

**INFLUENCE OF DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND  
PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS ON REMARRIAGE SATISFACTION  
AMONG WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS IN LIKUYANI SUB-COUNTY,  
KAKAMEGA COUNTY, KENYA**

**BY**

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**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SOCIAL  
SCIENCES, DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY AND  
ANTHROPOLOGY IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE  
REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF A MASTER OF SCIENCE  
DEGREE IN COUNSELLING PSYCHOLOGY**

**MOI UNIVERSITY**

**2021**

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**DEDICATION**

*To my cherished family for their love and moral support to continue pursuing this  
academic profession.*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

This study would not have been possible without the support, encouragement, guidance, and cooperation of the following individuals. First, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to my supervisors Prof. Kimani Chege and Dr. Lenah Sambu for their scholarly guidance, valuable comments and their significant input in shaping this research.

I would like to acknowledge the teaching staff in the Department of Sociology, Psychology and Anthropology; their critical and constructive comments encouraged me to be rational during the whole period of the study. I am grateful to my family members for their support and encouragement all the way through. I am also grateful for my class mates and friends. Keeping connected was in itself a source of support. I am greatly indebted to all the remarried widows and widowers who participated so willingly in the data collection process. Above all, thanks to God Almighty for His faithfulness to me.

## ABSTRACT

The death of a marital spouse often has far-reaching emotional and socio-economic repercussions on the remaining partner. Surviving spouses must cope with grief and assume the responsibilities that were previously vested on the deceased partner. Hence, the surviving partner may opt to remarry to compensate for some of the gaps. Although post-bereavement couples are increasingly expressing more optimism in remarriage, the decision and process are often faced with challenges and bias. Most studies and support systems have tended to focus on remarried couples from post-divorce than post-bereavement couples. This study investigated the influence of demographic, socio-economic, and psychological factors on remarriage satisfaction among remarried widows and widowers. The following objectives guided the study: To determine the influence of demographic factors on remarriage satisfaction, to establish the influence of socio-economic factors on remarriage satisfaction, and to determine the influence of psychological factors on remarriage satisfaction. The study was guided by Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory. A cross-sectional descriptive design was used to collect data from 25 post-bereavement remarried individuals aged between 25 and 75 years purposively sampled from three sites in Likuyani Sub-County, Kakamega County. A questionnaire with quantitative Likert-type statements and a column for registering qualitative responses were used to collect data from the respondents. The data was then analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS), and the results presented using descriptive statistics, tables, and charts. Qualitative data were analyzed thematically and presented in verbatim form. Results revealed that demographic variables namely gender and age influence remarriage satisfaction, with men rating higher levels than women in all areas. While most women were happy with husbands providing material and safety needs, some were dissatisfied since they were experiencing challenges stemming from polygamy. Other females, specifically those in their mid-ages, were dissatisfied by the lack of land ownership and acceptance by stepchildren. Moreover, remarried men were very satisfied with wives who cared for their biological children and did all household chores. Socio-economic status was also found to influence remarriage satisfaction. As rural residents, the majority of the remarried widows and widowers had lower levels of education, lower-income, and a burden of caring for their expanding families. Both the men and women could not substantially cater for their families beyond the basic physiological needs. Men were also found to take over most financial decisions, leaving their wives helpless. In terms of psychological well-being, the respondents were generally deficient in achieving positive relations and personal growth that would enable them to either integrate into the new family or adapt to the changes. These findings suggest that gender, age, education level, income, and psychological status influence remarriage satisfaction among post-bereavement remarried couples. Therefore, marriage counselors, chiefs, and administrators should focus on previously widowed remarried couples' demographic, socio-economic status and psychological status and evaluate their unique needs to improve their lives. Future studies should involve remarried widows and widowers living in urban areas in order to find out the influence of demographic, socio-economic and psychological factors on remarriage satisfaction.

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**ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>COHRE</b>	-	The Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions
<b>HIV/AIDS</b>	-	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
<b>KNBS</b>	-	Kenya Bureau of Statistics
<b>NACOSTI</b>	-	National Council of Science and Technology and Innovation –
<b>SPSS</b>	-	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
<b>UNDESA</b>	-	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>USA</b>	-	United States of America
<b>USCB</b>	-	United States Census Bureau
<b>WHRP</b>	-	Women and Housing Rights Programme

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the major components of the study. It includes the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, research objectives, research questions, scope of the study, assumptions of the study, justification of the study, theoretical framework, conceptual framework and definition of key terms.

#### **1.2 Background to the Study**

Marriage is a significant event in a person's life which brings together two persons with the aim of starting a family and raising children. Previous research has posited that marriage offers economic, social, and psychological benefits, including sufficient wealth and a sense of social support within the marital relationship (Perkins, Lee, James, Krishna, Heo, & Subramanian, 2016). Marriage marks the beginning of a new form of relationship called the family, which is defined as a group of people affiliated by recognized birth, marriage, or other relationship, or a combination of these (McGoldrick & Carter, 2015)

Every enduring marriage could also end with the death of the husband, wife, or both. The demise of either partner produces one of two categories of people: widower and widow, thus causing a permanent deprivation of mutual relationship with a loved one (Nnodim, Ukachukwu, Albert, & Isife, 2012). Schaan (2013) depicts widowhood as one of the most stressful events experienced by married people in their lifetime. Surviving spouses must cope with grief following the loss of a partner who provided social and emotional support. They must also assume the responsibilities that were previously vested on the deceased partner. Grief compounded with the burden of

responsibilities may have adverse effects on the psychological and physical well-being of the surviving spouse (Choi & Vasunilashorn, 2014).

Sufficient evidence shows that widowed women, both young and old, are severely affected financially, sexually, and socially (Stallion, 2011). Young widowed women also lack a male figure for child rearing and security. On their part, men suffer more from loneliness, lack moral support, and are unable to do the delicate and yet very important household chores (Lloyd-Sherlock, Corso, & Minicuci, 2015).

As reported by McDonald, Donahue and Moore (1997) widows in the United States tend to be of low economic status, and often rely on social security as their principal source of income. Further, American-Mexican widows are unable to make financial decisions. Even when they are well off, they often risk exploitation. Additionally McDonald, Donahue and Moore (1997) notes that, Canadian widows depend on government pensions. A study by Tsuya and Nystedt (2004) found that the widowed in Europe and Asia is more vulnerable compared to their married counterparts. Moreover, Moore, Stratton and Stratton (2002), reveals that widows and widowers have lower levels of psychological well-being.

Widowhood in Africa is more challenging, especially for women, because it marks the loss of love, care, companion, and livelihood. While widows in Ghana suffer more from property violations from their in-laws, their counterparts in sub-Saharan Africa, are forced to undergo various rituals following the death of their spouses (Korang-Okrah & Haight, 2014). In Kenya, particularly in the rural areas, widows are often left in a state of vulnerability. A report by Kahonge (2019) of the *East African* newspaper cited a number of widows who were mistreated, neglected, or evicted from their homes and their houses brought down. He further argues that, for many Kenyan

women living in rural areas, widowhood is too devastating, especially if the husband was the sole breadwinner. Additionally, widows have often been left with no option but to find engage in menial jobs such as washing clothes, working in the farms, and in certain cases, prostitution, to feed for their families.

The available literature highlights the desperation experienced by widows. While widows in America and Europe may benefit from government aid, their counterparts in Asia and Africa often face a host of challenges. As they struggle to move on with life, some widows may ultimately choose to remain single or remarry. Gladding (1998), defines remarriage as a marriage formed when a person whose previous marriage ended in death, divorce, or abandonment, marries with either another previously married person or someone who has never been married. The choice to remarry may be informed by loneliness, the need to share parenting responsibilities or companionship, or the longing to experience a sense of completion after resolving grief issues.

Arkturk and Fisiloglu (2009) revealed that research on remarriage dates back to the 1970s citing only divorce cases and that few studies had addressed post bereavement. Addressing concerns of remarriage following widowhood may not feature in a similar way as those in remarriage after divorce, because they fundamentally differ in nature and from a historical purview.

Sweeney (2002) reveals that 5% of women and 12% of bereaved men remarry. Additionally, widows and widowers living in large urban areas have lower rates of remarriage than those living in less urban setups, possibly due to having less established social circles. Widowed males tend to remarry faster than their female

counterparts. Since most females are widowed at an early age, they also tend to remarry at an early age.

Kheshgi and Genovese (1997) found that remarried families reported significantly higher levels of stress than first-married families. Gladding (1998) further concurs that remarriage marks yet another change in the newly formed family which is a combination of two different family cultures with different histories, issues, and interactions, making it more complex and more prone to stress. In addition, Cartwright (2012) reports that mothers in step relationships experience three times stress levels than their first marriages. Children do not seem to accept the new parent/partner or the stepparent roles and the changes in their positions. O'Connor and Insabella (1999) stress that, spouses in remarried families must cope with stress resulting from changes in household arrangement, economic stability, and family roles and relationships while trying to build a satisfying marital relationship.

Based on his interactions with remarried couples, Brown (2009) reveals that after the loss of a spouse, couples could remarry, love, and be loved, adding that there are indeed couples who are happily remarried and offer good lessons to learn from. He also reiterates the need for premarital counseling, noting that it gives children an opportunity to love, improves the sense of companionship, security and hope, and, therefore, replaces feelings of loss, gloom, and negativity which may come their way.

In the United Kingdom, widowers are reported to exhibit greater happiness in remarriage due to the new found social network. Success in remarriage is measured by higher adjustment of personal and economic resources for both men and women (Griffith, 1980). On the contrary, widows who remarry in Italy face substantial stigma (Kurosu, 2005). In Asia, especially the rural communities of Punjab-Haryana, widows

are prohibited from expressing the need for remarriage. The late husband's kin may make the decision, and widows are often subjected to repressive practices such as forcible remarriage into mismatched alliances, polygamy, and being deprived of inheritance rights (Varun, 2013). Remarriage is, therefore, not seen as a custom, but an economic necessity.

In Africa, a study by the UNDESA (2004) found that remarriage for both widows and widowers is another way of coping with economic, emotional, and social losses. Remarriages seem to work well for widowers. However, most widows who remarry outside their late husband's kinship are often faced with the risk of fighting for their inheritance, with some even losing it completely. Some rural communities in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Ghana, and Uganda practice widow inheritance, a scenario whereby the widow is subjected to harmful socio-cultural and socio-economic practices like forceful inheritance and have no say regarding decisions involving property and reproductive rights (Maphosa & Maphosa, 2014).

In Kenya, some of the communities that support widow remarriage include the Luo from Nyanza and the Luhya from the Western region. Gunga (2009) notes that marriage is a temporary institution which ends at death, and argues that life should continue after the demise of one's partner. He further stresses that the Luo custom only supports wife inheritance, where the widow remains the 'wife to the deceased.' She is given to a guardian from the deceased husband's clan for both material and emotional support. Therefore, a study on the influence of demographic, socio-economic and psychological factors on remarriage satisfaction of widows and widowers would yield more information that would be helpful in understanding them. It is, therefore, against this background that this study investigated the influence of



demographic, social-economic and psychological factors on remarriage satisfaction in Likuyani Sub-County, Kakamega County, Kenya.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

The death of a spouse in a family brings with it tremendous social, economic, and psychological effects to the spouse left behind, primarily. The society bestows specific obligations and duties that each spouse in a marital relationship is expected to fulfill. Therefore, death denies the living couple the contribution of the deceased, thus necessitating emotional, social, as well as economic adjustments. However, such adjustments are usually challenging due to the routines many couples are accustomed to. As a result, one of the options that are on the table and are acceptable culturally in some societies is remarriage. Mbiti (1975) conceptualizes remarriage as a social practice that was traditionally aimed at enabling the surviving spouse to respond to the psychological and social challenges associated with the death of a spouse.

However, in the contemporary era, remarrying is often associated with a myriad of challenges. Most of these challenges have their underpinnings in religious teachings and practices that are against remarrying. Different studies have revealed unique concerns and challenges in remarried post-widowhood families, noting that they are prone to stress and probable eventual divorce (Kheshgi & Genovese, 1997; O'Connor & Insabella, 1999). However, how these factors influence remarriage satisfaction, especially in rural setups, is not fully understood. Therefore, this study seeks to understand remarriage satisfaction among widows and widowers in Likuyani Sub-County. Specifically, it explores the influence of demographic, socio-economic and psychological factors on remarriage satisfaction among widows and widowers.

## **1.4 Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of this study was to investigate the influence of demographic, socio-economic and psychological factors on remarriage satisfaction among widows and widowers in Likuyani Sub-County in Kakamega County.

## **1.5 Objectives**

### **1.5.1 General Objective**

The general objective of the study was; the influence of demographic, socio-economic and psychological factors on remarriage satisfaction among widows and widowers in Likuyani Sub-County in Kakamega County.

### **1.5.2 Specific Objectives**

The specific objectives of the study were:

1. To determine the influence of demographic characteristics of widows and widowers on remarriage satisfaction in Likuyani Sub-County.
2. To establish the influence of socio-economic factors of widows and widowers on remarriage satisfaction in Likuyani Sub-County.
3. To determine the influence of the psychological factors of widows and widowers on remarriage satisfaction in Likuyani Sub-County.

## **1.6 Research Questions**

The study was guided by the following research questions:

1. What is the influence of demographic characteristics of widows and widowers on remarriage satisfaction in Likuyani Sub-County?
2. What is the influence of socio-economic factors of widows and widowers on remarriage satisfaction in Likuyani Sub-County?

3. What is the influence of the psychological factors of widows and widowers on remarriage satisfaction in Likuyani Sub-County?

### **1.7 Significance of the Study**

This study will be of great significance to researchers in the field of social science by yielding new insights into the factors influencing remarriage satisfaction following widowhood. The findings may also benefit policymakers seeking to streamline various policies centering on remarried couples. Furthermore, this study will be useful to the social work profession. Social work practitioners, especially those at the community level, can utilize the findings of this research in generating more practical strategies of assisting vulnerable persons in the society, especially widows and widowers.

Moreover, marriage counselors will find the findings of this study meaningful in that they will use the insights acquired to augment their experience while handling remarried couples. The new knowledge will also benefit administrators and religious leaders, who could refer or give reassurances to couples in the contemplation stage, thus enabling them to make informed decisions before remarriage.

Lastly, the study will also be of potential benefit to those who are already remarried by enhancing their understanding of handling diverse challenges faced within the marital relationship. Insights from this study could enable remarried couples view such situations as normal cycles in the development of a remarriage system. In addition, the findings will also enable them to disseminate knowledge that can be of use to others facing similar situations.

### **1.8 Justification of the Study**

Following death of a partner the widowed spouse may choose to remarry as a way of moving on with life. However, in the contemporary era, remarrying is often associated with challenges of social, economic and psychological nature, which are more pronounced in the rural settings. Further still both the post-divorce and post bereavement remarriages are viewed as one entity, regardless of the different histories and nature. Therefore this study specifically unveils the circumstances and the dictates of the lives of remarried post bereavement couples, within the confines of their social, economic and psychological contexts. Likuyani Sub County offers the required context as a rural setting, and being a cosmopolitan area, it has the potential of yielding rich information for the study. The study findings reveal a clearer understanding on the influence of the various contexts on remarriage satisfaction among widows and widowers in Likuyani Sub County which mainly rural in nature.

### **1.9 Scope of the Study**

The study focused on three administrative units of Likuyani Sub-County. These included Nzoia, Sinoko, and Likuyani. This was necessitated by the unavailability of chiefs in the other two wards of Sango and Kongoni at the period preceding the study. The participants comprised 10 men and 15 women with the age of 25 years and above, who had previously been widowed and had remarried at the time of the study. The study was carried out between July and November 2018. The study investigated the influence of demographic, socio-economic and psychological factors on remarriage satisfaction.

