

Report on the Issue of Child, Early, and Forced Marriage views from Kenya, collected and compiled by Right Here Right Now Kenya Coalition

Abstract

1.0 Introduction

This report is commissioned in response to the General Assembly resolution A/77/202, which calls for concerted global efforts to address the pervasive issue of child, early, and forced marriage (CEFM). Focusing on the specific context of Kenya, this report seeks to explore the multifaceted strategies and interventions implemented in the country to combat CEFM. With a growing recognition of the detrimental impact of CEFM on the rights and well-being of children and adolescents, there is an urgent need for progress assessment and enhanced interventions. Therefore, this report aims to provide an in-depth analysis of Kenya's efforts to tackle CEFM, with a particular emphasis on the utilization of digital technologies and tools in this endeavor. Through examining the effectiveness of existing initiatives and proposing recommendations for improvement, this report aims to contribute to the ongoing global efforts to eradicate CEFM and ensure the protection and empowerment of vulnerable populations in Kenya.

These views were collected through an online questionnaire ([HERE](#)) circulated on WhatsApp to various groups of young people with a total of 56 responses from youth of various diversities in Kenya.

Gender of the Respondents

Gender of Respondents	Frequency	Percentages %
Male	26	46.4
Female	30	53.4
Total	56	100

According to the table on the gender of respondents, out of the total sample of 56 participants, 46.4% were male ($n = 26$), while 53.6% were female ($n = 30$). This indicates a slightly higher representation of female respondents compared to male respondents in the study. The balanced gender distribution among respondents is crucial for ensuring the comprehensive capture of diverse perspectives and experiences in the research findings.

Age Distribution of Respondents

Age Distribution	Frequency	Percentages%
Below 18	0	0
18-25	39	69.6
26-35	17	30.4
Above 35	0	
Total	56	100

Based on the presented data from the sample of 56 participants, none were below the age of 18, representing 0% of the total. The majority of respondents fell within the age range of 18-25, comprising 69.6% of the sample ($n = 39$). Additionally, 30.4% of respondents were in the age range of 26-35, totaling 17 participants. There were no respondents above the age of 35 in the study. The age distribution reflects a concentration of younger participants, particularly those aged 18-25, in the sample.

Level of Education

Level of Education	Frequency	Percentages%
No Formal Education	0	0
Primary Education	0	0
Secondary Education	15	26.8

Tertiary Education	41	73.2
Total	56	

The table illustrates the level of education among the respondents in the study. None of the participants reported having no formal education or primary education, accounting for 0% of the total sample. Secondary education was reported by 15 respondents, representing 26.8% of the sample. The majority of respondents, comprising 73.2% of the total sample, indicated tertiary education. Specifically, 41 participants reported having attained tertiary education qualifications. Overall, the distribution highlights a predominant presence of respondents with tertiary education backgrounds in the study.

National Level Strategies

National Level strategies	Frequency	Percentages
Yes	18	32.1%
No	38	67.9%
Total	56	100

FINDINGS

Analysis of respondents' perspectives on national-level strategy implementation unveils a mixed landscape. While 32.1% acknowledged the presence of such strategies, the majority, constituting 67.9%, disagreed. This discrepancy highlights ***the lack of uniformity in addressing child, early, and forced marriage (CEFM) at the national level***, indicating a ***need for greater cohesion and consistency in interventions***. Inconsistent adoption and execution of strategies may undermine efforts to combat CEFM and impede progress toward desired outcomes. ***Collaborative efforts are essential*** to ensure the effective implementation of national-level strategies across various regions and communities in Kenya. Enhancing coordination and alignment among stakeholders can bolster intervention effectiveness, thereby promoting the rights and well-being of children and adolescents.

