give you a title, is there any conversation you had with your husband?

R: Like how we are seated here together, the other time there was a woman who talked to us like this. When we finished talking, he would ask me about what we were talking about or how it went trying to investigate. I refused to tell him because I didn’t want him to know what I was saying and he also didn’t tell me what he said. Could I tell him that I said your refused to title because of this and that, no.

I: After this, what other conversation do you remember having with him?

R: I told him that we need to put this land in title, and because I think he still had his heart of

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not including a woman; he told me that we don’t understand these things well, tomorrow you may find that when we want to sell land it might be hard for us or if we find somewhere better than this and we want to shift, it will be hard. And that when you have a title and you later want to make some changes, you have to engage in money.

I: Okay. You have told me that you have been with your husband in marriage for 10 years, how has his journey been for you?

R: It can’t all go well, sometimes you reach somewhere and you are in a good life and somewhere along the way it gets bad.

I: Give me an example about this if you don’t mind.

R: The good times is when you are conversing and agreeing together and you are planning one thing. Along the way the bad moments come in and you find that he no longer plans with you.

I: Even when these bad moments come, what has caused you to persevere?

R: They are my children.

I: Meaning if it were not for the children you would have gone.

R: Yes

I: You say if it is not for your children, you would have gone away. What reason would have led you to leave long time?

R: He used to not take care of me and give me money, sometimes I don’t know where he takes his money sometimes when we have issues.

I: Have you ever separated from your husband?

R: Yes

I: For how long?

R: For a whole month. We had fought and he had beaten because I refused to allow him to sell land.

I: Did you go with the children?

R: I leave his children with him, when am going I don’t go with them.

I: thanks for telling me about that. Do you feel that your husband supports you as a wife in the things that you do?

R: This has time for me, you find him supporting you in some times and other times he doesn’t.

I: In the times he is supporting you, in what ways does he do it?

R: He pays for the children school fees and the scholastic materials. When I tell him that we

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buy this and you add it in the home it gives me hope.

I: How do you compare to the other marriages out there in your view?

R: When I am doing research to see what happens out there, while we are talking I find that we are the same somewhere and they don’t be the same somewhere. I tell myself to be patient maybe it will change.

I: And you, do you feel that you support and encourage your husband in what he does?

R: When the children want some things and I have the money, I give them their needs. At times when we want to buy some things, and I have money I give it to him. When I take care of myself sometimes, I be helping him because it is him supposed to take care of me.

I: How would you compare this to other marriages out there?

R: These days, a woman you have to take care of yourself. I think it is now a trend, men no longer take care of their wives.

I: Thanks for telling me about this. Who makes the major decisions in your household?

R: Both of us.

I: Do you agree together or there is one with an upper hand?

R: All heads can’t be the same, we can sit and agree together but whatever the man decides after that is what we will go with.

I: What major decision have you made recently that you remember?

R: He has always wanted these things of selling land, you find that if he has anything small to do, he thinks of selling the land. The last time, I stopped him from selling the land, I told him that if he wanted money to clear debts because when we had lost his father, there was a lot of expenditure so we accumulated many debts. I told him to take one agreement and take it to the bank and they give him money and he pays the debts then after the bananas we will sell, we repay the loan but the land remains there. He accepted for this one, it is the recent decision we have done.

I: The way you make Many decisions; do you think other marriages are similar to you in the way they make decisions?

R: Many people discuss and agree together. Most of the marriages that you see that are well all the time, they agree all the time. If there is no agreement, that is when you have our marriages of fighting all the time.

I: Thanks for talking to me this far.

**Gender norms around land**

In this next part of our conversation, we know that land is more associated with men than

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women. We would love to hear your thoughts about land and women. We don’t have any truth in this but we want to get your thoughts on this. Are there women who own land in this village?

R: Yes

I: In what ways have they acquired it?

R: Some have bought it in their own money while others are given shares by their parents and they have it on the side.

I: This land that they have on the side, do their husbands know about it or it is in secret?

R: There are some who have land with their husbands, others have it alone and sometimes the husband knows while others don’t know about it.

I: Like the share that you have, does your husband know about it?

R: Some men know about it but the woman can’t give it to him.

I: So you are saying that some of these women own the land with their husbands while others have it alone.

R: Yes.

I: In your view, do you think women should be allowed to own land in this village?

R: Yes

I: Why do you say so?

R: Whenever the woman fails, it can help her and she can do something for herself. You see these days, educating children came, her child may reach the end and she fails to pay the school fees so she can sell it and pay for her the school fees to see that she can also attain what she wants in life.

I: Is there another reason you would want for it to be allowed?

R: Yes

I: Which one is this?

