**INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT**

Interviewer Name: Fiona Atukunda

Interview date: 23/09/2019

Name of respondent: Slivia

H.H I. D: 5860061

Title status: Joint titling

Interview start time: 9:30 am

Interview stop time: 11:08 am

Age: 37

Marital status: Married

No. of children: 5

No. of people living in the household: 7

Occupation: Farmer

Second source of income: None

Highest level of education: Primary 7

No. of years living in the village: 19

Roofing material: Iron sheets

Housing material: Poles and mud, painted inside and outside and with a rammed earth floor

Interview Duration: 1:38:08

The interview took place in the respondent’s house, she didn’t go to the garden today as she was waiting for us but her husband had gone to do some work in the centre. They have plastic chairs in the living room, it is also painted, according to the village standard it is a good house. There were interruptions of the respondent’s son coming to ask for a phone and refuse to leave the mother sometimes. I would stop and we both talk to him to leave or he goes with her phone. Their home is on the roadside, on the way to the trading centre. According to the conversation about the number of plots she has with her husband and the farming they do, having afforded to have their child in a boarding school and the business that her husband does, they look to be middle class earners.

The respondent lives with 5 children and the husband, one of the children is a daughter to the brother in law, she goes away during holidays and comes back when it is school time. She was engaged in the conversation and would laugh through different times through, I think this is her personality, she exudes a light presence. She knew about the title offer and was happy that they had got given that title require much money to acquire. They have 4 plots with the husband but decided to title the one where they live as the others are far away from their home.

**Warm – Up**

I: Okay madam let us start our conversation. How was the weekend, Sunday yesterday, how did it end?

R: It was great.

I: What else happened?

R: We went to church for prayers at 10am and came back.

I: I have ever been here, were visiting coffee farmers but I think they are more in the centre

R: Okay, I think you didn’t reach this side

I: You had no visitors yesterday or you stayed at church the whole day?

R: No, we had no visitors, we came back here for lunch.

I: And today how has the morning began?

R: There is no issue today.

I: And the children, are they all these?

R: No, there are others, they have gone to school. One is at Tropical school in *Bwizibwera* town and the others are at Integrated primary school (we passed by it on our way to her home).

I: How does he or she go to that town, it is quite a distance maybe they have a bicycle or you are paying motor cycle transport for them.

R: No, she sleeps there, it is a boarding school and being a girl she can’t handle going every morning and back.

I: Okay. How are you personally?

R: I am okay

I: And your husband?

R: He is there also, he has no issue

I: Had we not come today, how does your normal Monday be?

R: We would spend the day in the garden

I: Okay because I have been seeing rain falling in many places and it has been raining.

**00:02:04**

**Background, house hold structure and land ownership**

I: Mama, how old are you?

R: 37 years

I: What job gives you money?

R: Farming in the seasons, when the season is done then I don’t have much to do

I: What do you normally sell to get money?

R: Beans and ground nuts but if it is not in season, you don’t get money.

I: So this is the only way you get money from.

R: Maybe also my husband trades in goats and if it is coffee season then he buys and sells it.

I: Does he also farm?

R: Yes, he does.

I: Now Mama, are you married alone your husband or there is another?

R: There is no other woman at all

I: Okay am pleased to know that. How many children do you have?

R: We have 5 children

I: Including this boy, he is very active, prepare for him later. How about the girl

R: She has just passed by; she is my sister in-law’s who lives next t us

I: Is there anyone else living here, sometimes families have workers or bring their brother or sister’s children to stay with them.

R: There is another daughter of my other brother in law who stays here most of the time but also leaves in the holiday

I: How many boys and girls are they in your 5 children?

R: The boys are 2 and the girls are 3

I: This is good. Mama, how many years did you spend in school?

R: 7 years, I stopped in primary seven

**00:04:07**

I: In this village here, how many years have you spent?

R: About 16 years, I came here in 2000

I: This was the year you got married?

R: Yes

I: Let us count from 2000 up to now, they are 19 years.

R: Eh, they are 19 years, I have become an old woman now

I: So you told me that there is no other person who lives here apart from the ones you said.

R: Yes

I: When you had not yet come here in 2000, where were you living?

R: I was living at my birth place

I: Where is this that you were born from?

R: I am from *Sheema;* the village is called *Nyakanunu.*

I: I have encountered many wives coming from *Sheema* district

R: Okay.

I: How long does it take you to move from here to your birth place?

R: It doesn’t happen often because I don’t have my mother there, I have my father only there and his wife. It can even take 4 years or 3 years or 2 years.

I: Okay, what about in time, how long does it take you?

R: Like 1 and a half hours using a motorcycle, but does it take this long, an hour may not reach so it might be like 30 minutes.

I: How many plots of land do you own personally?

R: We have with my husband

I: Some women get shares form their parents or buy land on their own. You have none like this?

R: At our home we haven’t shared yet

I: You father is still alive?

**00:08:12**

R: Yes

I: I see. So the ones you have are with your husband.

R: Yes

I: The ones you have with your husband; how many are they?

R: They are 3 of them

I: How did you acquire them?

R: We bought them

I: First tell me about them, is this one also part of the 3

R: No, I had not counted this one. With this one they are 4

I: Tell me how you got this one.

R: My husband bought from his father and we built here

I: Wait, you mean to say this was for your father in law and he sold to your husband or it was his share?

R: He just sold to him. He had given his son a certain part where he didn’t build there so he sold to him this part.