### **1.10 Assumptions of the Study**

The study was guided by the following assumptions:

- That remarriage happiness is instrumental to individual well-being and family happiness of widows and widowers.
- That a couple's marital satisfaction is crucial targets in counselling interventions that prevent minimize marital distress and the likelihood of divorce.
- That exploring the socio-demographic, economic, and contextual variables in this study can reduce dissatisfaction among remarried widows and widowers.

### **1.11 Limitations of the Study**

The current study was characterized by several limitations. The first one revolved around getting the information needed from the respondents. The intricate, confidential, and private nature of marriage proved to be challenging for the researcher in the course of the study. Notably, many couples were apprehensive to talk about their marriage experiences with the researcher. However, this was mitigated by assuring them that the data collection exercise was purely for academic purposes and that their confidentiality would be adhered to.

Secondly, the researcher experienced a challenge in locating remarried widows and widowers. There was no record of statistics of widowed remarried spouses; therefore, it was logistically challenging to locate them. However, with the use of the local chiefs, this challenge was mitigated. At the same time, the employment of purposive sampling enabled the researcher to sample out the respondents based on known characteristics.

### 1.12 Operational Definition of Terms

**Demographic characteristics:** they refer to the factors that are used to define the characteristics of a person or population. In the current study, they were participants' gender and age.

**Psychological well-being:** The ability to achieve a state of balance and make deliberate efforts to move on with life irrespective of whether one is affected by challenging or rewarding life events.

**Remarriage:** A second or subsequent heterogeneous marriage which takes place between a bereaved/divorced male or female and a bereaved/divorced or single female or male, with or without children from previous marriage, living or not living with children from the family of any spouse (Noël-Miller, 2008). In this study, remarriage refers only to the previously widowed partner in the heterogeneous remarriage, in which case there could be only one or both partners who have experienced widowhood.

**Satisfaction:** The idea of being pleased by getting what one needs (Ruch, Turney, and Ward (2010)). The study views satisfaction as being contented that a need is being met. These needs, which include physiological well-being, safety, love and belongingness, esteem, and self actualization, are vital in an individual's life

**Socio-economic status:** The study's focus is on the participant's income. Specifically, it delves into the participants engagement in formal and informal employment.

**Stepchild:** The term was used when a widowed partner refers to a non-biological child.

**Stepfamily:** In this study, this term refers to the family formed after remarriage, where one or both partners come from a previously dissolved marriage to form a new family with or without children from any of the partners.

**Stepparent:** This term refers to a remarried partner who is not the biological parent to a child.

### **1.13 Chapter Summary**

This chapter presented an overview of remarriage following the death of a spouse. It provided the information to jump-start the research. Specifically, it highlighted the background to the problem, where studies from different areas were examined before narrowing down to Likuyani Sub-County. The statement of the problem was also encapsulated, as well as the objectives, research questions, significance, scope and limitations. Lastly, the chapter contextualized the key terms employed in the research.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This section presents a review of the existing literature on the influence of demographic characteristics, socio-economic status, and psychological factors on remarriage satisfaction among previously widowed spouses. The review examined theoretical and empirical publications relevant to this study. The chapter is organized into several subtopics: marital disruption, the remarriage phenomenon, remarriage satisfaction, demographic factors and remarriage satisfaction, socio-economic factors and remarriage satisfaction, and psychological well-being and remarriage satisfaction. The theoretical framework was also presented.

#### **2.2 Disruption of Marriage**

While couples hope to live together for life, this dream may falter due to unintended outcomes such as death and divorce (Lavner, Karney, & Bradbury, 2013). Such disruptions have adverse impacts on happiness and satisfaction among married people. Consequently, scholars have developed various formulae for measuring stress levels among couples. The Social Readjustment Rating Scale by Rahe and Holmes is one of the standard scales currently used to measure stress levels. According to this scale, the loss of a spouse was at the highest point rating at 100, followed by divorce rating at 73 (McLeod, 2010). Bereaved spouses face multiple consequences concerning the needs of family members and the challenge of balancing between their roles and those of their lost loved ones.

The available evidence shows that divorce or death leads to disparities in experiences between men and women. O'Connor and Insabella(1999) notes that, widows are



likely to encounter challenges from deprivation and vulnerability due to socio-economic reasons than widowers. Notably, most of them have limited income sources compared to men. Young women also lack a male figure for child-rearing and security. In some African communities, such as Ghana, Malawi, Uganda, and Kenya, death lead to the loss of love, care, companion and livelihood, and property violations from in-laws (Korang-Okrah & Haight, 2014). In Sub Saharan Africa, widows are even forced to undergo various rituals after their spouses' death (COHRE & WHRP, 2008).

Most studies on widowhood have focused on women, with little emphasis on men. However, men are also affected by the loss of their spouses. Notably, they suffer from loneliness, lack of moral support, and increased pressure to attend domestic chores (Lloyd-Sherlock, Corso, & Minicuci, 2015).

Southgate and Roscigno (2009) examined the differences between divorce and widowhood. They noted that divorce is a voluntary decision to exit a failed union, while widowhood is mostly involuntary. There are also differences in ensuring the healing and legal processes. It is from this perspective the study was specific on widowed spouses. Gunga (2009) depicts marriage as a temporary institution that ends at death, noting that life should continue after one partner's dies. Therefore, following the mourning process, one may decide to remain single or remarried to move on with life.

### **2.3 The Remarriage Phenomenon**

Widow remarriage is a second or subsequent heterogeneous marriage, which takes place between a bereaved/divorced male or female and a bereaved/divorced or single female or male, with or without children from the previous union, living or not living

with children from the family of any spouse (Noël-Miller, 2008). According to Korang-Okrah and Haight (2014), widow remarriage is a proper step of moving on with life by demonstrating that an individual has come to terms with the loss of a spouse. Korang-Okrah and Haight (2014), note that an individual is free to remarry twenty-four months after the death of the loved one. The choice to remarry may be due to loneliness, the need to share parenting or companionship responsibilities, or the desire to feel complete once more after resolving grief issues. Brown (2009) asserts that after losing a spouse, one could remarry, love, and be loved. He also posits that factors such as the availability of partners, the feasibility of the relationship, and desirability of companionship increase an individual's desire to remarry.

Peralta(2014) found that approximately 2% of the U.S population at any given time has experienced the loss of a parent and remarriage of the surviving parent before reaching adulthood. In a later study by Livingstone (2013), results revealed that 4 in 10 couples remarry after losing their loved ones. Peralta(2014) further pointed out that 60% of all marriages had both spouses as first marriage, 20% with one spouse from a previous marriage, and 20% with both spouses from previous marriages. Interestingly, Korang-Okrah and Haight (2014), note that widowed people often marry other widows. They found that about 45% of bereaved men and 42% of bereaved tend to marry individuals that also lost their loved ones. This is probably due to the shared experience of having to contend with a terrible loss, which makes them uniquely able to comfort and support each other.

In terms of gender, men are more likely to remarry than women, with a rating of 64% for the former and 54% for the latter. 3% of widows and 17% widowers, 4% of widows and 21% of widowers, and 7% of widows and 29% of widowers remarry after three years, five years, and ten years, respectively (Korang-Okrah & Haight, 2014).

This study also revealed that women tend to have more extensive social networks and trusted confidants than men and receive more support from their children after bereavement. Therefore, men's generally higher desire to remarry may be partially due to a lack of alternative social support. The remarriage rate appears to increase with age, with ages between 18 to 24 and 25 and above rating at 29% and 65%, respectively. Out of those who had remarried 3 times or more, 25% were between the ages of 45 and 54 years while 33% were above the age of 55 years (Livingstone, 2013). This study reveals that as age increases, the tendency to remarry more than thrice also increases.

The different perspectives of widow remarriage are drawn from state laws, religion, and socio-cultural perspectives. The 'Marriage Act 2014 Section 15' of Kenya allows the widow or widower to either remarry or not to. This is a good step despite not being specific in terms of property rights or any other rights. In the Christian doctrine, several teachings tolerate the act of remarrying (Lee & Chun, 2009). Similarly, Islam is tolerant of this practice, as demonstrated in its teachings.

The Luo cultural practice provides the best example in which many African communities allow individuals to remarry. However, the Luo custom only supports wife inheritance, where the widow remains the wife to the deceased (Gunga, 2009). The widow is given to a guardian from the dead husband's clan for both material and emotional support. Hughes and Waite (2009) assert that the world perceives blended families of all kinds as "normal" because of the large number of individuals choosing personally suitable lifestyles. Therefore, contemporary society no longer has one "correct" or "acceptable" form of a family constitution.

Bray and Kelly (1998) argue that every stepfamily has a natural cycle of change and transition point. Thus, it takes couples many years to form a basic unit. In the first two years, about 25% of remarriages are somewhat at significant risk. This union does not begin with a honeymoon like fresh marriages. Marital satisfaction in these types of partnerships starts at a moderate level and may increase gradually or decrease to the point of divorce. Four basic tasks are required to achieve cohesion in remarriages. Couples need to integrate the step-parent into the family, create a satisfactory second marriage, separate from ghosts of the past, and manage all the change that comes with remarriages. For this to happen, it requires psychological, social, and economic support to the spouses and the family.

A focus on remarriage may be incomplete if one does not distinguish whether it rises from previous divorce or previous bereavement. Arkturk & Fisiloglu(2009) state that research on remarriage dates back to the 1970s when few studies addressed the issue of post-bereavement. Brimhall, Lizano, and Mar Barak (2014) further posit that remarriage post bereavement and post-divorce are different in terms of histories, experiences, complexities, and functioning. Thus, each of these aspects should be approached differently.

#### **2.4 Remarriage Satisfaction**

According to Dabome (2014), satisfaction in marriage is a mental perceived state that reflects the perceived benefits and costs of marriage to a particular person. This argument implies that the greater the benefit, the higher the satisfaction, and the greater the costs, the lower the satisfaction. Remarriage is a step that seeks to fill in some form of a gap that has been left from a previous marriage with the aim of achieving some form of benefit. Satisfaction can be seen through the perception that the spouse/s have towards remarriage, whether they feel that after remarrying, their

lives have taken a better twist in terms of the quality of life. A couple demonstrates satisfaction through constant appreciation of their achievements in terms of raising children, family development and the quality of life.

Cartwright (2012) reported that children were known for not accepting the new parent partner, the step-parent roles, and the changes in their positions in the families. Additionally, they experience other boundary issues. Colman et al. (2001) also found that the older children in stepfamilies have feelings of disloyalty to their deceased parents and often express fears about their inheritance issues. Such perceptions end up curtailing happiness and satisfaction in the marriage. Brown (2009) stresses the need for premarital counselling. He notes that this will allow children to love, offer them company, security and hope, and, therefore, replace feelings of loss, gloom, and negativity. Premarital counselling could be a missing link both in first and subsequent marriages and most spouses seem to approach counsellors only in times of crisis.

Arkturk & Fisiloglu (2009) found that while remarriage satisfaction in post bereavement spouses depends on the length of the current marriage and income. Most studies on marital satisfaction and happiness seemed to have been conducted in Western, industrialized, and rich democracies, which leaves a gap in studies conducted in Sub-Saharan Africa (Frijters & Beatton, 2012). Remarriage satisfaction, therefore, seems to be influenced by issues mainly of social, economic and psychological concerns. There are minimal studies in remarriage satisfaction that focus on post bereavement remarriages, especially in Kenya, necessitate the need for this study.

## **2.5 Demographic factors and Remarriage Satisfaction**

### **2.5.1 The Gender Phenomenon**

Gender has been found to play a significant role in determining remarriage satisfaction. Davidson(2002) found that the likelihood to re-partner after widowhood was more than 60% for widowers compared to widows who had less than 20% chances. This seems to reflect in the gender gap on remarriage, where widowers are more likely to remarry than widows. The implication of this was that heartbroken widows mourn the loss of their husbands, whereas widowed men quickly find a helpmate and confidante to take the place of their late wives (Carr, 2004). Furthermore, Benard (1982) and Fowers (1991) revealed that in the U.S.A, men benefitted more from remarriages than women.

Ratings in the influence of gender and marriage satisfaction are viewed differently in different states. Kurosu (2008) notes that, the United States and European countries support widow remarriage. This signifies a paradigm shift from the past whereby widows in Italy were stigmatized for remarrying during the 18th and 19th Centuries. There are some Asian communities in India, children are betrothed at an early age waiting for the right age to get married, and in case the would-be husband dies before the time for marriage, then the young girl is said to be widowed. A study by Varun (2013) further revealed that widows in India are still discriminated whether or not they are remarried, which makes them to prefer commit Sati or suicide. In addition, most widows who remarry outside their late husband's kinship often face the risk of fighting for their inheritance, and some even losing it altogether.

In Africa, widows seem to be faced with similar violations. For example, some of the rural communities in Zimbabwe, Malawi, Ghana, and Uganda are forced into wife

inheritance, are subjected to harmful socio-cultural and socio-economic practices, and have reduced powers over their property and reproductive rights (Maphosa & Maphosa, 2014).

In Kenya, most widows are similarly subjected to rights violations. While this is true, Gunga (2009) differs by stating that marriage is a temporary institution that ends at death, and that life should continue after the demise of one's partner. He further stresses that the Luo custom only supports wife inheritance, where the widow remains the 'wife to the deceased.' She is given to a guardian from the deceased husband's clan for both material and emotional support. As such, the widow loses her right to make any decisions about her life. The study does not find the custom in question to adversely affect women in terms of remarriage satisfaction.

Current studies on the influence of gender on remarriage satisfaction have mostly featured the remarried widows as either stigmatized, forced into harmful cultural practices, or denied their property rights. Most studies on remarriage satisfaction have focused more on widows than widowers, and the study seeks to give a closer view of both. Few studies have given a close view of remarried males. The study seeks to provide in-depth insights into the influence of both.

### **2.5.2 Age Phenomenon**

The study examines satisfaction based on age at the time of the remarriage, which would help understand marital satisfaction. Some studies referred to dissatisfaction among young and old married individuals but with a higher level among young individuals Yazdanpnah, Khalili and Keshtkaran (2015). Bulanda (2011) further found that older women reported lower levels of marital satisfaction than men. Most studies focus on the age and time of marriage, stating that the earlier the marriage, the

higher the risks of divorce or widowhood, and the higher the chances to remarry and that remarriage satisfaction increases with age (Dabome, 2014). The study by Livingstone (2013) revealed that the rate of remarriage between 18 and 24, 25 and 34, 35 and 44, and 45 and 55, and 56 and 64, and 55 and above years is about 29%, 43%, 57%, 63%, 67%, and 50%, respectively. The preference of age at remarriage could probably be linked to their perceptions of remarriage satisfaction.

In their first marriage, 80% of the men marry spouses within five years of their age, which drops to 57% by the second marriage (Livingstone, 2013). 7% of women prefer marrying spouses more than ten years their age in their first marriage, which doubles to 13% in remarriage. The study also found that 3% of women marry younger men, and 5% of women remarrying younger men. Women beyond 64 years may not be willing to remarry since they do not wish to let go of their newly found freedom. Moreover, they do not wish to carry the older spouse's burden while they, too, could be having health problems (Livingstone, 2013).

The United States Census Bureau (2008) found differences between the median age at divorce and widowhood. On divorce, it was at 35 years for men and 33 years for women. On widowhood, it was at 60 years of age for both. These findings clearly suggest the need to carry out a study that is more specific to post widowhood remarriage. Most studies tend to focus on the preferred age for marriage, or remarriage, and divorce. Their median age of divorce is almost half compared to that of widowhood. It is of great importance to separate divorce and bereavement issues (Southgate & Roscigno, 2009).

