

Not for SALE:
Young Talk
is FREE

Sex education for
primary schools



Youngtalk

No. 4 Volume 10
April 2007

- Know your rights
- Stay in school
- Wait to have sex

We are too young to marry!



These happy children are part of the group that helped to write this Young Talk! If you would like Young Talk to visit your school, write to PO Box 22366, Kampala.

Forced marriage is when a person is ordered by parents or relatives to have a husband or wife against his or her will. It is child abuse.

Report to police any person who forces you to get married. It is against the law of Uganda. It is a crime!

Below 18 years the girls and boys are children. Their work is to go to school and help their families with house chores.

Say no to forced/early marriage, it can lead to HIV/AIDS

I was misled into early marriage

Some girls think that life with a husband will be better than life with their parents. But young marriage is very difficult. Here is a true story.



Our neighbour's wife convinced me to get married. She told me that her brother needed a wife, and I would make a good wife for him. He was 20 and I was 16. I was not promised anything.

I accepted out of ignorance. I had never met the man. I didn't know what job he had. He came for me and took me to his home. I left without telling my parents.

I did a lot of work. Life was very hard: waking up early, digging, cooking and doing all the housework alone. After sometime, my father came for me. I was so scared when I saw him. He said, "I want my daughter now!" I thought he was going to kill me. But he forgave me.

We left the man's place and went home. My mother counseled me. She talked to me about problems of getting married when you are still young. Now I'm back in school. I am in P6, and I am happy. Life at home is better than in marriage. I also avoid friends who are older than me. They can mislead. **Girl, 17, Ikulwe PS, Mayuge**

Dictionary

Chores: Work

Convince: To talk someone into doing something.

Counsel: To talk with someone giving advice.

Scared: Being in fear

Be a winner with Young Talk

Read the February and this issue carefully:

Write to Young Talk about what you have learnt from these two issues.

The letters should be original (from pupils without help of adults).

Pupils from P5-P7 are the only ones allowed to write in.

Send your letters to: Young Talk P.O. Box 22366, Kampala.

BEST ANSWERS WIN SCHOLASTIC MATERIALS

► Teacher wins mobile phone see page 2

What forces young people into marriage?

Young Talkers from Ikulwe PS, Mayuge Town Council PS and Kyebando PS, Mayuge identified many reasons why some girls and boys marry when they are very young. Does early marriage happen in your community? What do you think causes it? Talk about it in your YT club.

Some boys marry when they are young because:

- They have misunderstandings with parents
- They are weak in class
- They lack school fees
- They have sex with girls
- They are badly behaved
- They are forced by culture
- They want to expand the family
- They need a wife to help him at home
- They want to be respected
- Poor parents can say they are finishing their food
- A brother or friend has married
- They want to be called fathers
- They fear dying before having children of their own
- They have become a burden to the village like being a thief
- Their parents/guardian are tired of them -- for example, if they eat a lot, are weak at school, sleep with girls or are disrespectful.

Some girls marry when they are young because:

- They are having sex
- They get pregnant while at home
- They lack money for school fees
- They are performing poorly at school
- Their parents die: you become an orphan
- A stepmother mistreats them
- Are misled by bad peer groups
- They lack basic needs like food and clothes
- Their parents abuse or beat them
- They don't have where to stay
- They go to films often
- They feel that they want to be independent
- They do not go to school any more
- They walk long distances to school
- They sleep in the same room with parents
- Their parents want grandchildren before they die
- The parents want bride price
- The father has many women so the girl decides to go away

MY SISTER IS BEING FORCED INTO MARRIAGE WITH AN OLD MAN BECAUSE SHE LACKS SCHOOL FEES. WHAT ADVICE CAN YOU GIVE MY SISTER? Junju Musa, 14, P7, St Jude Malaba PS. *She should report those who want to marry her off to the police or LC. Your sister can still get education under UPE. Also, she can do simple jobs to get money for the uniform, books and other needs.*

Early/forced marriage can lead to:

- Early pregnancy and damage to reproductive organs
- Dropping out of school
- Early parenting which is hard because you are also a child
- Destruction of your future
- Feeling bad about yourself



Early marriage is not a solution to problems you could be facing at home

I escaped forced marriage

My father almost married me off. But my relatives and teachers saved me. There was a false story that I had a boyfriend. The teachers asked me about it and I told them it was not true. The boy had asked me to be his girlfriend but I refused. I was reported to my parents. I tried to explain but my father did not believe me. He caned me 10 strokes and gave me an acre of land to dig in four days. He also said that I had to leave school to get married. I cried and begged him to forgive me. I still wanted to study. My uncles and teachers discouraged him from marrying me off. He forgave me. But he warned me never to play with boys. It is hard to avoid boys completely. I study with them! But I try so hard to avoid them. I'm happy I'm back in school. In future, I want to become a nurse.

Girl, 15, P7, Ikulwe PS, Mayuge

What to do if forced into marriage

Young Talkers in Mayuge told us what they would do if they were forced to marry:

- Tell them that I don't want to marry
- Refuse and report to police
- Say that I'm still young, in school and planning for my future
- Go away from home to a relative's place
- Convince parents when they are in a good mood not to force me to marry
- Run to school and ask my teacher for help
- Ask for an explanation why they are forcing me to marry
- Ask them to give me land where to build first and the food to start with
- Build my own house and leave them
- Report to cultural leaders and the LC I. It is their work to help us

What would you do if you were forced to marry? Talk with your friends about what you think could prevent forced marriage in your community.

for teachers

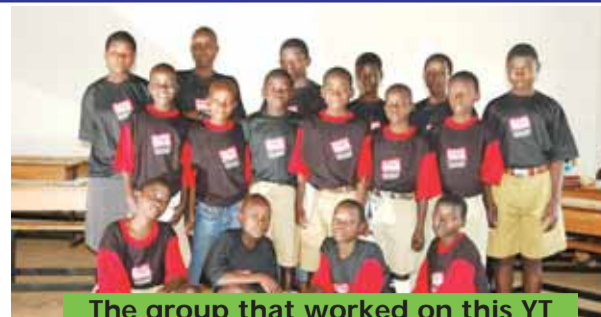
Every teacher is a counselor

- Monica Nakirya, Senior woman teacher, Ikulwe PS, Mayuge says: Through counseling I was able to help a pupil who was being forced into marriage by her parents and another who had run to a man. I



talked to their parents. Today these pupils are in school because of her efforts to reach out to their parents.