I: How much did he sell it to him for?

R: I don’t remember well, it was about 200,000 shillings

I: How big is it?

R: It is small, like quarter an acre of land.

I: The other part you said his father gave him is how big?

R: It is about half an acre but he also kept buying from his siblings who decided to sell part of their shares next to my husband’s and now it is about an acre of land.

I: And the 3rd piece of land is where, how big is it?

R: It is at *Rwebishoro* (another village). It is almost half an acre

I: Did you buy it or you got it in some other way?

**00:10:29**

R: We bought it

I: And the 4th piece of land where is it and how big is it?

R: It is at *Ihanika* (the trading centre and parish where the respondent lives). It is also almost half an acre of land.

I: All are yours, no one else has ownership of them apart from you and your husband?

R: Yes, no one else.

I: When someone owns land, what does this mean to you?

R: Me I think it means that you can dig your crops for food and also for money.

I: Is there any one that works on your land Mama?

R: It is only us

I: You don’t have this thing where you give to someone like a relative and they use some it?

R: It has ever happened but we use alone these days

I: Who was it and where had you given them?

R: The land at *Rwebishoro,* we had given it to my husband’s mother to be using it for farming. We were not using it but after we built here, we got the land back again.

I: Who makes the important decisions on the land?

R: My husband

I: Tell me about these decisions?

R: Like selling land, selling bananas

I: How about what you will plant and when you will plant it?

R: It is me who makes the decision on these ones

I: Okay, so is it you who makes the final decision, you sit together or he is the final person to decide on this?

R: It is me

I: For all the 4 plots of land you have?

**00:14:12**

R: Yes

**General land**

I: Thank you Mama for the above thoughts we have talked about, now we are going into another part of the conversation. We would love to pick your thoughts on land in general; this includes yours and for other people. Remember there is no right or wrong answer, they will your thoughts and everyone is entitled to theirs. How do you think people in this village own land in general?

R: Owning land, you have to buy it or you are given a share by your parents.

I: Is there any other way of owning land than these?

R: No, even if they give you to use or stay on a piece of land for example, you can’t own it and they will remove you one day.

I: After how long do they remove a person who has been staying on that land?

R: After sometime when the owner wants to use it again

I: I see. In what ways can one get and use land that they don’t own?

R: You can rent it if you are going to farm

I: How does this happen?

R: Half an acre goes for about 80,000 shillings for a season

I: How long is this season?

R: We normally farm twice a year

I: I think there are some months in between when the land is on rest

R: Yes, so a season is 4 months’ long

I: Can someone come and use your land and not pay rent?

R: It is not possible at all

I: You had said you gave land to help your mother in law, aren’t there other people who get such favors?

R: Like a friend, she may be going through a hard situation so you give them they farm on the land and after the season they leave.

I: I have also experienced people that rent land but pay in kind by sharing produce at harvest

**00:16:36**

time with the land owner, does it happen here?

R: It happens here but it is very rare

I: If someone wants to rent their land out, is it possible?

R; Yes, but is it for farming or grazing?

I: For anything, but as long as they want to rent it out to other people?

R: Yes, they can

I: Do they need to consult with any one?

R: They consult with their family so that they are in agreement. I consult with my husband only.

I: What if he refuses

R: If he refuses, we don’t rent it out

I: Meaning he is the last person to decide

R: Yes

I: Do you involve any authorities in renting your land to others who have any kind of agreement?

R: We don’t need any other person as long as me and my husband agree. We don’t do any agreements in renting, we trust the person’s honesty to keep their word. Maybe, if you know something about them for example that they don’t like to pay money at the end of the season or they deny having used your land, this is when you draft something on paper for agreement and evidence sake.

I: And when someone wants to sell land, are they free to do it? Do they need to consult with any one?

R: People can sell their land but for us who have school going children, my husband first has to ask me then we talk about and see what we will do about it. He can’t just be there and decide to sell land without my permission.

I: What if he sells it and doesn’t tell you?

R: We go to the courts of law or to other authorities

I: I see you must first discuss together; this is good for you. You know how most men own land and decide to sell because they have the right without considering their families at times.

I: So, is there any other person he has to consult with aside from you?

**00:19:48**

R: Maybe his friends, he talks to them too but after selling he has to be with an agreement showing that he sold to so and so.

I: Who is involved in signing and agreeing?

R: Chairman puts a stamp, a wife signs and also like 2 or 3 neighbors in the village come and witness.

I: Let us say, someone has land here but lives elsewhere like in Kampala, do they still have control over that land?

R: Yes, they do. For example, we were using the land of brother in-law because he stayed in Kampala with his family but he later on died. We used to farm on that land and had a banana plantation, we were the care takers but he had all the control over his land.

I: Sorry about this, did he have children?

R: Yes, he had them

I: After his death, was this land given to the children?

R: The wife stayed in Kampala, and the things like the shop he had left her with got done and she had no money so time came and she came to the village with the children, we gave the land back to her.

I: So for that kind of land where the owner doesn’t live on it, if someone came and wanted to use it, can they?

R: No, to use it they have to get permission from the owner, or if they know each other and communicated with each other on the phone. For someone in most case to live their land, they live it in someone’s hands like a neighbor or relative.

I: What does Family land mean to you?

R: It is for helping me and my family. When we harvest food like millet or ground nuts we share with my mother in law.

I: Which one do you consider to be family land to you?