Clearly, spouses are faced with different challenges at various stages in life that are age-specific. The facts and circumstances associated with a woman widowed at age



25 may be different from a widow at 48 in terms of what they need to achieve remarriage satisfaction. The focus on what age the couples are most vulnerable to divorce could give hints on the age at which the remarried spouses would be prone to high or low levels of satisfaction.

## **2.6 Socio-Economic Factors and Remarriage Satisfaction**

A study by O'Connor and Insabella (1999) shows that most widows suffer from deprivation and vulnerability due to socio-economic reasons since most of them have a limited source of income than men. As such, some widows choose remarriage for financial assistance. In line with this, Korang-Okrah & Haight (2014) state that as much as not everyone remarries for money alone, economic considerations are real. Hughes and Waite (2009) link remarriage satisfaction to greater socio-economic security and life satisfaction instead of remaining single or divorced. Also, widows who remarry have higher household incomes and worry less about finances than those who do not remarry. Ochiai(2005) also concurs that remarriage is for social and economic security. Widows with higher education and employment may also worry less about finances and property rights. Ambasa-Shisanya (2007) states that widows with primary school education and no economic empowerment tend to submit to the cultural demands that allow males as heads of the family to be the sole decision-makers. Ahmadi and Sadeghi (2016) found that families with a higher economic status were more socially satisfied, whereas education increased expectations in public knowledge. Males were meant to work, earn, and provide financial resources for the daily running of the homes, while females were meant to run the household chores and also be the homemaker and keeper.

In the current situation, however, the world experiences evolving gender roles based on employment, which sometimes dictate how the household and child care responsibilities are shared in marriages. Gere and Helwig (2012) attribute this to both an advantage and a disadvantage to marital satisfaction. Similarly, Ogletree (2015) argues that changing gender and marital roles largely influence marriage quality and satisfaction.

A study by Stevens, Kiger and Riley (2001) revealed that for women, their partner's housework was related to housework satisfaction, which, in turn, predicted marital satisfaction. However, the 1980 national sample comparisons to the 2000 sample by Amato, Johnson, Booth and Rogers (2003) found out that husbands' greater housework participation was not related to wives' increased marital quality but to a decline in husbands' marital quality.

Rataj and Matysiak (2012) investigated the effects of men's and women's employment on their spouses' subjective well-being in Poland. The study used panel data techniques that allow researchers to account for the selection of intrinsically happy individuals into male breadwinner or dual-earner models. The study found that women's employment positively impacts women's well-being but reduces their husbands' happiness. However, among men, the researchers observed a clearly detrimental effect of their wife's employment on husbands' psychological well-being. Thus, men in Poland are satisfied with a male breadwinner family model, are happier if they work, and prefer to have non-working wives.

Matysiak, Styrac, and Vignoli (2011) argue that women's employment is more likely to stabilize marriages if their jobs are state-supported and socially accepted. Cooke and Gash (2010) revealed that the effects of wives' employment on marital stability vary

across the countries. In the more liberal British and US labour markets, neither wives' part-time nor full-time job significantly alters divorce risk. In West Germany, with its high-quality part-time employment, couples, where the wife works part-time are substantially more stable. For West German and British, husbands' unemployment proves more detrimental to marital stability than wives' employment. These results highlight the importance of the socio-economic context in structuring the optimal employment participation of both partners.

A study by Colbert, Cooke, Camic, and Springham(2013) revealed that wife's employment in Australia, Flanders, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, and the United Kingdom had no significant effect on divorce risk. In Finland, Norway, and Sweden, wives' employment predicts a significantly lower risk of divorce than wives out of the labour force. Therefore, the results indicate that adequate policy support for equality reduces and may even reverse the relative divorce risk associated with a wife's employment.

Edsel (2014) found no clear evidence of a difference in the happiness between the housewife and the working wife. Instead, if a disparity in the happiness between the housewife and the working wife existed, it might be associated with culture and social context. Thus, what might apply to the working wife in West Europe and North America need not apply in the other areas. Indeed, there is a lot of variation from the results across the emerging country groupings. For instance, the results pointed out that paid work, regardless of status, may be perceived as a "good" in some areas but a "bad" in others. More specifically, the differences in the happiness between the housewife and working wife might be more about the outcomes of habit produced by culture and social norms.

Marriage satisfaction could also be influenced by how partners plan or spend their financial resources. Tan and Mailon (2015) found lower marital satisfaction in couples of opposite spenders as they expressed themselves as engaging in different conflicts about income, debts, and savings. This study reveals significant concerns about social-economic status. Financial considerations are significant in relationships. Husbands were rather dissatisfied if they had to depend on wives as breadwinners, yet women felt satisfied. Few studies have explored satisfaction in terms of which spouse saves more rather than spending financial resources. Optimal families have couples who plan their resources together, failure to which one may give rise to trust issues and dissatisfaction in the relationship. The latest study was on the rich marrying only the rich.

Though most of the studies claim that widowed spouses are vulnerable, most of the socio-economic findings are focused on first marriages. High levels of education expose people to compete better in the job industry. With the changing trends, even those in rural areas are advancing in education. This study could increase their expectations so that they do not become vulnerable when widowed or remarriage. The researcher was interested in finding out how socioeconomic status influences widows and widowers' remarriage satisfaction.

## **2.7 Psychological factors and Remarriage Satisfaction**

Psychological well-being is the ability for individuals to achieve a state of balance, whether they are affected by challenging or rewarding life events (Dodge, Daly, Huyton, & Sanders, 2012). Individuals experiencing psychological well-being are those who can endure human experiences and move on with life. Both good and bad experiences are capable of throwing people off the balance if not guarded upon.

Moore, Stratton, and Stratton (2002) found widowed persons to be having a lower level of psychological well-being, while Ranjan (2011) argues that remarriage increases the individual's sense of well-being, greater life satisfaction, and less depression than the unmarried widows. This notion is also supported by Lee and Chun (2009), who contend that remarriage brings about stable families with happier children and a more stable society with fewer crimes and social problems. This way, the bereaved spouse will mourn and eventually think of how best to move on with life. Divorce has been found to be increasing, especially for remarriage couples, and psychological well-being will enable them to work through the various challenges and move on.

On the contrary, Carr (2004) states that widow remarriage manifests with emotions. Notably, it displays previous pains or current blending system, with feelings of anxiety, insecurity, and fears. Other outcomes include guilt and anger and low self-esteem, and that ways and means of how the dominant emotions like anger, fear, and guilty and how they are expressed are not clear.

Kenrick (2010) also argues that individuals achieve a state of well-being when they are satisfied that their needs have been fulfilled. Henriques (2014), Ryff and Keyes (1995) associate psychological well-being with attributes like personal mastery, autonomy, a feeling of purpose and meaning in life, contentment, and happiness. They described six factors associated with individuals posing the sense of well-being: personal acceptance, personal growth, having a purpose in life, autonomy, environmental mastery, and positive relations.

Self-acceptance refers to one's awareness of and feeling satisfied with one's strengths and weaknesses, deficiencies, and choices (McQuillan, 2015). It is only in knowing

and accepting one's weakness that entrepreneurs would choose to attend workshops to improve their marketing or accounting skills in order to boost their business prospects. Kingstone, Baker, Waterfield and Bartlam(2018) stated that one's perception could predict marriage satisfaction and eventual outcome. This has to do with the perception that knowing the other partner very well at the time of marriage reduces the likelihood of divorce by 50% at any given point. Perceiving future happiness with the spouse also translates to how the current relationship works, which eventually lowers the risk of divorce, increasing marriage satisfaction. Self-awareness also has to do with being in touch with one's actions or behaviour and how it may positively or negatively impact the marriage.

Positive relations imply the establishment of quality ties with others. Aubrey (2016) observes that second marriages may not present in similar ways to first marriages. Remarriage opens yet another stage in life, different from previous ones, when one needs to seek to understand the dynamics found in this type of relationship, hence striving to understand and empathize with others.

Having a purpose in life refers to one's view of the purpose for existence, which may be based on cultural and religious backgrounds, ideologies, social ties, and inquiries (Hybron, 2013). In bereavement or divorce, one may think that life has no meaning. However, by looking positively at the mysteries of life, one eventually realizes that there is more to life, hence the need to move on and make the best of what life offers. Autonomy refers to the feeling of independence and making decisions independent of others, and the choice to remarry after the loss of a spouse is personal and should not be dependent on how others look at it (Sonya, 2017). Environmental mastery comes about when one makes effective use of opportunities within their reach, and feels in

charge of those factors and activities. Relationships are built after passing through stages, and so the transition through divorce or bereavement, and finally to remarriage brings with it some remarkable change. Remarriage gives spouses the opportunity to complement each other so as to meet some, if not all needs. In order to achieve satisfaction, one needs to concentrate on how the newly found opportunities in the current relationship can be useful, rather than comparing it to the weaknesses of the previous marriage.

Personal growth implies that the individual is open to new experiences in order to improve the quality of their lives (Aubrey, 2016). Divorce or bereavement may leave individuals thinking that life has come to an end, but with time one's openness about the pain paves the way to acceptance and the need to move on with life either as a single or remarried person. Previous studies on psychological well-being focused on marriage's influence on psychological well-being in spouses in the first marriage. The longitudinal study by Greene (1990) revealed that older remarried widowers gained a sense of psychological well-being from the new-found greater social network and support. However, Wang Was, and Liu (2003) found little interrelations between marital status, social support, and psychological well-being, and that most of the previously single mothers to be gaining a sense of psychological well-being than the single and divorced ones, due to the social, economic benefits.

In his study, Chi (2008) found a correlation between high scores on depression and obsessive-compulsive and personality factors with a low marital satisfaction score. In some way, depression could also be a result of marital dissatisfaction. Jeynes (2011) equates remarriage to children's psychological well-being with a focus on biological and non-biological mothers. According to Johnson (2012), recent times have seen

some development of policies that promote marital interventions and discourage divorce, due to the association placed between marriage and well-being.

Lisa, Wada, Kauss, and Wang (2012) views well-being as living in a state that is in some sense good. Individuals make certain judgments about their life in a given context. For example, issues on health, community, or family. Doodson and Davis (2014) posit that different challenges bring about other states of well-being. It ranges along a continuum from a sense of being low to a sense of being high. At the low level, one may experience negative mental and physical strain, while at a higher level. One may express positive feelings with perceived meaningfulness, engagement, and resilience, even in the sense of adversity.

Psychological well-being implies the feeling of goodness in life, which comes from within rather than how others perceive it. People who possess psychological well-being can see life positively, move on with life amid adversities, and express high psychological well-being levels. This would go a long way in improving remarriage and reducing the risks that lead to heightened divorce rates found in second and subsequent marriages. Those who lack it end up in mental distress, expressing pessimism and depression, and ever wallowing in emotional pain. From the different schools, psychological well-being can be summed up as acquiring self-awareness, environmental mastery, a sense of autonomy, and purpose in life. Most of the above studies featured a greater sense of well-being upon remarriage for the spouses and children, who showed improved self-esteem, optimism, and a sense of purpose. Therefore, this study sought to find out an increase in the psychological well-being of widows and widowers upon remarriage satisfaction.



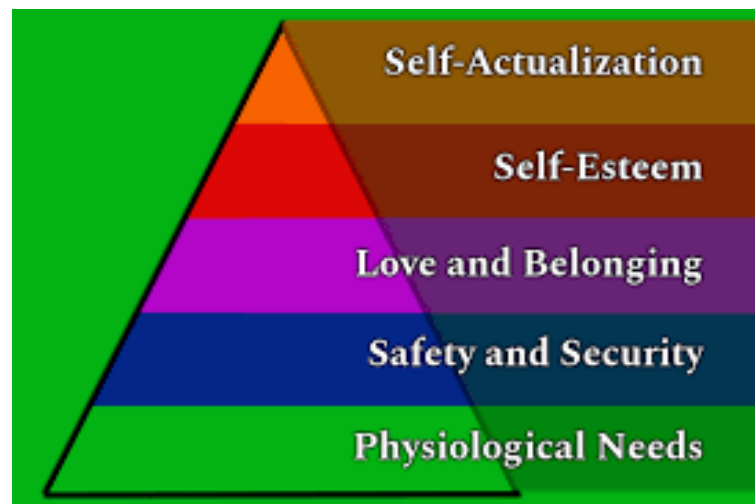
## **2.8 Theoretical Framework**

The study adopted Abraham Maslow's needs hierarchical theory. According to Maslow (1943), fulfillment is one of the most critical resources that motivate relationships in a family. The Macmillan English Dictionary defines the word 'need' as 'very necessary' or emphasizes what must be received. The word fulfillment also means to achieve or satisfy (Rundell & Fox, 2008). Humans have needs, and failure to meet them leads to disputes and disappointment in relationships (Kremer & Claudia, 2013).

Maslow (1943) notes that "when people have needs that are not being met in the marriage, they go without, suffer or find other ways to meet them (p. 45)." Thus, when people know and understand their needs, they can take action to meet them, and consequently any issues causing the problems in remarriage can be addressed, which may assist in either improving or enhancing remarriage satisfaction.

Abraham Maslow was a clinical psychologist who categorized human needs into a five-tier model often depicted as hierarchical levels within a pyramid. These needs are described in ascending order from physiological and biological conditions, security needs, love and belongingness needs, self-esteem needs, and self-actualization needs (McLeod, 2010). Maslow considered humans as wanting beings who are multi-motivated by the requirements they yearn for. Notably, he believed that these needs are universal and that the lower levels of needs must be relatively satisfied before the higher needs are activated to begin to motivate behavior. Maslow pointed out that once a need is satisfied, it no longer dominates behavior and another need then arises to take its place. Most behavior is multi-motivated, and the order of needs might be flexible based on either individual differences or external circumstances. For example, he noted that, for some individuals, the need for self-actualization is more critical than

the need for love. For others, the need for self-esteem may supersede even the most basic conditions (Maslow, 1999; McLeod, 2010).



**Figure 2.1: Maslow's hierarchy of needs**

Source: Maslow, 1999

From Figure 2.1, it can be seen that the levels of Maslow's need hierarchy from lowest to highest include physiological, safety, love and belonging, self-esteem, and self-actualization needs. Physiological needs include those that satisfy hunger, thirst, sex, shelter, warmth, sleep, education, and health. These needs are most necessary, and their fulfillment is essential for survival. On the other hand, safety needs entail security and protection from physical and emotional harm. Examples include security in terms of the body, employment, resources, morality, family, health, and prosperity. Meeting these needs is expected to secure the future satisfaction of the fundamental requirements.

Thirdly, love, and belonging needs are also known as social needs and include affection, belongingness, acceptance, friendship, and sexual intimacy. On the other hand, esteem needs are those for self- respect, respect of others, achievement, competence, autonomy self- confidence, status, recognition, attention, dignity, and appreciation. When these needs are satisfied a sense of adequacy results. If not, it

produces feelings of helplessness and inferiority. Lastly, self-actualization needs are achieved when a person becomes everything that he is capable of becoming in terms of morality, creativity, spontaneity, problem-solving, lack of prejudice, and acceptance of facts.

According to Maslow's original thought, one must satisfy each need, in turn, starting with the most apparent or lower-order needs for survival. After the lower order needs of physical and emotional well-being are satisfied, the individual expresses concern for the higher-order needs of influence and personal development. Conversely, if the satisfaction of lower-order needs is not achieved, human beings may not be capable of addressing the maintenance of higher-order needs. This study was not finding the level of satisfaction, but how satisfied the participant was at all the levels of needs at the time of the study.

Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory was relevant in this study because it exemplifies how characteristics such as gender, age, socio-economic status, and psychological well-being influenced need fulfillment at each level of the pyramid of needs. The researcher used statements from various levels of the pyramid of needs for respondents to rate. Thus, the researcher found the theory useful in measuring remarriage satisfaction.

