

POLYGAMY AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT-A CASE OF JOHANNE MARANGE APOSTOLIC SECT

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ABSTRACT

The study investigates the link between polygamy and academic performance in Johanne Marange Apostolic Sect in Marange, Mutare District. The target population consisted of 89 polygamous families of Johanne Marange Apostolic Sect. The study followed a mixed method research design. The interview was complemented by observation in the collection of data. The study revealed that the learners in polygamous families lack parental material and motivational support to continue in school, the main focus of adolescent girls and boys is to get married and start a family, parents encourage and even arrange marriage of their girl children in school even without their consent, learners in Johanne Marange Apostolic Sect have very little option to extricate themselves from the ills of polygamy even in their future life. The study recommended that the schools curriculum should include discouragement of polygamy- e.g. AIDS education- otherwise without involving school in the discouragement of polygamy, this would remain an ideological framework and the generation to be reformed may never appreciate the goodness of monogamy. Teachers of learners from polygamous families should be supportive of such children through guidance and counselling as their home backgrounds may be militating against educational advancement. The Johanne Marange Apostolic Sect should periodically revisit their church policies on education of their followers and polygamy so as to align their operations with the current global Christian trends. Issues to do with HIV/AIDS testing should be introduced in church to reduce rapid spread of the disease in polygamous families and also to sensitise the congregates on the ills of polygamy.

Keywords: Polygamy, learner, academic achievement.