R: This one here where we are but if we want to shift and go elsewhere, we can sell this land and get another place where we settle as family land.

I: Thanks for explaining this to me, because for some, family land is where the whole family form grandparents to children and grandchildren meet and come to as home.

**00:22:57**

R: For some you find that on family land, if someone dies they bury them there and it becomes

their original living home and the people that continually live there can’t sell it.

I: But you said they can sell if they want to shift

R: Some can sell but not the part that has their parents’ graveyard.

I: Have you rented land from others?

R: Yes, we have

I: I thought the 4 plots are quite enough for you

R: No, they are not enough.

I: When you rent land, what do you use it for?

R: We rent to grow beans and millet, tomatoes and sometimes cabbages.

I: You rent what size of land?

R: Like where I have been renting for farming is all almost more than half an acre of land

I: What have you planted on this land?

R: I have planted beans and millet

I: You had told me that you have ever bought land, remind me, did you buy all the 4 plots of land?

R: We only bought 3, 1is the one his father had given him and we kept buying small pieces from his 2 siblings near him.

I: When they were receiving their shares from their father, were they given equal shares with the girls?

R: The boys were given equal shares but *Mzeei* (term normally given to older men and also respectful. In this case she meant father in law) gave the girls to share the banana plantation at his home. The banana plantation is not that big but it is enough for them.

I: Have you sold or your husband sold land?

R: Us we sell land and buy new one. You can find that the land you have is small then you sell it and add more money to the one you are given and buy a bigger piece of land.

I: Tell me about when you last sold land.

**00:25:25**

R: It is about a year and some months

I: Where was this?

R: It was in *Rwengoma* (another small village in their parish)

I: So this is where you sold and bought another place?

R: Yes, it was not more than quarter an acre, so we sold and added money we got from my husband’s sale of goats and coffee

I: This means every sell and buy new land regularly?

R: Yes, we usually do that.

I: When you were selling, what ways did you go through?

R: If you want to sell land, you see the chairman and also look for some neighbors

I: Did you sign anywhere on the documents your husband was using to sell land?

R: Yes, I usually sign on selling agreements but not on the buying agreements.

I: Why is this?

R: I don’t know but he just brings the agreement he signed with the seller and shows it to me

I: Who usually signs for him when he is the one buying?

R: He uses witnesses from the village people plus the signatures of the man and woman selling to him

I: So your signature is mainly on the selling agreements?

R: Yes, this where he normally comes to me and he can’t sell without my signature and in buying it’s not easy for him to consider me in signing.

I: I would love to know what owning land means to you as a person to find that this land is owned by you?

R: I don’t have mine as personally but I have with my husband.

I: In this case that you won it with your husband, what does it mean to you?

R: I think it is for helping us as a family, in growing food for sell from which we get school fees to pay for our children.

**00:27:47**

I: Now that you own land with your husband, does it mean that you have the same rights as your husband over it?

R: Yes, if he is to sell it and I refuse, do you think he can go ahead and sell it? No he can’t.

I: He can’t sell it, okay. What other ways can show that this land is owned by so and so?

R: A land title can also confirm who owns land. (The son comes back to pick a pen and asks the mother to put for him a song on her phone). When you put your land in title and there are stones marked in your land.

I: When they are giving a title, they use stones to mark that this land belongs to you

R: Yes.

I: How about those other people you said receive shares from their parents

R: They have a writing showing that the land is theirs. The land owner or family head can find someone they trust and leave these writings with them should they be gone.

I: What if also this person passes on, who then stays with these writings?

R: In a home, there are always 2 people who trust each other, when one leaves the remaining one must be knowing where the other keeps things.

I: Let us say it is husband and wife, husband passes on and wife passes on too, then who remains with the writing?

R: Aren’t there any of your children whom you can tell such things? There is always one who normally knows.

I: But tell me how you wake up one morning and choose whom to tell such details if you have like 5 children?

R: You can tell to the older child the one that is old in age and you discuss with them.

I: Because I think others can ask you why you didn’t trust them as their parent. I understand this now. In your view, share with me the good things that can come out of having a woman’s name listed on any documents of land whether in buying or in selling.

R: Me I say that it is good for the woman know how such things happened because she is supposed to know. It also helps the children know that their mother had hand in the family things. Also should a man try to sell land secretly, you as a woman can report him and when you reach to the authorities they can see our signature on the document and know that worked to get everything together and not just the man.

I: What are the problems that could come out of this, are there any?

**00:32:59**

R: Me I think there are no problems that come

I: So you say there is no problem, okay. Have you inherited land or do you expect to inherit land?

R: I expect to inherit from my father.

I: He hasn’t shared his land yet, not even for the boys?

R: He has only 2 boys, he gave them but one boy was given land which he sold off and ate the money and left. The second boy was the one I follow and he died and now we have remained as girls.

I: Your father hasn’t yet decided to give the girls a share?

R: Yes.

I: So the one who ate his share, he left the land totally, can’t he be given another piece?

R: No, he can’t be given in any way, my father is very tough and cannot. He just wanders around trying to make a living for himself. My father had two wives when my mother died, he remarried and divided his land into two shares, one for my mother and her children and the other for the other woman. On ours, we were there with our two brothers.

I: How many girls are you?

R: 4 and the 2 boys makes us 6

I: Let us imagine that your father is not there tomorrow, who will portion for you the land?

R: If he dies, and that land is there. We can call the authorities and we share it.

I: As of now, who lives on this piece of land for you and your sisters?