## **2.9 Chapter Summary**

This chapter examined existing literature on marriage disruption due to death and the impact of remarriage on couples' satisfaction. Despite the inevitable challenges of divorce and death, people enter marriage with lots of optimism. The chapter examined demographic factors namely gender and age to understand their influence on remarriage satisfaction. Studies on gender issues focused on various statistics of

widows, widowers, and the challenges they face. It was revealed that while widows are more vulnerable and materially deprived, widowers are emotionally deprived, making them seek remarriage. The studies on age are more focused on widowhood, and how soon they are ready for remarriage, and that the spouses in the very young and middle adulthood years. Most of the studies on remarriage are either focused on divorce or seem to mix up the two studies focusing on end to experience heightened divorce rates. The socio-economic status of widows is seen to be the underlying reasons behind making decisions to remarry, with the aim of joining up to reduce the prevailing financial vulnerability that may have resulted from widowhood. Studies on employment were mostly in favor of males being breadwinners while the women did domestic chores; however, women seemed to be happy when employed.

Nonetheless, there was no evidence of its influence on remarriage satisfaction. The studies on how psychological well-being determines remarriage satisfaction found that remarriage influences psychological well-being, leaving a gap in how psychological well-being determines remarriage satisfaction. Studies on demographic characteristics on remarriage satisfaction seemed to lean more towards divorce and too little on widowhood, which failed to make a distinction between the two issues. The researcher finds a gap in studies that purely target widowed spouses due to the differences in nature and history.

The reviewed literature is also limited in terms of the range of sites investigated. Most studies involving widow remarriage have been carried out in western countries. The few studies in Africa have concentrated on cultural traditions that support either widow inheritance or on patriarchal communities that discriminate against this form of marriage. Though this study targets the rural area, there are chances that not all

remarried widows are part of these traditions. Therefore, it is vital to examine remarried spouses from varied backgrounds, specifically, in the Kenyan context. Additionally, the reviewed studies lack factual findings on spouses' influence from the specific age groups on remarriage satisfaction. While psychological well-being was measured, it was based on the perspective that remarriage influences psychological health. The current study sought to find how psychological well-being constructs are utilized to help remarried spouses achieve stability and satisfaction. Therefore, the study aimed to investigate the influence of demographic, socio-economic, and psychological status on remarriage satisfaction. Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Theory was utilized as the principal theoretical framework in addressing these objectives.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter describes the methods that were used in carrying out the present study. The subthemes include research design, target population, study site, sampling procedures and sampling size, data collection procedures, data analysis, validity and reliability of the instrument, and ethical issues that were considered before embarking on the actual research.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

Cassell and Symon (2004) define research design as “the argument for the logical steps which will be taken to link the research question(s) and issues to data collection, analysis and interpretation in a coherent way” (p. 326). This study employed a cross-sectional descriptive design. As observed by Carlson and Morrison (2009), cross-sectional designs are used to determine the prevailing characteristics in a population at a certain point in time and are, therefore, ideal for descriptive purposes.

The researcher established that the number of remarried former widows and widowers was unknown; hence, the quantitative method was used to understand the respondents’ details. It was also used in collecting the respondents’ socio-demographic information as well as their socio-economic characteristics and psychological well-being, which were presented in bar charts, figures, and tables.

For the purpose of understanding the influence of socio-demographic factors, socio-economic characteristics, and psychological well-being on remarriage satisfaction, a qualitative approach was used. According to Esch and Esch (2013) qualitative approaches are excellent ways to investigate family dynamics and family

relationships, especially in acquiring family insiders' views about relational processes and dynamics. In this study, the qualitative approach was utilized to gather the much-needed in-depth data obtained from unstructured interviews.

### 3.3 Study Site

The study was carried out in Likuyani Sub-County, Kakamega County. In the course of work with Likuyani Sub County, the researcher had found that post-bereavement remarried spouses were presenting critical relationship concerns which sometimes spilled out in the community. Likuyani Sub-County is a cosmopolitan area that could provide information from a wide range of cultures. It comprises five wards, namely, Sinoko, Nzoia, Kongoni, Sango, and Likuyani. It is situated on the extreme northern end of Kakamega County bordering Kiminini Constituency of Trans Nzoia County in the north, Soy and Turbo Constituencies of Uasin Gishu County in the east, Lugari Constituency in the south, and Tongaren Constituency of Bungoma County in the west. The Sub-County covers an area of 301.90 km<sup>2</sup>. It has a population of 125,137 with varying population densities per ward (Table 3.1). Close to 90% of the district's total population lives in rural areas, more than half of whom (57.37%) fall below the poverty line. The main sources of livelihood include agriculture and small-scale business enterprises KNBS (2016).

**Table 3.1: Likuyani Sub-County Population Size per Ward**

Ward	Total Population	No. of HHs	Land Area (sq.km)
Sinoko	21,019	3,085	50.1
Nzoia	30,321	4,566	54.9
Kongoni	23,701	6,335	43.3
Sango	22,853	5,256	56.4
Likuyani	27,243	3,860	97.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>125,137</b>	<b>17,843</b>	<b>301.9</b>

### **3.4 Target Population**

Kombo and Tromp (2009) define target population as any group of people, items, objects, or institutions that have at least one or more characteristics in common that are of interest to the researcher and from which samples are taken. It is a group of interest that researchers can utilize to generalize the findings from the study. The target population for this study comprised all widowed persons who had remarried and were residing in Likuyani Sub-County. According to KNBS (2016), Likuyani Sub-County has a population of 125,137 with five administrative units: Sango, Likuyani, Kongoni, Nzoia, and Sinoko wards.

### **3.5 Sampling Procedures and Techniques**

#### **3.5.1 Sampling Design**

The purposive sampling technique was preferred in the present study. The choice of this strategy was necessitated by the limitation of selecting the respondents who would fit the desired characteristics required in this area of study. There was no existing data on the number of remarried previously widowed spouses in the Sub-County.

The researcher's efforts to gain entry into the other two ward, that is, Sango and Kongoni, through local administrators (area chiefs), proved futile. Purposive sampling was, therefore, used to draw out three out of the five administrative units (Nzoia, Sinoko, and Likuyani) with the aim of integrating varied socio-demographic and socio-economic characteristics of the study area. The researcher held introductory meetings with the local administrators (chiefs) and subsequently planned on how best to locate the prospective participants. Being in touch with the communities, the chiefs could easily identify households of previously widowed and currently remarried couples; hence, they ensured the respondents' participation. With the chiefs'



assistance, the researcher was able to identify participants who met the established inclusion criteria of having been widowed and being remarried at the time of the study. These households were identified through visits that involved the researcher working with assistants from the chiefs' office. Having been introduced, the researcher informed the spouses about the area of study and the purpose of the research.

### **3.5.2 Sample Size**

Babbles and Mouton (2001) conceptualizes a sample as the subject of units that have been selected. The researcher was accompanied by the chiefs from Lukiyani, Nzoia, and Sinoko wards to identify and visit the houses of previously widowed remarried couples. The researcher informed them about the reasons and intentions for conducting the study. Out of the 49 households visited, 26 participants who met the inclusion criteria and accepted to participate in the study were recruited. Ultimately, 25 respondents, including 10 males and 15 females aged between ages 25 to 75, participated in the study.

### **3.6 Data Collection Instrument**

As noted by Kombo and Tromp (2006), social science researchers commonly use questionnaires, interview schedules, observational forms, and standardized tests as research instruments. In this study, a questionnaire was employed as the main data instrument for collecting both quantitative and qualitative data. The questionnaire featured questions relevant to the research topic. Specifically, it comprised four major parts: a demographic section, the influence of gender and age on remarriage satisfaction using Maslow's hierarchy of needs, the impact of socio-economic status on remarriage satisfaction using Maslow's hierarchy of needs, and Ryff's

psychological well-being questionnaire for widowed remarried couples (Appendix III).

The demographic section was designed to collect information regarding the respondents' gender, age, employment status, monthly income, number of children, and duration as a widow/widower. In the second and third sections, the participants were required to respond to statements asking about their level of remarriage satisfaction based on socio-demographic profile and socio-economic status. The statements under this section were guided by Maslow's hierarchy of needs theory, which measured five areas of need satisfaction, namely, physiological, safety, love and belongingness, self-esteem, and self-actualization. Some of the statements under these sections include "I never starve through lack of food/water," "I am successful in life and/or work, and I'm recognized by my peers for being so," "In general, I am happy that my employment status enables me to provide food, fees and a home," and "My economic status gives me a sense of achievement of my full potential."

The final section of the questionnaire assessed the respondents' psychological well-being using Ryff's Psychological Wellbeing Scale, which measures six aspects of happiness and wellbeing, namely, environmental mastery, positive relations with others, self-acceptance, autonomy, personal growth, and purpose in life (Ryff & Keyes, 1985). Each construct comprised three statement items, with some featuring negatively phrased statements. Example statements under this section included "In general, I feel I am in charge of the situation in which I live," "Most people see me as loving and affectionate," and "When I looked at the story of my life, I am happy with how things have turned out." This section examined how the construct being measured assisted the respondents to satisfy various needs under Maslow's hierarchy

The questionnaire's responses were arranged in a Likert-type scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). According to Joshi, Kale, Chandel, and Pal (2001), a Likert system is a psychometric scale that is mostly utilized in research undertaking that employs the use of research questionnaires. The method is widely used to scale appropriate answers and responses from research respondents in survey research (Long, White, Friedman, & Brazeal, 2000). The research questionnaire (Appendix III) featured a section covering several items that utilize a Likert scale. The respondents were asked to append a tick by indicating their level of agreeableness with the questionnaire items.

Besides the closed-ended questions, the questionnaire also included a column for the respondents' comments regarding the social, economic, and psychological determinants of remarriage satisfaction. This additional space was intended to elaborate the participants' responses to the closed questions. In addition, it allowed the respondents to identify new issues not captured in the closed questions.

### **3.7 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument**

#### **3.7.1 Validity**

Validity, according to Robinson (2006), delineates the degree to which the results obtained from the analysis of data actually represent the phenomenon under investigation. An instrument is valid if it measures what it purports to measure. In this study, content analysis was used to evaluate the appropriateness of the questionnaire and interview schedules. Litwin (1995) defines content validity as a "subjective measure of how appropriate the items seem to a set of reviewers who have some knowledge of the subject matter" (p. 35). Content validity is often assessed by organizing a review of the data collection instrument's content to ensure that it includes all the appropriate details. The questionnaire and interview schedules were

presented to the supervisors for corrections and expert judgment, and they were satisfied. Besides, the construction of the research instruments was pegged on the objectives of the study. Both the questionnaire and the interview schedule were designed to address the research objectives.

### **3.7.2 Reliability**

Mugenda and Mugenda (1999) define reliability as a measure of degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results or data after repeated trials. Reliability also delineates the consistency and stability of scores obtained by the same persons when re-examined with same test on different occasions, with different sets of equivalent items, or under other variable examining conditions (Cohen & Manion, 1994).

In this study, the reliability of the data collection instrument was assessed using the test-retest method. A pilot study was carried out to pretest the questionnaire. To do so, the researcher issued the instrument to two (2) widows and two (2) widowers in Sango and Nzoia wards. While the four individuals had similar credentials to those examined in the study and were residing in the larger Likuyani Sub-County, they would be excluded in the main study. Each widow/widower was requested to fill the instrument twice: at the beginning of the week (Monday) and at end of the week (Friday). The questionnaire was deemed reliable since the responses received on either day of the week were consistent for each of the four individuals.

### **3.8 Data Collection Procedure**

During the introductory visit, the researcher identified herself to the respondents using a research permit obtained from the National Commission for Science Technology and Innovations (NACOSTI) and research authorization from the Sub-County

educational office. The two documents served as an official introduction, as well as authority and grounding, for conducting the study. The researcher further briefed the respondents about the research, its purpose, the intended objectives, and its potential significance. Additionally, the expectations from both the researcher and the participants were clarified. This helped reduce suspicion and even enhanced cooperation. Consent forms were issued and collected from those who agreed to participate in the study. The prospective respondents then identified an appropriate day, time, and place to meet the researcher for data collection.

The researcher also ensured that all requirements for the study, including the research permit, cell phone and air time, adequate questionnaires, consent forms, pens and clip board, notebooks, a diary for booking appointments, referral forms, tape recorder and travelling allowance were ready. Subsequently, an ideal venue and time for meeting the respondents was identified.

During the actual data collection, the researcher assisted the respondents to fill in the self-assessment questionnaire, including Ryff's scale on psychological well-being. Due to literacy considerations, the researcher opted to read out the statements in Appendix III. The respondents were asked to indicate their level of agreeableness with the statements in Sections B, C, and D. Having rated the statements read out to respondents, the researcher further used open-ended questions, probing questions, and clarifications to give further explanations regarding their ratings of satisfaction based on the socio-demographic and socio-economic statements.

### **3.9 Data Analysis Methods**

Data analysis involves organization, interpretation, and presentation of collected data to reduce field information to a usable size (Oso & Onen, 2008). In this study, the

collected data were in qualitative and quantitative forms. Quantitative data from the questionnaire were first subjected to preliminary processing through validation, coding, and editing, and tabulation before the actual analysis. This was done with the help of the Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) computer package Version 23.

The collected data was analyzed using descriptive statistics. Results were presented in tables and charts. Summaries were made at the end of each section with a respective respondent to keep track of the direction. Raw qualitative data from the questionnaire were first transcribed manually and subsequently organized into different tables based on the study's objectives. This was followed by coding of the data based on emerging themes, which were then used to make conclusive links towards the influence of demographic attributes and socio-economic status on remarriage satisfaction. Validation of the data continued throughout the data collection process, thereby enhancing the clarity and objectivity of the responses. At the same time, qualitative data collected was presented in prose in accordance with the objectives. This information was used to compliment and buttress the quantitative data. Direct quotations and verbatim responses were also incorporated for emphasis.

### **3.10 Ethical Considerations**

According to Taylor (2011), researchers should adhere to the fundamental principles governing research. In this study, the researcher ensured the following ethical considerations were met before, during, and after the study. Firstly, the researcher obtained an approval to conduct research from the National Commission for Science Technology and Innovations (NACOSTI) and a letter from the Ministry of Education office in Kakamega County.

Secondly, the researcher ensured that the respondents' participation was voluntary and free, and made no promises of benefits for participation. Notably, the prospective participants were issued with an informed consent form (Appendix II) with the request to sign and return it to the researcher. In this form, they were advised about their rights to withdraw from the research study at any time by simply letting the researcher know orally or in writing. In the event that a respondent chose to withdraw from the study before, during, or after the data analysis had been completed, all documents and data associated were permanently destroyed.

Thirdly, the respondents were assured of the privacy and confidentiality of the information obtained from them. The identity of all the respondents was kept strictly confidential. At the conclusion of the study, any information that revealed the identity of individuals was destroyed. The researcher further took precautionary measures to relieve any psychological reactions aroused in the course the data collection process by referring the identified respondents for debriefing process to a different counselor.

Additionally, honesty was observed. Data, results, methods, and procedures were honestly reported. There were no fabrications, falsifications, or misrepresentation of data. Similarly, the researcher maintained objectivity throughout the data collection and analysis exercise. Objectivity was the researchers concern. The researcher avoided biasness in data analysis, data interpretation, and other aspects of research where objectivity was required. The researcher also guaranteed integrity, kept the promises and agreements, acted with sincerity, endeavored for consistency of thought and action, and avoided careless errors and negligence by careful and critical examination of the entire research work.

### **3.11 Chapter Summary**

This chapter has elaborated the research procedures that were used in collecting data. Specifically, the chapter has outlined the study design that was employed in the research, sampling and sampling procedures, data collection, analysis and the ethical considerations that were followed in ensuring that the study met the best practices in social science research.



## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

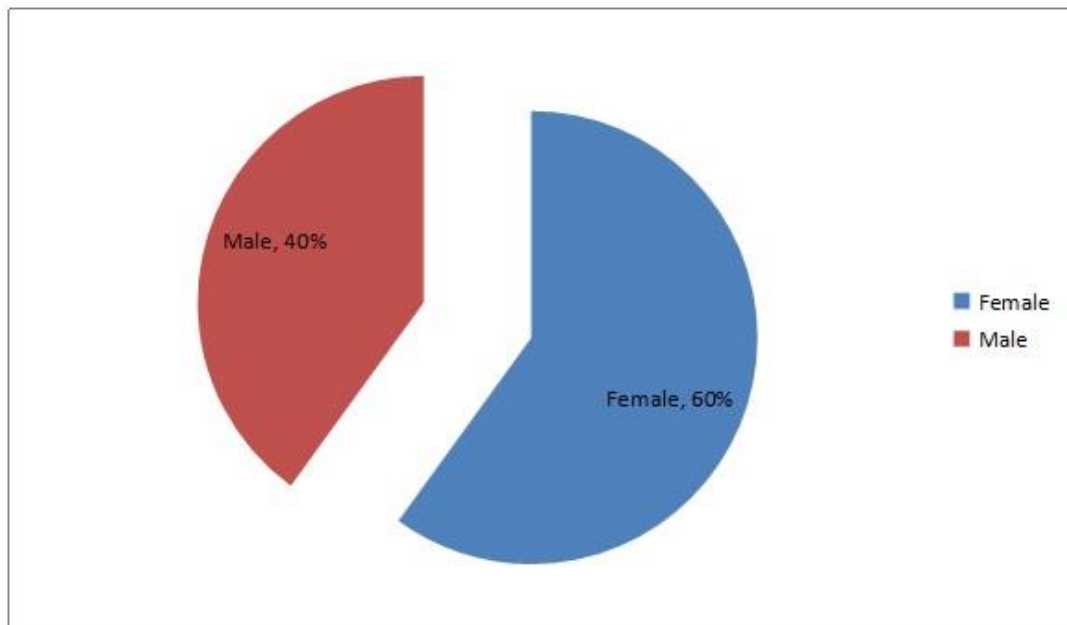
This chapter presents results on the influence of socio-demographic characteristics, socio-economic factors, and psychological well-being on remarriage satisfaction. It is based on data collected from 25 remarried widows and widowers living in Likuyani Sub-County. The data collected from the respondents was analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) Version 23. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages were used to describe and summarize raw data. Additionally, qualitative responses from the comments column of the questionnaire were presented to augment quantitative data. The data was presented systematically in accordance with the research questions, while some of the verbal responses were highlighted by use of tables.

#### **4.2 Demographic Presentation of Data**

The socio-demographic characteristics of the sampled respondents are presented in the section below.

##### **4.2.1 Gender of the Respondents**

The study considered the gender of the respondents as an important aspect in understanding the dynamics of the population. The respondents' gender is presented in Figure 4.1.



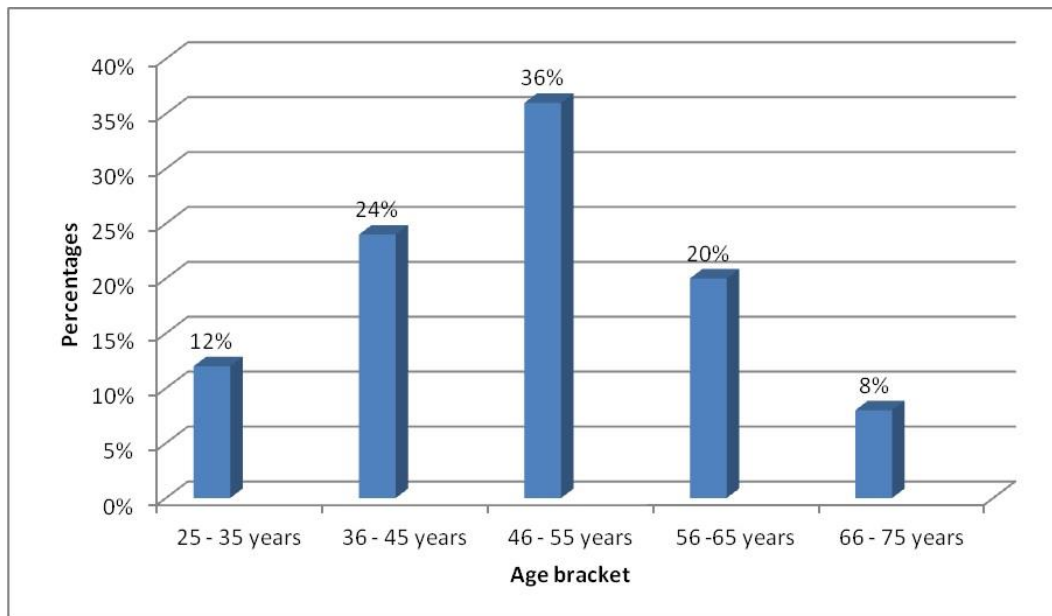
**Figure 4.1: Gender of the respondents**

*Source: Field Data, 2018*

40% of the respondents were males while 60% were females. This indicates that the majority of the respondents were females as necessitated by the number of respondents who were available. These results could also be attributed to the fact that most males in rural settings work away from home while most females stay at home doing various domestic chores, hence easily available.

#### **4.2.2 Age of the Respondents**

The study further sought to determine the ages of the respondents. In this study, age was considered an important factor in enabling the researcher to understand the dynamics of the respondents. The findings are presented in Figure 4.2.



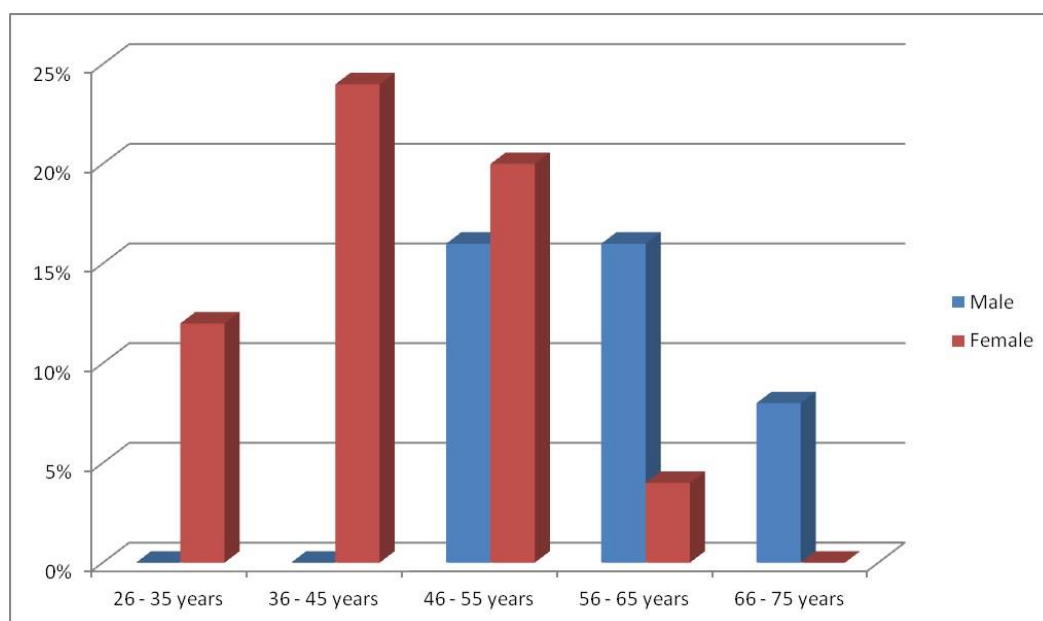
**Figure 4.2: Age bracket of the respondents**

*Source: Field Data (2018)*

The figure above shows that 12% (3) of the respondents were of age 25-35 years, 24% (6) were of age 36-45 years, 36% (9) were of age 46-55 years, 20% (5) were of age 56-65 years, and 8% (2) were 66-75 years old. These findings suggest that the number of remarried respondents increased with age. This is because the most preferred age to get married is from 18 years, till probably 30 to 35 years. Therefore, their likelihood of being widowed, getting through the mourning period, and ultimately opting to remarry is lower compared to older persons. This outcome reflects Livingstone's (2013) findings that remarriage rate tends to increase with age.

Further, the research determined the respondents' age across each gender. The results showed that 12% (3) females were in the age bracket of 25-35 years, 24% (6) females were in the age bracket of 36-45 years, 20% (5) females were in the age bracket of 46-55 years and 16% (4) males were in the age bracket of 46-55 years. 4% (1) female were in the age bracket of 56-65 years while 16% (4) and 8% (2) males were in the age brackets of 56-65 years and 66-75 years, respectively. The results show that there

were no male respondents below the age of 45 years. These findings could be attributed to the male respondents who were accessible at the time of the study. It could also reflect what happens mostly in rural areas. In rural contexts, females tend to get married at a relatively young age; hence, they are likely to be widowed earlier, rendering them vulnerable and likely to remarry at an early age. This outcome is consistent with Sweeney (2005), who reported that more women are widowed at an early age compared to men, thus increasing their likelihood of remarrying earlier than men. The results are presented in Figure 4.3 below.

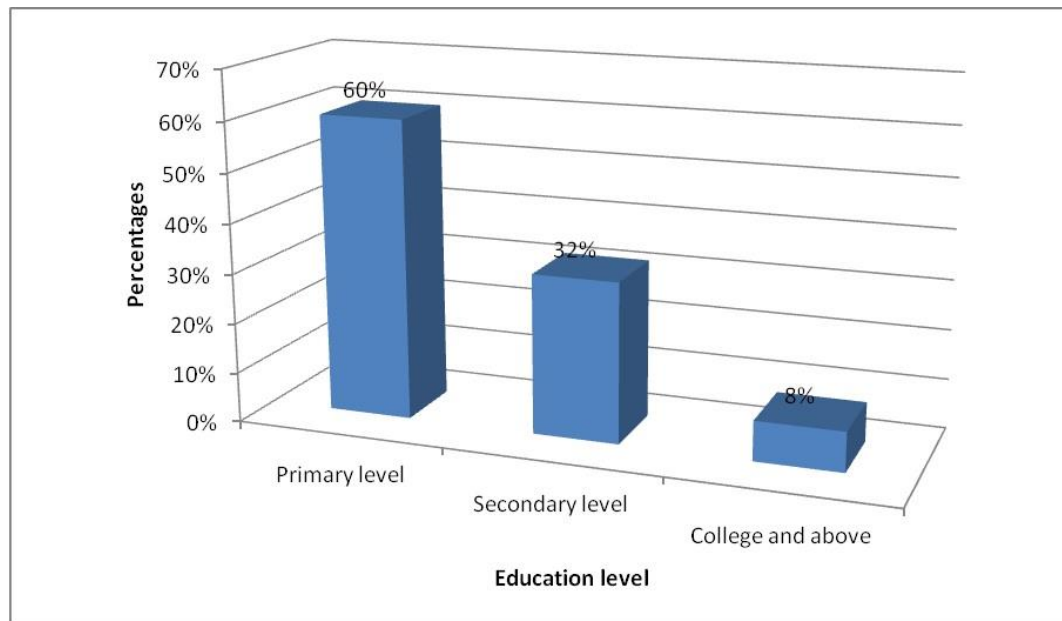


**Figure 4.3: Age of respondents across each gender**

*Source: Field Data (2018)*

#### **4.2.3 Education Level of the Respondents**

Education was also considered as an important aspect of the study population since the higher the level of academic achievement, the easier it is to conceptualize the issues being raised to the respondents. Thus, the study participants were asked to indicate their highest academic qualifications. The results are presented in Figure 4.4.



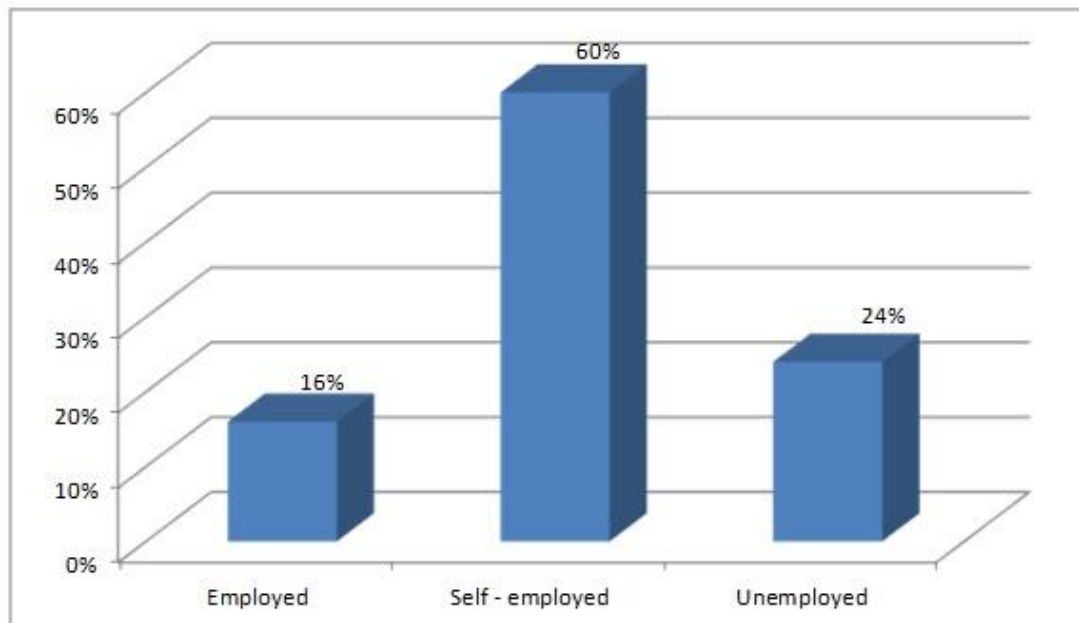
**Figure 4.4: Education level of the respondents**

*Source: Field Data, 2018*

60% (15) of the respondents had attained primary level education. Those who attained secondary level education accounted for 32% (8) of the respondents, while only 8% (2) had attained college education. The study revealed that the majority of the respondents had attained primary level education, with only a few being college or university graduates. Higher education offers opportunities for acquiring the skills needed in competing effectively at the job market and achieving financial security. Therefore, these findings suggest that most spouses in rural-based remarriages have only attained the basic primary level of education, which could potentially hinder their chances of getting meaningful employment to sustain their families.

#### **4.2.4 Occupation of the Respondents**

The study further sought to find out the occupation of the respondents. Occupation was considered important in terms of providing for the remarried family. The findings are presented in Figure 4.5.