R: If you disagree and have misunderstandings with your husband and you separate then you can go and live there on your land.

I: In your view, do you think women would prefer it having land with their husbands or alone?

R: some love it having it with their husbands while others prefer having it on their own.

I: For those who love to have it with their husbands, what reasons would make them do this that one would prefer that if they have land it is with their husband?

1:02:47

R: These are the ones that trust each other. These are the ones I told you discuss and agree with each other and they are one. If you see that you agree with each other, and everything you do it together, you are assured that it helps you every time.

I: What about the ones that want to have it alone, what reasons push them to do this?

R: Sometimes you have land with the man, and when you separate he cheats you and steals the land.

I: Even when there is proof of ownership?

R: There are some that have it both but they don’t have any evidence and there are those with evidence. If there is evidence she can pass this one. If they decide to trust each other but without proof, they fail.

I: Supposing you want to sell land here, is it the man that will decide? Or what you will plant and where you will plant it like beans or millet?

R: He first asks me these days. Earlier before, he used to decide on his own.

I: What do you think changes him so that he starts asking you?

R: I told him that if he keeps selling alone, I will report him to the authorities then he will divide for the children their part and then he will stay with his part which he can sell. Because I couldn’t allow my children to be there suffering with nothing.

I: When you had separated and he came to your home, did you sit as a family to resolve the issues?

R: Yes.

I: What was the main reason that had taken you back to your home, if you don’t mind telling me.

R: He had beaten me, he wanted to sell the land and I refused.

I: Has he ever tried to touch you again?

R: No, he knows that if he beats me again I will go back home and he will not find someone to help him with the children.

I: Do you have any people you can reach out to should this happen so that you talk out your issues?

R: When my father in law was still alive, he is the one we would talk to.

I: The way you explained to me about family land, do you think a woman has shares on this land?

R: Yes, they should also have a share.

1:07:03

I: In your view, does most family land belong to men more than it does to women, or they have the same share?

R: It depends on the way the man is. There is a man who accepts for the woman to share and half a part of it and there is one who doesn’t allow.

I: In marriage, if a man is going to sell this family land whether there is an agreement or not, does he have to first get the wife’s approval?

R: Yes, because they live on it together.

I: Do you think that widows are allowed to remain on the land after their husband’s death?

R: Yes, they are allowed.

I: Is there a reason as to why they are allowed or it is just that way?

R: Once she had a husband, and the husband is now no more, it now becomes her land.

I: This is whether there is a title or agreement or if there is none?

R: Yes.

I: Supposing that this man gave birth to children out there that you don’t know about, can they come and share on this land?

R: They can get.

I: With their mother too?

R: If he was his wife too, he married him and she has his children.

I: And if this widow doesn’t have any children, can she stay on this land still?

R: Yes, she was his wife.

I: When the widow also passes on, whose land does it become?

R: If she has children it goes to them.

I: Suppose the children are young just like the age of yours, who takes care of it?

R: Any one can take care of them but when these children grow up tomorrow, the land is theirs.

I: Who are these people that normally take care of them?

R: Their father’s family can decide among themselves who will take care of them.

I: Let us say that this land you found your husband with it, or you acquire it together or if there are children. Does this make any difference in the widow staying on the land?

1:12:06

R: It doesn’t matter; she has to remain on the land.

I: Are these widows allowed to remarry?

R: Yes, if the woman is young and she hasn’t given birth or even if she has given birth, and she still wants to give birth I think she can get married again.

I: If she gets a new husband, can she bring him and they live there or she has to go elsewhere?

R: It depends on the family.

I: Whose family?

R: For the deceased husband, if it is a hard family she can’t put him there.

I: Have you see it happen that the widow brings the new husband on that land?

R: Yes, though they are not many.

I: This means you have them here?

R: Yes, but when her children if they were young grow up, life changes and they can chase him away.

I: Apart from the reason that these women are young, what other reasons cause them to remarry?

R: I think they don’t have enough care. She may have the money but she has young children and she doesn’t have enough to educate them.

I: Does this mean that the new man can help her with this?

R: Yes

I: In your village, have you heard it that after a widow losing her husband, he male in-laws came to try grabbing the land for her.

R: Yes

I: Tell me more about this.

R: The woman lost her husband but she had not given birth to children yet, they chased her away from the land saying that she didn’t have any child there and that she should go away form the land since it was given to him by their father. They sent her away so that they could get their brother’s land again. They went to court to argue.

I: At last, did she move or she remained with her land?

R: the husband didn’t leave any will behind or any other writing.

1:16:12

I: So was the woman chased away?

R: Yes, she was.