R: There is no one, we gave it to our step mother to farm on it whatever she wants.

I: Could you tell me if people fear or worry about losing land in this village?

R: People don’t fear, everyone knows that the land they are on is theirs and that they bought it with their own money and it belongs to them.

I: They don’t fear losing land to any one, for example that the government might come in sometime?

R: the only part I know is there at *Kaariro in Rubindi* (another sub county in Mbarara district) that there is land that people are on that belongs to *Omugabe* (once king of Ankole kingdom which encompasses a few districts I western Uganda)

**00:36:13**

and that one day they will take them off and they will be displaced as the king gets his land again.

I: You mean there is still a kingdom in Ankole, because it was abolished?

R: I don’t know very well but we used to hear it like that

I: Therefore, people here are not fearful at all

R: Yes, they aren’t

I: This is a good thing that has happened to you people. Let’s say you are able to access more land; how would you get it?

R: I would have to buy it with my own money or rent out. Every season we get more land to rent for farming.

I: Do you personally have family land?

R: It is this one where I am with my husband

I: How about the one at your home?

R: I take a long while minus going back even. I can only go back if there is a problem, sometime my father tried to disturb us wanting to sell our land.

I: I thought he gave it to you officially?

R: Because we are only girls and the other boy died while the other ate his share, he can want to minimize us thinking we don’t have that much say.

I: When he does this, how do you get to know?

R: There is a sibling of mine that side and sometimes our step mother tells us, he had tried to sell it gain of late and my step mother told us, I was supposed to go today but I had to wait for you people. He normally exchanges land for something that he needs but this land never gets back, he sells it in time. When my sister visited, my step mother told her and she confronted my father and told him that he can’t do such a decision alone, he has to first sit with us all as his daughters and we all agree.

I: This not easy but I see you have a relationship with your step mother.

R: Yes, it is there minimally but as regards the land she also benefits because she uses it for farming so she had to tell us what my father was doing or she would also miss out if my father sold it. My sister went and removed the sticks he had put in our land and threw them away. There is coffee in some part of that land which my step mother picks and sells to get some money.

**00:38:46**

I: How many children does she have?

R: She has 3 children

I: Doesn’t your father work? Like do farming or have something he gets money out from?

R: He does, he can go work like for a month but when he eats the money and it is done then he comes back to sell land. He started selling land long time ago, when my mother died he started selling off piece by piece. When we grew up and were understanding we stopped him from selling off any more land. I want to go there and we sort this issue.

I: Thank you very much for telling me about this. The part we are getting into now is to know your thoughts and understanding of titles. We will talk about titles; how you understand them. Remember, there is no right or wrong answer We don’t have any truth that it is this one, rather we are visiting different people to pick their thoughts because everyone has theirs.

**Baseline awareness of titles**

I: How did the titling process go, the people that came and everything that happened?

R: Some people came and toured our land, I don’t remember the year but I think it’s about 4 years when they came. They asked us how we use our land, how we dig, the measured our gardens and land. They explained to us, they first took our names and village names, then they came and told us that we had gone through to get a title. They came back and taught us on land and said that they were going to give us a title. Next time they came, they planted stones marking our land then after that, they brought the title and gave it to us. They used to ask us questions together with my husband most especially asking us who was next to our land so that we don’t take their land.

I: They told you that they were coming from which organization?

R: (Respondent laughs) I have forgotten about it.

I: Who did they come with when planting the stones?

R: They came with a bigger team but I didn’t personally know any of them.

I: Weren’t you scared because you didn’t know them?

R: We allowed them because we had started the process with them. We called our neighbors with whom we boarder the land with and we all agreed where the stones were put.

I: By that time, you told them about the 4 plots?

R: Yes, but the title was given to this land where we are now.

I: Would you consider getting title for this any of the other plots you have?

**00:43:04**

R: Yes, all you need is to go to get the money required then you go to the people that issue them and they come and put stones for you.

I: Okay I get it, thank you. Now Mama, what difference is there between a title and other documents that show proof of ownership for example wills or agreements?

R: The title is much better than these because it is a heavier evidence of your land. No one can even come to remove you from your land if you have a title as proof.

I: So where did you keep your title?

R: We kept it in this house

I: There are some people I know that can’t dare keep it in the house for fear of being stolen, they would rather keep it at their bank.

R: Eh, me I say that you can take a title to the bank if you want to get a loan and you sue it as leverage?

I: I asked them the same and was told they can keep it without you getting a loan from them. Some fear to keep it at home because it might get stolen or lost or in the case that their house is small or when they are just scared that an elder child might find it and run away with it to sell the land.

R: Oh yes, it is possible for the older child to do so thinking that they will take that land tomorrow.

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

R: Yes

I: Why?

R: But there is when you find that a man doesn’t want the woman to be on that title

I: Why do you think so?

R: Some have misunderstanding in their home

I: For example, like which ones

R: You may find that a man has another woman outside his marriage whom he might be considering to put on the title leaving out the wife at home.

I: Okay, I see, do you think the wives would want to be on the titles too?

R: Yes, because she knows that if the man is no longer there tomorrow, she will own the land

**00:46:04**

I: You mean to say, if a man dies, the land goes in the shoes of the woman, he can’t leave it for the children?

R: No, it is the wife who later on shares for the children

I: What if she has no children?

R: Then it becomes her land

I: What, if he didn’t include her on the title assumingly?