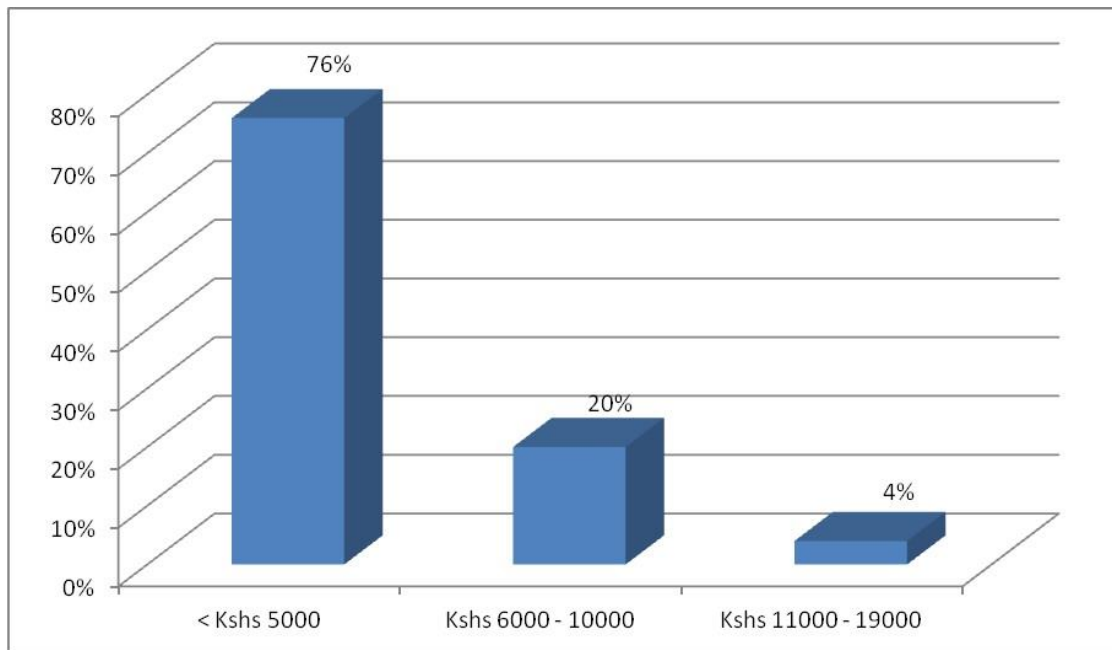
**Figure 4.5: Employment status of the respondents**

*Source: Field Data (2018)*

The results showed that 16% (4) of the respondents were employed, 60% (15) were self-employed, and 24% (6) were unemployed. These findings indicate that the majority of the respondents have some form of employment which could help them to support their families. This outcome means that the majority of the remarried partners have some means of providing for their families.

#### **4.2.5 Monthly Income of the Respondents**

The study sought to establish the average monthly income of the respondents. The level of income was considered in terms of providing for the remarried family's needs. The findings are presented in Figure 4.6.



**Figure 4.6: Monthly income of the respondents**

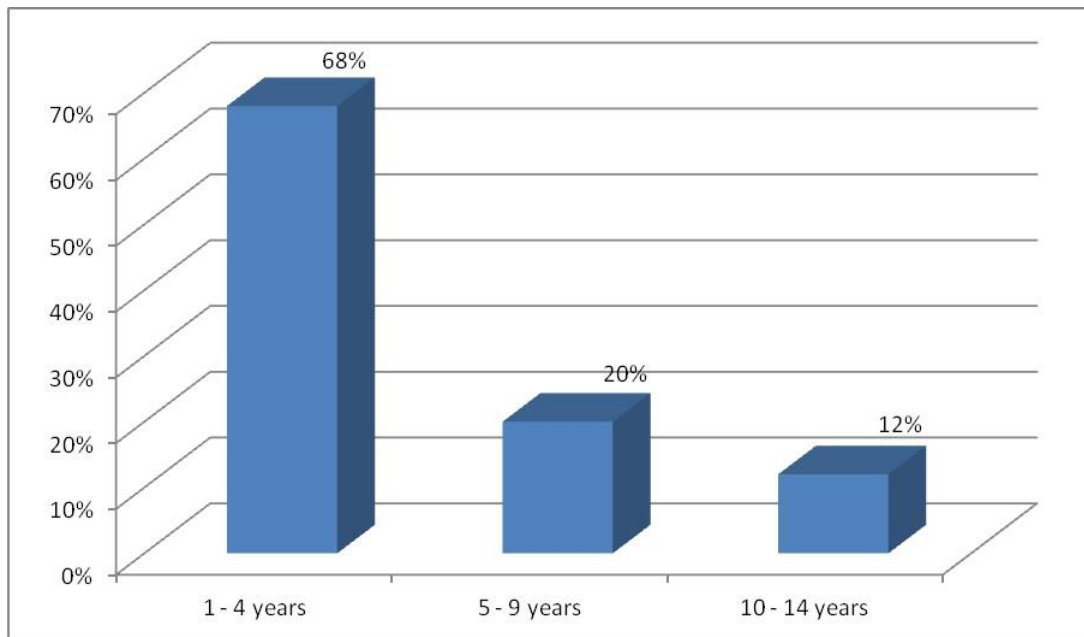
*Source: Field Data (2018)*

The findings show that 76% (19) of the respondents earn KShs 5,000/= and below, 20% (5) earn between KShs 6,000 and kShs10, 000/=-, and 4% (1) earn between KShs 11,000 and 19,000/= per month. From these findings, it is clear that the majority of the respondents fit in the low socio-economic cadre. A remarriage brings about extra responsibilities in terms of providing for the larger family. Therefore, low income forces the spouses to live from hand to mouth, thereby exerting more pressure to the couple in terms of remarriage satisfaction. This means that remarried post-bereavement spouses earn minimal income, which can barely enable them to provide for the basic needs necessary for survival.

#### **4.2.6 Length of Widowhood**

The study sought to find out the respondents' length of widowhood. The length of widowhood was considered for purposes of establishing the time that widows and widowers find it appropriate to let go and move on to remarriage to deal effectively

with various grief concerns. Korang-Okrah and Haight (2014) consider the period of 24 months as adequate to achieve closure and move on with remarriage. The findings are presented in Figure 4.7.



**Figure 4.7: Respondents' length of widowhood**

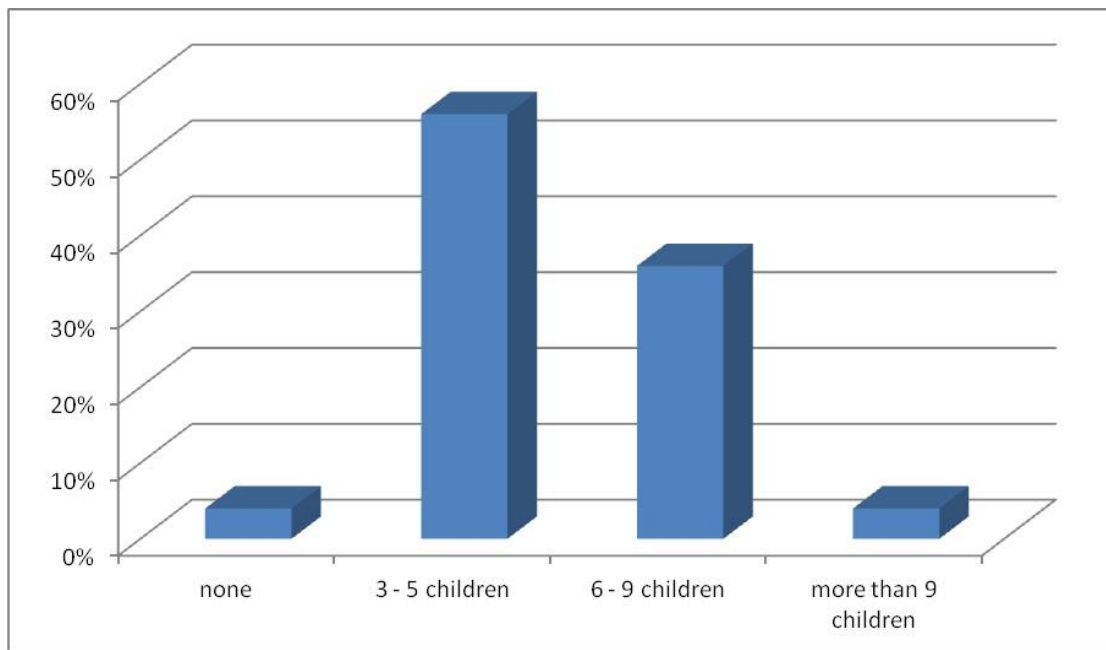
*Source: Field Data (2018)*

The study findings show that 68% (17) of the respondents were widowed for 1-4 years, 20% (5) for 5-9 years, and 12% (3) for 10-14 years before they remarried. These findings could indicate that from 1 to 4 years of widowhood, most widowed spouses are through with the mourning process and, therefore, prefer to remarry as a way of moving on with life.

#### **4.2.7 Average Number of Dependents**

Remarriage often implies the blending of two families, whereby either one or both spouses could be having one or more children. Hence, the study sought to find out the number of children of the respondents. This variable is a key consideration that affects the couple's burden of providing and caring for the larger family. The findings are presented in Figure 4.8.





**Figure 4.8: Number of children of the respondents**

**Source: Field Data (2018)**

The study findings show that 4% (1) of the respondents had no children, 56% (14) had 3-5 children, 36% (9) had 6-9 children, and 4% (1) had more than 9 children. These results revealed that most couples had between 3 to 9 children. These findings suggest that remarried couples have a higher burden of care from the combination of children from the two families.

### **4.3 The Influence of Demographic Characteristics on Remarriage Satisfaction**

The first objective of the study was to determine the influence of socio-demographic characteristics on widows and widowers' remarriage satisfaction. The socio-demographic characteristics examined were age and gender.

#### **4.3.1 Gender and Remarriage Satisfaction**

The researcher sought to determine the influence of gender of the respondents on remarriage satisfaction. Satisfaction needs were based on the Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Thus, the respondents were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with items in the five tiers of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, where they were required to

append a tick on one answer indicating their level of satisfaction with each of the statements and also give further clarifications to their answers. The findings are presented in Table 4.1 below.

**Table 4.1: Level of Satisfaction across each Gender**

Maslow's hierarchy of needs		Gender of respondents			
		Female		Male	
		Percentage	Mean	Percentage	Mean
Physiological needs	Very dissatisfied	13.3%	3.40	0.0%	4.40
	Dissatisfied	33.3%		20.0%	
	Neutral	0.0%		0.0%	
	Satisfied	6.7%		0.0%	
	Very satisfied	47.7%		80.0%	
Safety needs	Very dissatisfied	20.0%	3.20	0.0%	4.40
	Dissatisfied	26.7%		10.0%	
	Neutral	0.0%		0.0%	
	Satisfied	20.0%		30.0%	
	Very satisfied	33.3%		60.0%	
Love/belonging needs	very dissatisfied	20.0%	3.13	10.0%	4.40
	Dissatisfied	26.7%		10.0%	
	Neutral	0.0%		0.0%	
	Satisfied	26.7%		20.0%	
	very satisfied	26.7%		60.0%	
Esteem needs	Very dissatisfied	13.3%	3.13	0.0%	4.10
	Dissatisfied	33.3%		40.0%	
	Neutral	0.0%		0.0%	
	Satisfied	33.3%		30.0%	
	very satisfied	20.0%		30.0%	
Self-actualization needs	Very dissatisfied	26.7%	2.13	0.0%	2.70
	Dissatisfied	53.3%		70.0%	
	Neutral	6.7%		0.0%	
	Satisfied	6.7%		20.0%	
	Very satisfied	6.7%		10.0%	

With regards to physiological needs, the results showed that females were relatively satisfied as indicated by a mean of 3.40. Further, 33.3% of the female respondents indicated that they were dissatisfied while 47.7% were very satisfied. Conversely male respondents indicated high level of satisfaction with physiological needs as indicated by a mean of 4.40. Further, 20% of the males reported that they were dissatisfied, while 80% were very satisfied. The descriptive explanations validated

this pattern of response. Physiological needs include food, water, sleep, sex, and education. These are basic requirements that are important for human survival. When individuals lack the first three, they are likely to die. Based on societal expectations, males provide food, water, and education, while females provide the services of child care and house-keeping. Remarriage is meant to fill those gaps that have been left for both males and females.

In this study, the most important aspect in physiological needs for female respondents was the provision of basic needs, especially food and school fees. While a few of the female respondents reported dissatisfaction with their remarriage meeting physiological needs, others felt that their spouses were not providing enough to meet their needs. One of the female respondents commented:

*I'm satisfied because he provides for all our needs as a family, like food and school fees (RF, 002, Nzoia Ward).*

Another female respondent noted:

*I'm not really satisfied because he does not provide for all our needs. I have to struggle to feed my children. (RF, 001, Likuyani Ward)*

For the male respondents, the most important aspect in physiological needs was the need for a companion to assist in domestic chores. Schaan (2013) revealed that widowers are faced with challenges from assuming the delicate yet important household chores. Few of the male respondents expressed dissatisfaction in their remarriage not meeting physiological needs because of unshared responsibility where the household chores were not performed. The qualitative comments given by some of the male respondents indicated mixed feelings concerning their satisfaction levels. One respondent commented:

*I'm not satisfied because I thought I had found a companion who assisted with chores at home but she does not care much about my sick child. (RM, 004, Likuyani Ward)*

From the above statement, it is clear that gender expectations still play a significant role in the determination of remarriage satisfaction, especially in contexts where men provide for the family and the women run the household chores.

The results showed that females were relatively satisfied with safety needs as indicated by a mean of 3.20. Further, 26.7% of the female respondents indicated that they were dissatisfied, while 33.3% were very satisfied. Conversely male respondents were largely satisfied with safety needs as indicated by a mean of 4.40. Further, 10% of the males were dissatisfied, while 60% were very satisfied. The respondents' varied comments highlighted this pattern of responses:

*I'm satisfied because at least I have a man in the home and I feel secure (RF, 006, Sinoko Ward)*

*He makes all decisions in the family and does not involve me. This makes me feel insecure. (RF, 007, Nzoia Ward)*

Female respondents described safety needs in terms of physical and emotional safety which comes from having a male figure. Remarriage, therefore, seems to offer safety in terms of shelter, comfort, and financial and health security. According to report by Lloyd-Sherlock, Corso and Minicuci, (2015), widows lack a male figure for childrearing and security. Hence, this expectation may have been achieved in remarriage. From the findings, it is clear that remarriage benefits female widows in terms of safety needs. Therefore, they are happy in remarriages because their security needs are fulfilled.

Other responses by the female respondents in this study revealed that acquiring a joint piece of land and a house offered them some sort of affirmation that the spouse was committed to them, thus assuring them of remarriage security. The aspects of joint

ownership also cemented the current marriage by offering property rights. It also meant the remarried couple could eventually settle down in a place where they could be buried in the end. These findings suggest that following remarriage, the question of acquiring land and building a home plays a significant role in assuring female spouses about property ownership and ultimately makes them feel secure in the new marital union.

Another important finding was that most of the females were in polygamous marriages and received threatening messages from other family members. This result suggests that widows are likely to end up in polygamous marriages where they could be predisposed to conflicts.

Male respondents felt secure as the remarriage provided a wife to watch over the home and cook for them when they arrived from work. Some felt that the remarriage seemingly protected them from vulnerability to HIV/AIDS. These findings emphasize the fact that widowers' remarriage enhances commitment to a single sexual partner, which acts as a preventive measure against the contraction of HIV. Men derive a sense of safety in that remarriage offers them a chance to prevent HIV. Most of the male respondents also appreciated the fact that their health had improved as result of remarrying. Others reported that they experienced a sense of stability in their family, as evidenced by the comments below:

*I'm satisfied since I feel secure that I have someone to run the home when I am away working. (RM 008, Likuyani Ward).*

*I'm satisfied because I have someone to take care of me and I don't have to worry about getting HIV/AIDS (RM, 009, Nzoia Ward).*

Widowed spouses aim to find friendship, a complete family, and sexual fulfillment in remarriage for it to satisfy their love/belongingness needs, failure to which they become disappointed. The results of this study showed that females were relatively

satisfied with love/belongingness needs as indicated by a mean of 3.13. Further, 46.7% of the female respondents indicated that they were dissatisfied, while 53.3% were very satisfied. Conversely, male respondents were largely satisfied with love/belongingness needs as indicated by a mean of 4.40. 20% of the males were dissatisfied, while 80% were very satisfied. The qualitative comments highlighted this pattern of response:

*I have no children, so I am happy that I now have a companion. (RF, 013, Sinoko Ward)*

*My children and I are treated as intruders by my husband's older children. (RF, 007, Nzoia Ward)*

Some female respondents expressed the need for companionship and support which they were not receiving from their spouses. Some of the women were unhappy with their relationship and felt that they were not accepted by their new family as well as their spouses' older children. These findings indicate that females experience relatively higher levels of satisfaction, although it is much lower than their male counterparts'. Cartwright (2012) reported that mothers in stepfamilies faced more stress levels than those in first marriages because children were known for not accepting the new parent/partner, stepparent roles, and the changes in their positions. This finding also supports the idea of mothers in stepfamilies encountering rejection from stepchildren.