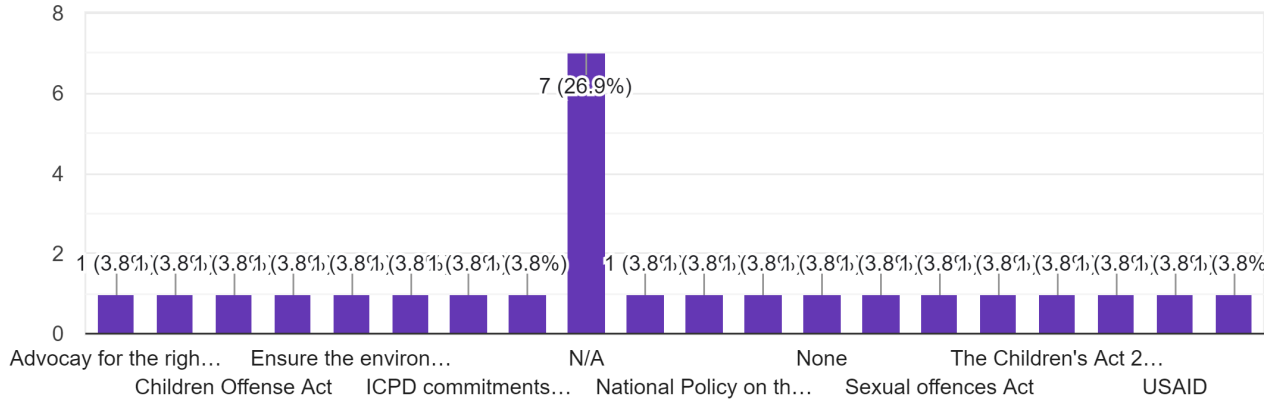


RIGHT HERE
RIGHT NOW

List any if you answered Yes above

List any if you answered 'Yes' above

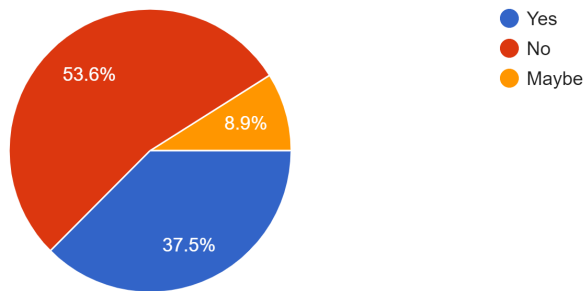
26 responses



Grassroots interventions targeting CEFM

Are you familiar with any grassroots interventions targeting CEFM within local communities in Kenya?

56 responses



Digital Platforms and the Perpetuation of Child, Early and Forced Marriage in Kenya

Understanding the Influence of Digital Platforms

Digital platforms wield significant influence in shaping societal attitudes and behaviors, including perceptions surrounding child, early and forced marriage (CEFM). Exploring the role of digital



platforms in perpetuating CEFM reveals diverse perspectives among respondents, offering insights into the multifaceted dynamics at play in Kenya.

Information Gathering and Awareness Creation

Respondents highlighted the role of digital platforms, such as social media and YouTube, in facilitating information dissemination and raising awareness about the dangers of CEFM. These platforms serve as valuable tools for educating individuals and communities, particularly in remote or marginalized areas where access to traditional forms of media may be limited.

Social Media Influence

Social media platforms exert considerable influence on societal norms and behaviors regarding CEFM. While some respondents emphasized the potential of social media in educating and empowering girls to challenge norms perpetuating child marriage, others highlighted its role in promoting harmful stereotypes and glamorizing early marriages. The pressure to conform to unrealistic standards portrayed on social media can exacerbate vulnerabilities and perpetuate harmful practices.

Normalization and Misinformation

Digital platforms can inadvertently contribute to the normalization of CEFM by portraying it as a positive tradition or lifestyle choice. Moreover, the dissemination of misleading content by media personalities and influencers can perpetuate harmful cultural norms and practices associated with early marriage. The proliferation of misinformation on digital platforms underscores the importance of critical digital literacy skills and fact-checking mechanisms.

Implications and Recommendations

The findings underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions to address the influence of digital platforms on CEFM in Kenya. Comprehensive strategies should focus on raising awareness, combating misinformation, and promoting positive cultural norms through digital literacy programs and community engagement initiatives. Collaborative efforts involving government agencies, civil society organizations, and technology companies are essential to effectively harness the potential of digital platforms for social change.

Recommendations for Action



- ✓ Enhancing digital literacy and critical thinking skills among youth and communities to discern misinformation and harmful content.
- ✓ Strengthening regulations and enforcement mechanisms to curb the spread of harmful content on digital platforms.
- ✓ Collaborating with social media influencers and content creators to promote messages that challenge CEFM and empower young people to make informed choices about their lives.

The Right Here Right Now Kenya Coalition Partners include:

1. **CSA**
2. **AMT**
3. **NairoBits Trust**
4. **DAYO**
5. **NAYA**
6. **SRHR ALLIANCE**
7. **NGLHRC**