R: This is when you find that the in-laws and father in law take it away from her. If they try to take it from her though, and she has any kind of proof then they can go to the government.

I: Okay. What good things do you think would come out of a husband and wife being listed together on the title?

R: Like now how we are both on the title and he needs to get money from the bank, they will send him for his wife so that we both put our signatures. This is my way of thinking.

I: What other good things are there?

R: Even selling land, it helps a lot when we are there both of us.

I: Do you think the person with a title might be given more money in value of their land than the one who doesn’t have?

R: That is don’t know it. (Respondent laughs)

I: What are the reasons you may find a man not putting his wife on the title?

R: Those are the misunderstanding I have been talking about. You find that a man has like 2 wives and has children outside and he considers to also give those other children land so he doesn’t put the wife on the title so that tomorrow all his children get shares.

I: Before you met these people who were giving title or teaching you about titles, how were people in this village getting titles?

R: They are there but I didn’t know exactly how they got them.

I: You haven’t heard that they go to such an office or consult so and so or they do this?

R: Maybe they need money to get them but I don’t know how

I: Okay. In general, what do you think people in your community think about titles?

R: I think people know that once they have received a title, the land belongs to them and even if

**00:49:07**

the government want to do anything, they have to see you and pay you.

I: This thing that the government does, tell me about it?

R: Let us say that like how we are in the town council they want to cut off some land to dig the road and they enter more into your land, I think they have to pay you so that you live that place and look for elsewhere.

I: This is when you have a title?

R: Yes. And you for such programs of the government if you don’t have a title they under look you and continue doing their work and they leave you there.

I: I suppose that this makes it harder to sue them

R: Yes.

**Intra – household discussion and bargaining**

I: Thank you Mama for explaining to us all that you know and understand about titles. It is also a learning moment for me hearing from different people all about titling and titles. Thank you once again. In this part, we want to know, what discussions you had with your husband for the time after they came, taught you, asked you questions up to the time you got the title. What conversations did you have?

R: After getting the title, we didn’t talk about anything

I: How about before?

R: We just talked how it was a good thing to get the title because it showed that you own the land.

I: How about when he was putting you to joint title, did he talk to you first or?

R: We talked that we could trust these people since they come more than once and that they were sent by the government. He was asked to if he could add me on the title in my presence.

I: And after getting the title?

R: We got the title and we were happy, then we kept the title. There is nothing we added.

I: Now that you decided to title here, why didn’t you put one of the other plots instead?

R: By the time the titling people came to us, they were tired, they must have been coming from somewhere far. They told us that the other plots were very far, we should title this one to which we agreed with my husband.

**00:52:39**

I: There is nothing else you talked about after this?

R: No. (respondent laughs and I join her) Some of the things I don’t remember, don’t you think have even left my memory

I: You don’t remember them?

R: I don’t remember them

I: Okay, no problem. Remind me of the years you have lived with your husband.

R: 19 years

I: Do you as woman feel supported by your husband in the things that you do?

R: In activities like farming, he comes to help me dig or at times he gives me money to buy clothes for Christmas though at times he doesn’t, he pays school fees for the children.

I: How about salon, we women would love to plait hair or work on it.

R: He gives me money to go and I cut my hair.

I: You don’t like plaiting hair?

R: I have even never plaited it or grown it ever since I was born. I just keep cutting because plaited hair takes a lot of time that I don’t have though when I see long hair I like it but not on me.

I: There are some days when I plait hair for a long while like for 3 months, have you ever tried it?

R: No, I have never tried to but when I see a person with plaited hair they look nice.

I: Okay, now let us go to you, do you feel you support and encourage your husband in the things he does?

R: Yes

I: Tell me how?

R: Like in the way he buys and sells goats, when he is not around, I take the goats and tie them at their grazing field. If there comes someone to buy a goat and he is not around, I call him and tell him which gives him more energy knowing that there is someone at home.

I: Is there any more support you give him in other ways?

R: Also, after he has bought coffee for selling,

**00:55:42**

I help him dry it and remove it at the end of the day, remove goats from their grazing field.

I: Why do you think some husbands don’t support their wives and some wives don’t support their husbands?

R: When they have misunderstandings for example if we go to sleep when we are angry at each other after a heated quarrel, I can’t help him in the morning neither can he help me. This happens to those who are ever quarreling and are at war with each other.

I: I think this happens in more marriages, like you may quarrel but how come you people are not like these couples?

R: Some people have hard issues like a wife hearing that her husband is being unfaithful with another woman out there or if he takes money to drink alcohol and he finishes it.

I: What do you think would cause husbands not to support their wives?

R: When a man has decided to drink alcohol all the time and when he gets other women out there in that he no longer cares about his wife at home.

I: Who makes the important decisions in your household, the other time we asked it was regards land?

R: It is my husband

I: Which is the last major decision he did regarding your household?

R: For example, we can discuss that we should change a to this school and at the end he says no, let us put him in this other school.

I: Was this the last major decision he made?

R: We change children once in a while. What I remember is selling land, he sold a goat and didn’t make an agreement because he knew the buyer then someone on the village came and accused him of selling his goat because it was a complete look alike to his that was lost. My husband was taken to prison for a week, he refused to repay the goat or give bribes to the police officers since they always like bribes because he knew for sure that the goat belonged to him.

I: Did they give him his goat back after realizing it was for the other person?

R: Yes

I: Were you able to visit him or take food to him while he was in prison?