Other respondents in polygamous remarriages felt there was favoritism in the provision of needs where the husband mostly gave first priority to his own children at the expense of the remarried wife's children. According to Brown (2009), one of the key factors that increase the likelihood of remarriage is the feasibility of partners. This could be due to beliefs that there are more females than males, and also the inability to find a matching mate of the opposite sex. Most widows are, therefore, forced into

polygamous marriages where they often compete for resources. This finding highlights the likelihood of widows settling for polygamous marriages, which are often associated with challenges such as conflicts, discrimination, and lack of the much-needed company.

The female respondents who were satisfied with love/belongingness needs were happy because they belonged to a new family which embraced them dearly, and were given support whenever they fell sick. The comments below exemplify this reality:

*I'm satisfied that at least I belong to a new family.* (RF 010, Sinoko Ward).

*I'm satisfied that we are taken care of when we are sick, we go to the best hospital and we are insured medically. This makes me feel loved.* (RF, 005, Sinoko Ward).

The above statements imply that remarried widows are satisfied when they receive friendship and gain acceptance from the new family.

Male respondents were happy that, through remarriage, they had found the much-needed companionship. Lloyd-Sherlock, Corso, and Minicuci, (2015) noted that widowed men suffer from loneliness. This means that remarriage fulfills their need for love and belongingness. On the contrary, where they felt that their children from previous marriages were being mistreated by the new wife, some male respondents expressed dissatisfaction. The excerpts below highlight the respondents' varied responses on this aspect:

*I wanted a companion because I was very lonely.* (RM, 012, Nzoia Ward).

*We often disagree with my wife because she mistreats the older daughter from my previous marriage.* (RM, 006, Sinoko Ward)

The above comments suggest that widowers are happy when they get a partner who not only offers them friendship and company, but is also friendly to biological children from their previous family.

Regarding esteem needs, the results showed that females were relatively satisfied that the remarriage boosted their self-esteem as indicated by a mean of 3.13. Further, 46.6% of the female respondents indicated that they were dissatisfied, while 53.3% were very satisfied. Conversely, male respondents were largely satisfied with esteem needs as indicated by a mean of 4.10. Further, 40% of males were dissatisfied, while 60% were very satisfied. The death of a spouse affects and sometimes causes stigma, guilt, and shame to widows and widowers alike, which impacts on their self-esteem. Remarriage is often meant to set both the males and females free from the prejudices that society places upon them by earning them respect and confidence. The comments below from two female respondents underscore this pattern of response:

*I feel worth it since I was remarried because married women used to despise me and thought I could snatch their husbands. (RF, 013, Sinoko Ward)*

*I have new clothing and now dress well therefore I'm not ashamed when I meet my friends. (RF, 014, Likuyani Ward).*

On the other hand, one of the male respondents stated the following regarding esteem needs:

*I feel very satisfied when I provide for my family. I am respected. (RM, 017, Sinoko Ward).*

*I have confidence in my ability to do things adequately since I have someone to consult before making certain decisions. (RM, 018, Likuyani Ward).*

As evident from the above comments, both female and male respondents indicated that the remarriage gave them confidence and feelings of adequacy, worth, and value as a family member. However, this was not the case for some of the female respondents. For instance, widows who had been inherited indicated that the remarriage lowered their self-esteem; they did not feel valued, and were ashamed of their remarriage status. This result contradicts the findings by Gunga (2009), who explained the reasons behind inheritance by the Luo cultural traditions, where the



woman is given to the deceased husband's kin for emotional support, which would boost their self-esteem. In the present study, however, this emotional support seemed to be lacking, leading to dissatisfaction in remarriage. This finding means that widow inheritance does not necessarily provide the expected support. It also suggests that remarried widowers derive their self-esteem from their ability to effectively manage, care, and provide for the newly formed family.

In terms of self-actualization needs, the results show that females were not satisfied, as indicated by a mean of 2.13. Further, 80% of females indicated that they were dissatisfied with their self-actualization needs, 6.7% were undecided, while 16.3% were very satisfied. Conversely, male respondents were not satisfied, as indicated by a mean of 2.70. Additionally, 70% of the males were dissatisfied, while 20% were satisfied. The comments below highlight this pattern of response from two females and one male respondent respectively:

*I have not gained enough from this remarriage; I feel like I have wasted my time. (RF, 001, Likuyani Ward)*

*I have no land or home to call my own. How sure am I that one day I will be thrown out? (RF, 007, Nzoia Ward)*

*When my children do not approve of my remarriage, I feel sad that I am unable to control them. (RM, 019, Sinoko Ward)*

Female respondents mainly felt that since most of their other needs, especially security of land ownership, had not been adequately met, they did not feel they had achieved much. Disagreements over the provision of basic needs were also an issue. Some female respondents felt insecure in the remarriage; they often thought that they could be thrown out. The implication of these findings is that the acquisition of land offered the widows a sense of stability and security.

On the other hand, many of the male respondents expressed feelings of sadness and a sense of inadequacy about integrating members from the two different families. These results could be explained by the fact that Kenya is a patriarchal society. Thus, as the head of the family, males should take control of their families, failure to which they feel a sense of inadequacy. Few of the males reported that they are better able to accept the reality of remarriage and, therefore, they tried hard to be efficient with their time, energy, and money in order to achieve balance in their lives. Self-actualization means that the couple has attained a state of healthy balance and self-fulfillment. Although both the male and female respondents indicated various levels of satisfaction with diverse needs, they still have some inner unmet needs. This means that remarried males and females do not achieve self-actualization in remarriage.

#### **4.3.2 Age and Remarriage Satisfaction**

The researcher sought to determine how the respondents' age influenced their satisfaction of remarriage based on Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Thus, the respondents were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with items in the five tiers of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. The findings are presented in Table 4.2 below.

**Table 4.2: Level of Satisfaction across Age Bracket of Respondents**

Maslow's hierarchy of needs	Age of respondents	Age of respondents				
		25-35 years Percent	36-45 years Percent	46-55 years Percent	56-65 years Percent	66-75 years Percent
Physiological needs	Very dissatisfied	0.0%	16.7%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%
	Dissatisfied	33.3%	50.0%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%
	Neutral	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Satisfied	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%
	Very satisfied	66.7%	33.3%	44.4%	100.0%	100.0%
<b>Mean</b>		<b>4.00</b>	<b>2.83</b>	<b>3.44</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>
Safety needs	Very dissatisfied	33.3%	16.7%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%
	Dissatisfied	33.3%	33.3%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%
	Neutral	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Satisfied	0.0%	33.3%	11.1%	40.0%	0.0%
	Very satisfied	33.3%	16.7%	44.4%	60.0%	100%
<b>Mean</b>		<b>2.67</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>3.22</b>	<b>4.60</b>	<b>5.00</b>
Love/belonging	Very dissatisfied	33.3%	16.7%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%
	Dissatisfied	0.0%	33.3%	22.2%	0.0%	0.0%
	Neutral	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
	Satisfied	0.0%	33.3%	22.2%	40.0%	50.0%
	Very satisfied	33.3%	16.7%	22.2%	60.0%	50.0%
<b>Mean</b>		<b>3.00</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>2.78</b>	<b>4.20</b>	<b>4.50</b>
Esteem needs	Very dissatisfied	16.7%	16.7%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%
	Dissatisfied	33.3%	33.3%	44.0%	20.0%	0.0%
	Neutral	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	60.0%	0.0%
	Satisfied	33.3%	33.3%	44.4%	20.0%	50.0%
	Very satisfied	16.7%	16.7%	0.0%	60.0%	50.0%
<b>Mean</b>		<b>3.00</b>	<b>3.00</b>	<b>2.78</b>	<b>4.20</b>	<b>4.50</b>
Self-actualization needs	Very dissatisfied	0.0%	33.3%	11.1%	0.0%	0.0%
	Dissatisfied	66.7%	16.7%	44.0%	20.0%	0.0%
	Neutral	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	20.0%	0.0%
	Satisfied	0.0%	50.0%	44.4%	20.0%	50.0%
	Very satisfied	33.35	0.0%	0.0%	60.0%	50.0%
<b>Mean</b>		<b>2.67</b>	<b>2.67</b>	<b>2.78</b>	<b>3.80</b>	<b>4.50</b>

Regarding the first level of Maslow's hierarchy of needs, respondents in the age bracket 25-35 years were largely satisfied that the remarriage met their physiological needs as indicated by a mean of 4.0. Few respondents indicated neutral levels of satisfaction. There were only female respondents in this group. One of the female respondents stated:

*I have small children and am satisfied that my spouse provides basic needs like food and school fees for us. (RF, 015, Nzoia Ward)*

Young widows are often faced with the challenge of providing food and school fees for their young growing families. Notably, the study by Lloyd-Sherlock, Corso and Minicuci, (2015) reveals that younger widows encounter more challenges from deprivation and vulnerability. This study finds the respondents indicating significantly high levels of satisfaction in meeting their physiological needs. The researcher finds these levels surprisingly high for the females. It means that remarriage has, indeed, fulfilled their child rearing and other concerns. This result indicates that for the younger remarried widows, remarriage offers an answer to most of their physiological needs and increases their satisfaction levels. The qualitative comments below offer more insights into the respondents' view on this matter:

*My children are taken to better schools and I am happy (RF, 002, Nzoia Ward)*

*My life has generally improved than what it used to be (RF, 014, Likuyani Ward)*

However, respondents in the age bracket of 36-45 were not satisfied, as indicated by a mean of 2.83. Similarly, this group comprised only female respondents, who expressed concerns that the families were expanding and exerting pressure to them in terms of providing for their basic needs. One female respondent noted:

*He does not provide to my expectations in the expanding family, and I have to struggle. (RF, 021, Nzoia Ward)*

This finding could be attributed to the fact that these females may have been remarried for some time now. Additionally, women under this category are of reproductive age, thus increasing the likelihood of newly born children common to the couple. Coupled with the needs of the other children, they have to struggle harder in order to satisfy every member of the newly formed family. This result indicates that middle-aged, remarried couples are likely to experience low levels of satisfaction due

to the pressure of providing physiological needs for both the newly formed and additional members in the family.

Respondents in the age bracket of 46-55 years were relatively satisfied as indicated by a mean of 3.44. This finding indicates that both the male and female respondents were struggling to provide due to the increasing demands from the nuclear and extended families. It could also mean that they are slowly adapting to the new changes. This finding suggests that though remarried couples experience more challenges between ages 46-55, they may have started developing some coping skills. While this seems to be true, some of the male respondents on the other hand, expressed some dissatisfaction, citing pressure to provide for the growing family and the burden of child care in instances whereby the wives were deemed not to be caring enough. The comments below exemplify this trend:

*I find it a burden to provide and care for the new family when she does not attend to my special needs child. (RM, 023 Nzoia Ward)*

*It is tough to take care of a remarried family. (RM, 019 Sinoko Ward)*

The above comments suggest that remarried widowers face undue pressure to provide for the expanding families. They could also indicate that females are faster than males in developing coping skills. This result, therefore, means that at ages 46-55, remarried men are faced with a higher burden to provide for the needs of an expanding family. In relation to childcare concerns, Lloyd-Sherlock, Corso, and Minicuci, (2015) notes: “widowed men are unable to do the delicate, and yet very important household chores.” This finding highlights widowed men’s yearning to find a mate who is ready to take care of their biological children. Thus, for males, remarriage has more meaning when their children are well cared for.

Respondents in the age brackets 56-65 and 66-75 years were largely satisfied as indicated by a mean of 5.00. This finding could be attributed to the fact that at this age, most remarried couples would be having more grown up children who could be independent or who could be assisting them in various capacities. Thus, it can be deduced that older, remarried couples are very happy in meeting their physiological needs.

On safety needs, respondents in the age bracket 25-35 years were not satisfied as indicated by a mean of 2.67. Some of the female respondents were in polygamous marriages. Others were left on their own, away in rental houses, as the husbands spent most time with the other families, which probably meant that they still felt lonely and insecure. This finding was corroborated by the following comments:

*My husband is too involved with his other family; I am worried whether this marriage will work well for us. (RF, 022 Sinoko Ward).*

Schaan (2013) states that in widowhood, one experiences lack of emotional and social support. Societal expectations demand that when women are married, they move out to live at the husband's home or preferred place of residence. In the case of a married man, the main preference would be a rental house, which probably poses an extra task of adapting to the new surroundings while dealing with the loneliness. This finding suggests that younger widows who get remarried into polygamous remarriage are bound to miss the expected emotional support. Moreover, it also indicates that remarried females have high expectations of living in their own houses.

Respondents in the age bracket of 36-45 years were relatively satisfied as indicated by a mean of 3.00. Some female respondents have adolescent stepchildren who are critical of this remarriage. Clearly, parenting adolescents is characterized by mental tumult and stress since the teenagers are undergoing identity crisis. This reality,

coupled with the loss of a parent and re-entry of a new parent, could worsen the situation. Colman et al. (2001) found that the older children in step families had feelings of disloyalty to their deceased parents, and often discouraged their parents from remarrying due to fears that their inheritance would be threatened. One female respondent noted:

*My husband has adolescent children who are often critical of the remarriage, which sometimes causes tension and dissatisfaction in our family.* (RF, 001, Likuyani Ward).

The above sentiment suggests that female respondents may lack knowledge on adolescent issues and remarriage consequences. This finding means that in the Middle Ages, females who are not conversant with remarriage consequences as well as the challenges facing adolescents may end up with disappointments in their remarriage.

On the other hand, respondents in the age bracket of 46-55 years were relatively satisfied as indicated by a mean of 3.22. This lot seems to be handling their challenges about land and integration effectively. One of the respondents commented:

*We both work hard and share our responsibilities.* (RF, 010, Sinoko Ward).

Worth mentioning is that time is the best healer; therefore, respondents in this age group could be slowly adapting to the challenges of remarriage and working out ways to deal with them as a family. Hence, given time, remarried families can unite and build stronger families. Responses are highlighted below. One female respondent gave the following response:

*It is not easy for me, but I guess I am now getting used to those rude comments* (RF, 003, Likuyani Ward)

One male also stated the following:

*It was tough initially, but now am glad my children and my new wife are now getting by* (RM, 009, Nzoia Ward)

Respondents in the age bracket 56-65 were largely satisfied as indicated by a mean of 4.60. Similarly, those aged 66-75 were largely satisfied as indicated by a mean of 5.00. From this study, it is clear that with time, remarried families will begin to develop a sense of safety with each other.

On love and belonging needs, respondents in the age bracket 25-35 years were relatively satisfied as indicated by a mean of 3.00. Where the needs at the bottom of the needs triangle were met, they reported commitment and satisfaction. Where the burden of physiological needs and shelter was having a toll on them, they felt that the relationship was meaningless. Some of the female respondents felt dissatisfied where stepchildren did not regard them as mothers. One would, therefore, interpret this as an indication of the importance attached to the title “mother,” and that the absence of this recognition reduces the sense of belongingness for the newly remarried females, which, in turn reduces their level of satisfaction in remarriage. While this may be fit well for the females, it may not be automatic for the children who lost a mother. Further still, it may not be construed that way. The findings, therefore, suggest that remarried females are rather hasty in expecting the title “mother” with little regard of the stepchildren’s feelings.