I: Do you think that if she had children, she would be left to remain there?

R: They would have been children for that family so where would she carry them to. She would have remained there and taken care of them.

I: Have you heard an example where the woman had children? Did they chase her away too and try to grab land form her?

R: Also her, the husband died and the father ion law was still alive so he tried to chase away the daughter in law. The land had proof but she didn’t have any evidence, the land was given to her husband by the father, so they shared the land and gave her the children’s share and they remained with the rest.

I: I have understood. The way you have seen widows being treated, has it changed in the recent time?

R: These days, it is much better. I don’t remember much from the past.

I: I am inquisitive to know what you would hear about the past.

R: These days, women were given freedom.

I: Who gave them the freedom?

R: President Museveni who fought for it.

I: The freedom they have, what is it for?

R: They now have decision in their families, there is somewhere that she can also speak. If the woman refuses the man to sell the land, he can’t sell it. The people that come to buy, first ask the if the wife has signed and if she refuses they can’t buy it.

I: In your view, what happens to women after them losing their husbands to death?

R: Not all families are the same, I still think it depends on how that family is. You may find that in one, they mistreat the daughters in law accusing them of becoming prostitutes, eating away the land.

I: Do you think there are other things that happen to these women aside from the family turning against her?

R: If the man leaves her with the children and they did not have a good income, she fails in taking care of the children and you find them not going to school, not feeding right and the whole situation is not good for them.

I: In general, the way widows are treated in this village, does it make you happy or you would want to see something change?

1:20:29

R: Like I told you that families are not the same, you may find a family treating her well and then you find another one with bad manners treating her badly so I would love these ones to change.

I: What would you love them to do in your opinion?

R: Government should put there a law for the widows to remain with the land whether she had proof of ownership or she didn’t buy it with her husband. If he was her husband, that is it and she has to stay with what he left for her with their children.

I: About the women who have separated or divorced with their husbands, do they stay on the land after?

R: If she separates with the husband, she has to go elsewhere.

I: Why is this?

R: The reason that brought about the separation can allow you to stay there near each other. If you have separated, then you have separated for real.

I: For a woman like this, do they give her a share of the land?

R: If she has anything in writing or a title that talks about the both of them then they can give her on the land and she decides whether she wants to sell it and shift or if she wants to build for her children there. They give her.

I: And in the case that she doesn’t have any?

R: For anything that you have no proof about, they will cheat you and you go with nothing. Even for the years that you spent there working, you come out with nothing.

I: Have you had of any person that has separated and they sent her away from the land?

R: Yes, I have.

I: Tell me about what happened.

R: The woman had her husband but then she started seeing another man outside their marriage and he impregnated her. This outside man got a child from her, the main husband told her to take the child to the other man and she refused. The man went to report to the LC chairmen 1 and 2 and they went ahead up to the sub county level. It seems that the woman was giving bribes to stay here, so I heard that there is this organization called Mifumi in Mbarara where the man went to. They took the case there, and they kept going there to argue the case until they told the woman to go to the man she gave birth to this child.

I: She had given birth to children in her home too and also for the other man?

R: Yes

I: Did she leave, was she given anything?

1:24:25

R: She left and she was given nothing. She left these other children behind.

I: These things that happen to these women that have separated from their husbands, would you like to see something change in the way they are treated or the current way is okay?

R: It depends on how you separated, for this who separated like that, they were right not to give her anything. You are married then again you give birth elsewhere; can the two families work together.

I: If the problem we say is on the man for the separation, do they take away the land and children from the woman?

R: As you see that most times the men decide on their own, he can choose to say that this land is mine and he chases you away and you go away and even leave your children behind. This happened many times in this village, women leaving their homes.

I: Okay. So did these men remarry?

R: Yes.

I: This is sad. In your view, who always is the cause of the separation, is it men or women?

R: Sometimes you will find that the man is the one with the problem and other times you find that the woman is the one with the problem. Both sides can cause it.

I: Tell me about some examples that you think cause these separations in marriages.

R: If a man is drinking alcohol, these men normally fight for nothing at times. Or if the man is adulterous, the family can’t stand, it will fall apart.

I: Is there any change that you would like to see in the way these women are treated or the current way is acceptable?

R: If they separate on agreement there is no problem, when the reason for separation is big.

I: I would love to know when these women separate from their husbands, doe their families, neighbors and people in the village treat them well or not?

R: They mistreat them.

I: How would you want them to be treated?

R: They should first know the reason for their separation from both sides and stop making quick judgements before they know the whole truth.

I: Who are these that make quick judgements?

R: When a family is together, you find that the man has not taken time to think on his own but his family forces him to make that decision. This is because men listen to their parents or elders. You find their elders killing the marriage.