R: No they don’t accept food, you can send money and they buy for him things inside there. I used to send this money through his friend.

**1:02:11**

I: That was a tough time for you as a family, sorry about that, that he had to suffer for his own goat. Who paid the money to get him out of there?

R: He had some money on him at the time they caught him so he sent it home to me, the fees for his getting out was taken by his friend. When he came back from prison, he had to sell some goats in order to get back in business.

I: Welcome back form that ordeal. It wasn’t easy

R: It was a real battle.

I: For sure. How did you decide on keeping the title?

R: We just decided to keep it in the house so that may be tomorrow we can use it to get a loan from the bank

I: Do you usually use loans?

R: Yes, we do get some loans

I: The last time you got a loan, what did you take as leverage in the bank?

R: We give there our agreement of the land but not to the bank. My husband has a friend who is in one of the Sacco groups that give out money, he has been getting for my husband who in turn pays his friend who pays back the money to the group.

**Gender norms around land**

I: Ohhh, I see how that works. Thank you, now we are going to another part where we would like to know your opinions but mostly concerning women and land. You know that land in our country, we have grown up knowing mostly that it is for men. You find that most the times land is for men, they are the ones who make most of the decisions, decide to share and most times women may not be included in such things. We are going to converse in regard to women, you inclusive and other women. We don’t have any true thought on this but we would love to hear your thoughts. Are there women in this village that own land by themselves?

R: There are some who have it, for example you can find a woman who is a trader, when she gets her money she buys a piece of land on the side where he husband is not.

I: So this land, is the husband aware of it?

R: Some men can be knowing while other don’t know about it.

I: Do some have it with their husbands?

R: Yes. Some women may have left their home and came with the money they got out of selling

**1:06:32**

their share, they buy land near them to help in the family and you find that they didn’t allow their husbands to sign on their agreement so that tomorrow he doesn’t cheat your share.

I: In your own view, should women in this village be allowed to own land by themselves?

R: Yes. There are women who you find gave birth to children before they were married from another family, and now she is married in another family. She can buy land that will help the other children who no longer have their father at times or if he never gave them any share.

I: Do you think women would love to own land with their husbands or won it alone as individuals?

R: As a woman you would have loved to have land on your own because the problem with our men, they can have you and sometimes got to get another woman out there whom he may give the land and you end up with nothing.

I: Is there a way you can report this man?

R: Yes, they can go and report but some women can leave reporting because they have already given birth to children who can inherit the land alongside the other children if she doesn’t get anything.

I: So you think women would love to have land on their own?

R: Yes

I: The family land that we talked about do you think women are included?

R: Yes, I have a share

I: How big is it, do you divide in half, do you consider the children?

R: Still, it can’t be half way because they are in parts, he might say take this part. But he has his *motto (word said by the respondent)* that if he is not around tomorrow, the land will be mine and I can decide how to give the children because we worked together to get them.

I: Wow, that is said by only a few men not all.

R: Yes

I: On the title, are you there only two of you or you added someone else?

R: We are there only 2 of us

I: So, you will be the one to give your children if he is not around?

R: Yes

**1:09:32**

I: He has not even thought about putting anything for the children in writing?

R: No he hasn’t written anything

I: Or you still hope to give birth. (We both laugh)

R: No, Joel (their last born son) is the last one. Unless otherwise I normally have heart problems so when I get on family planning for long, it pains me much and when I get pregnant it worsens.

I: Eh, sorry. Have you gone to the hospital for checkup?

R: I can be there and it pumps a lot, I loose peace. I went to the hospitals, they checked for pressure but they didn’t find it and I don’t know where this problem came from. I even fail to go to the garden.

I: Did it start when you were married?

R: Yes, on my 3rd pregnancy is when this thing started

I: That was bad for you, and they maintained that it wasn’t pressure?

R: Yes, even during giving birth, it is a war for me. When they check the heart it is pumping so much at a high speed.

I: Does it also happen when you are stressed?

R: Yes, or if I get an issue that disturbs me or if I over think, it comes.

I: Were you given medication to help you?

R: I go there sometimes, and they give me medicine. I even went at the heart institute but they found nothing wrong with my heart. They advised me to use water more.

I: By drinking it?

R: Yes, to drink at least 6 glasses of water in a day.

I: Are you drinking them?

R: (She laughs and I laugh too), I try and drink

I: Let us hope that one day it will be gone and you get fine.

R: In a marriage Mama, if a man wants to sell family land, does he need to get permission from you?

**1:12:21**

R: Yes, if he is to sell he has to first meet and agree with the wife, if she doesn’t agree then he doesn’t sell.

I: In general, do you think widows are allowed to stay on land after losing their husband?

R: There are those who stay and those who go

I: What causes them to go?

R: You find that the in laws disturb them on land or try to remarry her and she refuses. They also chase them away from the land at times

I: For the one they chase on the land; doesn’t she have any form of writing that helps her?

R: Sometimes she may have them and other times she may not have them. For example, my sister in law I told you about, they were staying in Kampala. They started without money and later they got the money. The husband used to come and pay for land here and the wife didn’t sign on these agreements, it reach a time he would call his older brother who is my husband to get money and come and buy for him. All those agreements have been kept by my husband even after he died, this woman went and gave birth to another child from another man there in Kampala, they used to have a big shop which collapse and everything they had was finished. She came and settled here in the husband’s land but my husband did not give her the agreements.

I: Her husband bought more land aside from the one she is in?