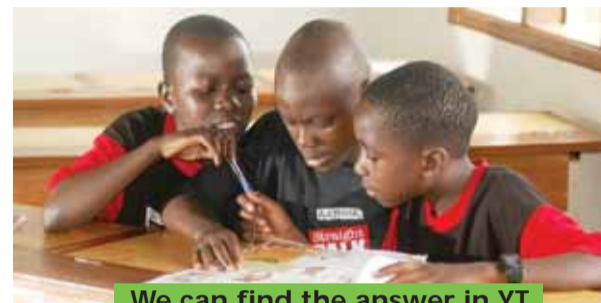
Bravo Teacher Monica! You win a cell-phone and a T-shirt from Straight Talk Foundation



The group that worked on this YT



It is a girls' matter.



We can find the answer in YT.



Let me write your name first.



That is a good story.



Let's have a break.



Interview in progress.

DEAR Young TALK
P.O. BOX 22366 Kampala



Henry Nsubuga
Counsellor
STF

✎ My father is forcing me to get married. But I still want to study. What can I do? **Adokorach Apsa, 16, P7, Anaka Central PS, Amuru Apsa** that is sad. You need to tell your father about the importance of education. If he does not accept, involve other people who value education that he can listen to.

✎ There is a man in my village that always tells me to drop out from school and marry. What is the best answer for him? **Gakuru Saveri, P7, Kaburasaazi PS, Kisoro**

There are many answers you can give. Like, you are young, you are studying, or you are not interested. But the best answer is saying "NO" and sticking to it. You need to inform your parents/guardian who can support you, about this man's plans.

✎ I have a friend who is an orphan. Her stepmother tells her to have sex with men to get money to help the family. How can I help her? **Pande Esther, P6, St Jude Malaba PS, Tororo**
Your friend should not accept. She should look for support from other people and let them know about what she is going through. Please, advise her not to accept, no matter how much pressure is put on her. She is responsible for herself and not other people. She can do some little work to earn some money to assist her. Also tell her to report to her father or teacher about it.

A YT Club reads a Young Talk issue with their patron Mr. Turinawe Moses



✎ If you share knickers with a girl suffering from AIDS, can you get infected? **Kyomuhendo Annet, 14, P7, Bunjojo PS, Kibiito Fort -Portal.**

HIV is acquired through blood and sexual fluids. It is never advisable to share knickers with another person. It is unhygienic. You may get other infections such as pubic lice. Please stop sharing knickers immediately.

✎ How can I help a friend if she is pregnant? **Koyi Elijah, 13, St Mulumba, Kyebando PS, Mayuge**
You can assist your friend in several ways: advise her not to abort. Advise her to go for antenatal services. Do not isolate her. Encourage her to continue with school after giving birth.

✎ What can we do if we find problems like being forced to marry or when old people force us to have sex with them? **Nakandha Daphine, 11, Ikulwe PS Mayuge**
Daphine, no one should force you to have sex or get married. If they force you then they are committing a crime. Tell them firmly that you are young and not interested. Tell other responsible adults whom your parents will listen to, like teachers or people you trust in your village or town. Ask them to help you.

✎ What makes girls grow faster than boys? **Tendo Justine, 11, P6, Revival PS, Matugga, Kampala**
Boys and girls grow differently because of the different hormones. People grow faster due to the food they eat, their genetic make up, the circumstances they are going through, health status and so on. It is not true that girls grow faster than boys.

✎ I have asked this question because I'm confused. My parents and teachers say that if you wear a sweater, it means that you are pregnant. Is it true? **Amu-mpiire Sharon, P6, 14, KCC Primary School, Kamwokya**



I love Young Talk. A Young Talker from Mayuge district

No. If you wear a sweater, it does not mean you are pregnant. It can be that you are feeling cold or you are sick. One may put on a sweater

also because she is pregnant, and she does not want people to know.

✎ My friends have girlfriends. They tell me I should have a girlfriend too. How can I avoid these friends? **Okecho George, P6, 12, Akaba PS, Nebbi**
Thanks for refusing to listen to your friends' wrong ideas. You may not avoid your friends but you need to tell them what is important for you. If you find that being with those friends will lead you to do things you do not want to do, then do not move out with them. You can do this by not escorting them to some places and not involving yourself in certain conversations.

✎ Is it true that a boy of 13 can make a sugar mummy of 40 pregnant? **Amusolo Josephine, P7, 14, St Jude Malaba PS**
Yes, as long as the boy can have wet-dreams, he can make any girl/woman pregnant. He can also get HIV/STDs. To avoid this, wait to have sex and say NO to sugar mummies.

Send your questions to Dear Young Talk, P.O.Box 22366 Kampala

Go to School, Stay in School, complete your studies



UNICEF cares about your education. Wherever you are, education is very important. It is also your right, go for it!

STRAIGHT TALK FOUNDATION

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