1:28:39

I: In your own view, what do you think makes men refuse to add their wife’s name on the land title generally?

R: They are the same reasons I had told you about that maybe he wants to sell the land and use it alone as he wants or he has some plans of marrying another woman in the future.

I: Do you think there will be any problem when he doesn’t put you on the title?

R: If he gets a title and he hasn’t put me there, do you think I will trust him much. I will no longer trust him as such.

I: So you start preparing yourself to go home.

R: I don’t know because I don’t know what will happen, so I have to keep also doing my things alone since there is no agreement. When I harvest from a season, just like I trade in coffee, the money I get from there I keep it and you find that I will start buying my own things on the side.

I: Mama, if a woman was able to have land with her husband, do you think this will decrease conflict in their marriage?

R: They can decrease.

I: Tell me in what ways it would decrease.

R: The conflict will decrease because for every activity that he is going to do on that land, you will first share your thoughts together then you agree and either of you can do whatever activity they wanted to do on the land.

I: Do you think it can increase conflict or misunderstandings in a marriage because you are able to have land with your husband?

R: If it is and I have land with my husband I just think they decrease.

I: Give me some examples of these misunderstandings that might decrease now that you have land with your husband.

R: He can no longer sell land without asking me first, and if I don’t allow then he can’t sell.

**Land disputes**

I: Let us now get into the last part of our discussion as we talk about land disputes. In your view, what is the most common cause of disputes on land?

R: Now like when I told you that I had separated with my husband because of the issue of land, he went to sell and he didn’t tell me. When the buyers came, they asked him for the wife’s signature. He came and told and I refused, I asked him why he had not told me earlier and decided to tell me then. I also asked him what the money was going to be used for since he wanted to sell. I refused still and told him that he should have talked about it earlier and also given me the reason why we’re selling because I couldn’t watch the land go into things I didn’t know about. This is when he beat me that I refused to sign for him so he could be given money.

1:33:50

Here you see that there is disagreement, and you can be beaten to death because you may not know how he will beat you. This is what I think has caused many disputes on land.

I: If there is such a dispute, is there a way it van be resolved within the family?

R: I think it can end because when I see how I was; it has changed somehow. When he kept finding people who had come to buy land and they would ask him for my signature yet he knows if he doesn’t tell me, I will not sign he then started a system of asking me first. When he sees that I have refused, he also leaves whatever it was he wanted to do.

I: When you had this conflict, did you sit with any one like elders in the family?

R: We did not sit with people from his family because many of them were the ones that were supporting him in what he was doing. Not all the time that when you are born together you will like each other, there are some siblings that just want to see you go and down and lose whatever you have. I went home, he came and we sat with my family.

I: When do you decide to engage the village people in such disputes?

R: We have never called them.

I: Speaking about land disputes generally, is there a point when they call these village people to help resolve it?

R: I see other people outside calling them to help. If they fail then they proceed to other places of authority to help.

I: Let us say one side of the people involved in the dispute has a title, is there a way this can help end the conflict?

R: The title will be showing their boundaries and where the land passes.

I: Okay. In general, these people that have land security problems, what would you advise be done for them or how can they be helped?

R: I would say they look for a title, but now for us whom they had visited and he refused, you who have come can help us counsel one of the two of us who has refused so that he goes back on the line and he allows for us to get a title.

I: Is there any other thing you would suggest for these others who don’t have the money to get titles, how should they be helped?

R: I would ask the government to help them and process for them titles at a cheaper price. The money they put may be affordable for the lowest person so that all can get titles.

I: Thanks Mama for explaining to me all this. Thanks for welcoming me and conversing with me I know you are in your lunch preparation time. As we end, do you have any question about what we have discussed today?

R: What I wanted to ask is to know if you came back to also put us back into the processes he

1:38:19

had refused, or?

I: Like I had told you in the start, we are here visiting people seeing how things have been. For example, we didn’t know the reason as to why you had not got the title hearing both the man and woman’s side. Also for those who got them, to see how things have been for them. All this we are getting, we will take back and see what the next step will be. If it is for coming back, again they will tell you when it happens.

R: How long will it take for you people to come back?

I: I don’t know if they will come back or not. If they are to come back, just like the man came and told you that we were coming, they will tell you before and tell you if they are to come back.

R: What if we are blessed and they decide to come back and they find him changed, will they measure the land again or?

I: I will also go and ask about this, I don’t have an answer, it is a good question for someone to have refused the other time but changed their mind this time. I will ask about it and they will see how to handle it or reply back. Thanks so much, here is your gift, we are moving on to other places.

R: Thank you.

1:40:39