R: Yes,

I: Is your husband the one who will divide for the children?

R: Yes, because the woman doesn’t have any. We normally ask ourselves, can’t the woman go and report him to the authorities who can come and remove these things from him?

I: She knows about them but doesn’t have any signature on them

R: Yes.

I: I don’t know, but it might be hard for papers that your husband signed on behalf of the brother. If he has a good heart, then he will but there are some in-laws that take advantage of such things given that the wife didn’t sign anywhere and doesn’t know where the lands are. They can claim that they added money to their brother and bought the land together. Where can one argue this out surely? The man used to come alone, basically you are at the mercies of your in-law.

R: Yes, the problem will be the children in such cases. This lady ate away many things that they had together that side, he even had plots of land which she sold away.

I: What does she do here now, does she farm?

**1:15:15**

R: My husband helped her sell a part of the land and in the money he started for her a grocery shop.

I: So what if the widow dies too, who then owns the land?

R: If she dies it becomes for the children.

I: Does it make a difference if this land was got before they married or during the marriage or when there are children?

R: If she gave birth to children, she has to stay on the land with the children.

I: What if a widow has no child?

R: Some people remove her because she has no children.

I: You mean to say children are the important difference?

R: Yes, but it also depends on the man’s decision before death. I have a brother in law who died recently and he left a wife who had no child with him though she had given birth elsewhere and left the children there. He left a will saying that his wife should never be sent away from the house and land unless she decides to leave on her own, she can then go but no one had the right to chase her away. She lives there on the land and may be because she has no children, she can decide to sell and leave someday to go and do other things.

I: Yes, I see she can leave. A man can therefore leave a writing

R: Yes, though some in laws can chase her away.

I: Do some widows remarry?

R: Yes, they do

I: She can bring the man on that piece of land or she goes elsewhere like her new man’s place?

R: There is one that can bring him and they get married on that land while there is one that will go and get married outside on her new husband’s plot.

I: Some women get remarried on the land and even give birth to new children amongst the deceased’s ones.

R: They can fight with the man’s relatives and after they leave her

I: Does it make a difference if the woman is included on the agreements or other transaction documents?

R: Yes, because on with document she owns the land too, there is no way she can be removed.

**1:17:23**

I: Has it happened in this village where after a husband’s death, his male relatives come to grab land from the widow?

R: I haven’t seen it yet

I: Okay, it hasn’t happened yet I see. About the way widows are treated in this village, is it different now from the past years, is it okay?

R: Now it is much better, those days they were disturbed a lot, when the husband would die they would ask her to get her own way and leave but now she can engage the law and stay with her children.

I: They would send her away just like that?

R: They would take away the children from her no matter how young and they ask her to go away especially by the man’s side. These days at least she can approach any place of authority and have a say in staying with her children and on the land.

I: In your opinion, what happens to women after losing their husbands?

R: When the husband is gone, the widow goes into a war of looking for school fees for the children and yet you don’t have much to as a woman which becomes hard for you.

I: About the school fees, the women don’t have the jobs to give them this money even through their farming?

R: Yes

I: Tell me, how does the man handle the school fees in a way the woman can’t?

R; You find the man works in the market and trades in coffee and goats which give him money. You find that our harvest as women is for, feeding the children, we get off little to sell and get some money for school or at times we don’t get.

I: You mean women can’t do this?

R: No, only a tough woman can do this

I: How?

R: Sometimes it requires those men to climb on trucks and travel all night to look for good goats or coffee which a woman may not be able to do.

I: Okay, this is quite hard for them. In general, the way widows are treated in this village, are you happy about it or there is some change you would love to see?

R: Maybe on the widow’s side, when some of them lose spouses they carry themselves badly.

**1:20:01**

I: How?

R: Some of these widows start enticing other women’s husbands which is not good.

I: So how would you love them to carry themselves?

R: They should decide and pick out one man and not go about other women’s husbands

I: How about the way they are treated by other people, is it okay?

R: Some people treat them well while others don’t treat them well. Some women fear that when the widow loses her husband she is going to take their men so they isolate from her.

I: Are these mostly the younger or older widows that do this or both of them?

R: Some of them are the younger ones with young children but there can also be older ones too.

I: Thanks for letting me know about this. What happens to the land after a woman has separated or divorced with the husband?

R: There are some who come to fight for the land when the man marries and brings another woman in the home because he gives her all the things and doesn’t mind about giving a share to the children or not. This man sometimes loves the other woman’s children more.

I: He can abandon the children of the first wife yet they his too?

R: Yes, he starts seeing the other children as *ebifire* (to mean idiots, stupid, good for nothing). Men have excitement over new women.

I: These women that have separated or divorced with their husbands, do they stay on the land or they go elsewhere, do they get some of the land or they get nothing?

R: They can give her or not.

I: Under what terms is this decision made?

R: You find that both husband and wife worked together for the things they have, after separation they can go to the government like LC1 who give the woman some of the land and the man stays with his share too.

I: What if this lady didn’t give birth to any children in the home?

R: She can get a share because she has worked with the husband to get those things.

I: What if there is no document to show or if there is, does it make a difference. How it be known that they worked for the things together?

**1:22:07**

R: No, the main thing is that she has been working together with her husband for all the years they were together and people have been seeing her how she has worked with the husband for the family.

I: Do they stay on the land or do they have to go elsewhere?

R: Some women leave because if she stays on the land, the man may plan and murder her. Its better if the woman leaves. Some women leave the children behind and some men decide and leave the woman in the house with the children and he goes to rent another place like in the shops at the centre.

I: Okay, so is there anything you want changed in the way these women are treated?

R: If we have been working; digging together, taking care of the children and family together and I got married to you when I was young and now when we are separating am old and I no longer have all the strength, I am entitled to get part of the share of the man’s land and I get to start from somewhere to do my own things.

I: You would love that they be given something on the things they have worked for?

R: Yes

I: What do you think causes couples to divorce or separate?

R: When one of the two is unfaithful they can separate. But also, one of them can bring Aids disease to the other partner or one partner realizes the other has this disease and yet themselves they don’t. This can make them to separate

I: That is a hard one, I see. What do you think causes men to want or not want to add their wives’ name on the title?

R: It is lack of trust in the marriage as I have been telling you from behind.

I: What problems would come about in these cases?

R: When the woman’s name is not on the title, the man can go behind the woman’s back and sell land the way he wants because the woman has no authority over it. The lady has no say over this. The children may not study well in school since they see their parents always in fighting.

I: Are there any good things that could come out when the man puts the wife’s name on the title?

R: Yes, I said mostly when the man wants to sell land, the woman is not left behind, he too is included.

I: If the wives were able to own land together with their husbands, would this increase conflict?

**1:28:32**

R: I don’t think there can be conflict, may be if a man wants to go behind the wife to sell land in the future but he realizes he can sell without her, it makes him regret why he put the wife on the tile. This is when he starts quarreling with the wife because he wants allow him sell yet the wife doesn’t agree.

I: Tell me about something that would cause a man to regret having put the wife on the title.

R:Some women like being unfaithful so if the man catches her or hears such rumors about this, it doesn’t make him happy. You can also find a woman that gives birth to a child that is not for her husband yet they are still married to each other. This causes him to loses the trust he had in the wife.

**Land disputes**

I: Mama, we are finally getting into our last part where want to know what you think about the disputes that happen on land. They can be on family or amongst village people but in general over land. What do you think mostly causes land disputes?

R: In the family or among neighbors?

I: Altogether, you can tell me what you think generally.

R: The biggest problem is the issue of *omugorora* (the tree used to separate land and mark boundaries in villages) between neighbors; where someone farming wants to dig beyond another person’s tree of boundary and sometimes they remove it which makes the owner quarrel and a dispute begins.

I: How about in the family?

R: You find a man wants to sell the land but the wife and children do not agree with him to do so which brings a dispute in there.

I: What happens when there are such disputes?

R: People will fight and remove their pangas to cut each other

I: Now that they are fighting, how will it end if it is in the family?

R: They can go to LC1 to report and reconcile or call the elders in the family who come and talk through the issues until they are done. If they are not done then, they go to higher authorities.

I: Okay, so when do you involve the community people?

R: Like if you have older people in a home they can call their friends in the community who can help.

I: Let us say that one side of the people in a dispute has a title, can this help to end the conflict?

**1:31:28**

R: The title helps, if you have this evidence it can help others to know that the land is yours. I have heard about somewhere where someone had their land title but left their land and went to work you find that someone sold that land without permission from the owner and the one who bought didn’t know they bought someone’s land that was titled. The buyer settled there with his family, they built and planted a banana plantation, as they were there, the land owner came to bury in the land and asked how the people he found got there. He told them that it was his land and he showed them his title and the people had to leave his land and go.

I: What, so they had to go and start from nothing after spending like 10 years on the land?

R: Yes, because the land owner has evidence to show which is his title.

I: This means that a title is very important meaning that it shows well the boundaries of someone’s land.

R: Yes, it does

I: What do you think should now be done to help people with land security issues?

R: Maybe they need to try and get titles for their land.

I: Okay Mama thank you for your time, answering my questions, talking to me this far. I would like to know if you have any questions or concerns about anything we talked about.

R: I want to thank you for always coming and visiting us. I would like you to help me understand, now that we have a title, let us say we went to the bank to get a loan and we put our title as leverage. If we fail to repay the loan tomorrow, do they now take the tile, is sit theirs now?

I: I think when you are getting a loan you sign some document which out rightly points out that if the taker of the loan fails to pay back the money within the given time for example it could be 3 years or any months, should they fail to pay it back then the bank will take whatever leverage was given to them so that they get back their money. If you put a title like this one, they take it. But also for people to give their title as leverage means they are getting a lot of money out for the loan, I see in Kampala different amounts vary with different leverages asked form by the money lenders or group Saccos a part from the bank. They start from things like a television for a loan of 200,000 others take goats, cows. There are some amounts that may require big things for leverage such as a title for example.

R: Okay, good to know

(Husband comes in to greet me and then leaves after)

**1:36:20**

I: We have finished our conversation, here is the small gift I told you about in the start as a token of appreciation for your time. Stay well and thanks for giving us your time.

R: Alright, thank you too. So as they started, and later they gave us titles, is this the last visit or you will come back. Will you continue or?

I: This is good question, I don’t know if they will come back or, we are still visiting many other people too. I will forward it to the team and we will get back to you but also feel free to contact this number her on the form I have left you with incase of anything more.

R: You see, when they were asking us how our banana plantations were and how e use the land, so we thought they might bring for us fertilizers one day to pout in our land and get more yields. So this didn’t happen as we expected but they gave us a title instead which is good because I know getting a title requires money.

I: I see; it was all about land every question they asked you.

**1:38:08**