Respondents in the age bracket 36-45 years were relatively satisfied as indicated by a mean of 3.00. Some of the respondents felt appreciated and were satisfied. However, others felt unsettled since they did not own land to build a house. Following studies in marriage, Tertilt(2005) asserts that most traditional African communities are patriarchal; thus, upon marriage, the woman moves to the man’s family location. In addition, females feel secure when they relocate to a geographical place of residence agreeable to the man. The same picture is reflected in this study, whereby some of the female respondents had moved out of their deceased husbands’ homes to stay in rental



houses. They were often left to live on their own whenever the husbands attended to the other families, and with their minimal resources, this was proving expensive for them. In essence, rural remarried females in midlife may only attain a sense of belongingness when they acquire a common piece of land and a home.

The respondents in the age bracket 46-55 years were not satisfied as indicated by a mean of 2.78. Some of the female respondents had been inherited hardly forty days after their husband's deaths, and displayed grief concerns. Maphosa and Maphosa (2014) assert that women in some rural African cultures are often forced into widow inheritance and have no rights and time to make decisions. Arguably, the female respondents who expressed dissatisfaction with love and belonging needs have not attained a meaningful level of closure with their deceased partners; thus, their feelings of grief are likely to spill over and affect the current relationship. Therefore, the cultural practice of immediate inheritance denies widows a critical mourning period to let-go and to integrate meaningfully into the new marriage.

Other respondents raised concerns about the different sets of children, describing them as, "mine," "his/hers," and "ours." Arguably, this categorization underpins the divisions and conflicts experienced by these respondents. Bray and Kelly (1998) reported that remarried couple's first task is to manage the changes. Remarriage comes with changes in terms of roles, responsibilities, and social boundaries, new parents, new children, new siblings and sibling orders, all of which are critical in their couple's lives. Therefore, the findings suggest that satisfaction in middle life for remarried couples depends on how well they handle the new changes related to various subsystems of the combined families.

Respondents in the age brackets 56-65 and 66-75 were largely satisfied as indicated by a mean of 4.20 and 4.50, respectively. Lee and Chun (2009) found that in relation to age, satisfaction depends mainly on the length of time spent together after remarriage. The findings of this study could, therefore, suggest that at the level of satisfaction, spouses above 56 years could have improved and stabilized due to the longer time taken in remarriage.

Finally, the study's findings on age and love/belongingness needs are consistent with Karney and Bradbury (1995) 'U' shape characteristic through which the satisfaction ratings in remarriage pass in relation to age. Therefore, for remarried couples, love and belonging needs are relatively satisfied, after which they experience a drop at age 46-55 years, then a sharp rise from age 56 and beyond.

As far as esteem needs were concerned, the respondents aged 25-35 years were relatively satisfied, as indicated by a mean of 3.00. To some, remarriage had revived the respect that had been lost, while others did not find much change and were dissatisfied. Respondents in the age bracket 36-45 years were relatively satisfied as indicated by a mean of 3.00. These results could be attributed to the stigma related to false accusations that are often leveled against widows. Notably, other married women may fear that they may break their homes, or further still, consider them unclean, which reduce their self-esteem levels. It is likely that remarriage also ends the false perception they may have developed. These findings imply that remarriage can help elevate the low self-esteem associated with widowhood.

Respondents in the age bracket 46-55 years were not satisfied as indicated by a mean of 2.78. The many sets of children brought about challenges in parenting. This finding is likely to be associated with stepchildren's complains. Since Cartwright

(2012) had found children not to be approving of remarriage, it is likely that their complaints could spill over to the surrounding community, leaving their parents with shame and disappointment. Thus, older remarried couples could gain confidence where the stepfamilies exhibit few tensions and disagreements.

Respondents in the age bracket 56-65 and 66-75 years were largely satisfied as indicated by a mean of 4.20 and 4.50, respectively. These results could suggest that, with time, there are fewer conflicts, and that the remarried spouses are regaining their confidence back. Therefore, with increasing age, remarried couples slowly regain their self-esteem due to reduced stepfamily tensions.

Regarding self-actualization needs, the respondents in the age bracket 25-35 and 36-45 years were not satisfied, as indicated by a mean of 2.67. On the other hand, respondents in the age bracket of 46-55 years were not satisfied as indicated by a mean of 2.78, while the respondents in aged 56-65 years were relatively satisfied as indicated by a mean of 3.80. These findings could, to some extent, reflect the typical neutral or slightly higher ratings of satisfaction of all the other needs below 55 years of age. On the same note, the age group above 56 years indicated largely high levels of satisfaction of needs since their pressure seemed to reduce with time. Hence, from age 56, remarried couples tend to experience a peaceful coexistence in the family as many have settled in life.

#### **4.4 The Influence of Socio-Economic Factors on Remarriage Satisfaction**

The second objective of this study was to establish the effect of socio-economic status on remarriage satisfaction. Thus, the respondents were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with various questionnaire statements derived from the five tiers of Maslow's hierarchy of needs. The findings are presented in Table 4.3 below.

**Table 4.3: Level of Satisfaction in Socio-Economic Characteristics of the Respondents across Gender**

	Gender of Respondents			
	Female		Male	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Employment	3.00	1.134	3.90	1.101
Stable income and job	2.80	1.521	3.60	.803
Friendship and connection	2.93	1.534	4.00	.000
Confidence and achievement of needs	3.33	1.496	3.60	.843
Achievement of full potential	2.87	1.598	3.60	.843

Female respondents were relatively satisfied that their employment status met physiological needs in the remarriage as indicated by a mean of 3.00. The male respondents were also relatively satisfied as indicated by a mean of 3.90. However, these results exhibit a significant gap between the female and male respondents in terms of employment satisfaction. Some female respondents who were engaged in some form of employment expressed satisfaction in being able to share the responsibility of providing for their families. Similarly, other female respondents reported that they benefited from their husbands' employment. One female informant had this to say:

*My children and I are treated better than ever before; we are taken to better schools and better health facilities with a medical cover. We just love it. (RF, 005 Sinoko Ward).*

However, some female respondents tended to deny the fact that they were getting either some or any form of help from their husbands, and were dissatisfied that their husband's employment could not satisfy this need and had to struggle in informal employment for the same. This study found that satisfaction was dependent on the ability of the males to fully provide for the family. However, the husbands' earnings were sometimes insufficient, thereby forcing some female respondents to engage in informal employment.

The male respondents, on the other hand, were largely satisfied that being employed helped them in meeting the physiological needs of their families. However, other male respondents who were the sole bread winners in their families expressed dissatisfaction when their partners did not reciprocate this by offering the much-needed care to their children. One male respondent commented:

*She is not keen in caring for my children, especially the physically challenged one. I sometimes don't go to work so that I can take care for him. (RM 023 Nzoia Ward).*

According to Ahmedi and Sadeghi (2016), males should work, earn, and provide financial resources for the daily running of their homes while women are expected to work in their homes as homemakers. This study revealed that being employed makes widowed men very happy since they can provide for their families. However, when they have a sick or needy child, they are more troubled, especially when the care is deemed insufficient. Therefore, in remarriage, most men are happy with employment as this enables them to satisfy their family's physiological needs. At the same time, they expect their partners to reciprocate by giving utmost care to their needy children. Regarding having a stable income and job critical to meeting safety needs in the remarriage, the female respondents were not satisfied as indicated by a mean of 2.83. From this study, most of the female respondents had attained only primary school education. Thus, they were either in low income employment or unemployed, making it difficult for them to satisfy the physiological needs of the larger family. This finding is collaborated by Lichter and Carmalt, (2009), who depicts low income and material hardship as significant threats, to marital quality. Therefore, low income is tantamount to financial insecurity, leading to remarriage dissatisfaction.

Some female respondents reported that they felt shortchanged off the property acquired from the previous marriage, leaving them more insecure. Assets also serve as

a form of financial security in that they can be sold to settle money-related issues. Ochiai (2005) acknowledges that remarriage is primarily meant for social and economic security. However, he notes that it may not be true for everyone, especially those with minimal levels of education. Ambasa-Shisanya (2007) observes that widows with primary school education and no economic empowerment are more ready to submit to the cultural demands that designate males as the de facto head of family and sole decision makers. In this study, some female respondents reported to be having either scarce or unstable income; however, they opted to persevere in the remarriage in spite of these challenges. Based on these observations, it can be deduced that high levels of education and economic empowerment reduces remarried widows' chances of being exploited.

On the other hand, the male respondents were relatively satisfied as indicated by a mean of 3.60. They reported being the actual providers of safety needs, noting that the stable income assisted them to maintain the new marriage. One male respondent commented:

*I am happy and comfortable that I could provide a home and comfort for my newly formed family (RM, 012, Nzoia Ward)*

Interestingly, Rampel (2012) remarks that, marriage is for the rich. In his study, he found rich men marrying rich women while the poor remained poor alone. This observation reflects the predicament of most female respondents in the present study who lacked stable income and were remarried to partners who were socioeconomically unstable income, leaving them with further financial insecurity. Further to this, Korang-Okrah and Haight (2014) notes that “nobody thinks it’s a worthwhile idea to remarry just for money, but financial considerations are real.”

Overall, the results suggest that when partners have stable income and jobs, they tend to have better chances of remarriage satisfaction.

Regarding friendship and connection in remarriage, the female respondents were not satisfied as indicated by a mean of 2.93. Some female respondents had limited resources but experienced friendship and connection from the newfound relationship. Others reported that some husbands took over their financial decisions while others were not transparent in terms of income, causing mistrust in the relationship. A female respondent commented:

*I'm not really satisfied because he does not provide equally for our needs as a family and I have to struggle in order to provide. (RF, 021, Nzoia Ward).*

Intimacy and friendship in marriage should be based on mutual trust, which seemed to lack based on the female respondents' sentiments. Mutual trust has the potential to augment friendship and connection among remarried couples. However, this study finds remarried females to be uncomfortable with partners who either snatch their financial decisions or lack financial transparency, and would, therefore, wish to have trustworthy partners.

Another area of concern in this study was widow inheritance. Notably, some female respondents reported of being unhappy with their new partners' decision to take the clothes or items of the deceased spouses. Undoubtedly, courtesy demands that one should seek permission before obtaining another person's item; however, on the other side, this could portray a sign of grief. Signs of grief could be linked to partners who still wish to cling onto a deceased partner's item several months or years down the line, which signifies that they have not yet let-go of the deceased partner. Based on

these observations, it can be concluded that remarriage may not always be free from expressions of grief.

The male respondents were largely satisfied as indicated by a mean of 4.00. This finding supports the fact that the males had to take care of all financial decisions, including those of the newly married partners. Varun (2013), who examined socio-cultural practices that support the males in taking over the property rights of remarried widows, depicts remarriage as an economic necessity for men. Therefore, while the male respondents in this regard regard remarriage as an economic necessity, they are bound to exploit their partners.

Regarding the feeling of confidence and achievement of basic needs in the remarriage, the female respondents were relatively satisfied as indicated by a mean of 3.33. Some of the female respondents were proud of being actively involved in building their home. This study had revealed the disappointment expressed when the female respondents lacked a home. Hence, when remarried widows are involved in personally meaningful activities, they become more confident.

Male respondents were also relatively satisfied as indicated by a mean of 3.60. They were proud of being able to provide for the newly formed monogamous or polygamous families. This finding suggests that providing for the needs of the families significantly boosts self-esteem among remarried males.

Regarding the achievement of full potential (resources) and remarriage satisfaction, the study established that the female respondents were not satisfied as indicated by a mean of 2.87. To a large extent, the female respondents had little or no income. Even when they combined forces with their partners, the income could still not sustain the physiological needs or guarantee financial security. Other female respondents



reported that their economic status had declined owing to the increasing burden of care. In reality, self-actualization needs can be achieved when individuals feel a sense of settlement in life. In this study, the female respondents felt that they had not fulfilled most of their financial needs in the remarriage. On the other hand, the male respondents were relatively satisfied as indicated by a mean of 3.60. They were known for taking over all financial decisions to their advantage.

Overall, the findings of this study link low socio-economic status to dissatisfaction in most females. In contrast, most of the males are actualized in terms of either their own or joint financial resources.

#### **4.5 The Influence of Psychological Status of Widows and Widowers on Remarriage Satisfaction**

The third objective was to determine the influence of psychological well-being on the f the respondents' remarriage satisfaction. The respondents were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction with statements derived from Ryff's psychological well-being scale. The findings were then presented in the following subthemes as shown in Table 4.4 below.

**Table 4.4: Psychological Well-Being across Gender**

	<b>Gender of respondents</b>			
	Female		Male	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
Autonomy	3.33	1.175	3.56	.738
Environmental mastery	3.00	1.134	3.52	.483
Purpose in life	3.93	.594	4.12	.516
Personal growth	2.80	1.207	2.92	1.197
Positive relations	2.80	1.207	3.00	1.160
Self-acceptance	3.27	1.100	3.52	1.101

Regarding autonomy, the female respondents were relatively satisfied that their sense of independence enabled them to meet needs at all levels as indicated by a mean of 3.33. Similarly, the male respondents were relatively satisfied as indicated by a mean

of 3.56. These findings indicate the level to which all the respondents are able to exercise a sense of independence and make autonomous decisions that enable them to achieve satisfaction in all levels of needs. The present study had found that female respondents were leaving some of their financial decisions to their husbands. This finding could be attributed to the cultural expectations that males should take over all family decisions, and that they are satisfied with it. While all the respondents rated high levels of satisfaction, the way females view their sense of autonomy lacks clarity.

Another component of psychological well-being and remarriage satisfaction was environmental mastery. The results showed that female respondents were relatively satisfied that their sense of environmental mastery enabled them to meet needs at all levels as indicated by a mean of 3.00. Similarly, the male respondents were relatively satisfied as indicated by a mean of 3.52. This finding indicates the level to which all respondents are able to make effective use of opportunities within their reach in order to achieve satisfaction in all levels of needs. Both the male and female respondents seemed to be aware of their financial burden and consequently worked hard to achieve some form of employment in order to supplement their income. However, they did not seem to make use of either the office of social affairs or any other community resources to alleviate some of the conflicts in their families. Overall, these findings suggest the need for remarried families to seek external assistance in order to increase remarriage satisfaction.

Respondents' purpose in life and its impact on remarriage satisfaction was also assessed. Female respondents were relatively satisfied in having a purpose in life, which enabled them to meet needs at various levels as indicated by a mean of 3.93.

The male respondents were also largely satisfied as indicated by a mean of 4.12. This result indicates that all the respondents have a strong conviction that life holds meaning, which enables them to achieve satisfaction in all levels of need. This area was rated surprisingly high by both the male and female respondents. This result suggests that most of the respondents are determined to move on with life; they have not despaired despite the challenges they may be going through. Therefore, the study concludes that optimism is a recipe for current and eventual remarriage satisfaction.

On personal growth and remarriage satisfaction, the female respondents were not satisfied that their efforts in personal growth enabled them to meet needs at all levels as indicated by a mean of 2.80. Similarly, the male respondents were not satisfied as indicated by a mean of 2.92. Engaging in personal growth means that one takes a personal initiative to improve the situations in their lives. Thus, these findings indicate that the respondents have not done much in improving their personal development and personal growth. The male respondents were unable to control the children who were opposed to the remarriage, probably due to lack of skills in conflict management. On the other hand, some of the female respondents were unable to manage their finances, probably due to the lack of financial management skills. Arguably, therefore, remarried partners could deal better with emerging challenges if they were more open to learning new ways.

The study also tested the relationship between psychological well-being and the respondents' satisfaction with their remarriage. Female respondents were not satisfied in having positive relations with others, which enabled them to meet needs at all levels as indicated by a mean of 2.80. In contrast, the male respondents were relatively satisfied as indicated by a mean of 3.00. Positive relations demand

individuals to be ready to go out of their way in understanding or helping others. From the previous responses, it is clear that the female respondents engaged less in meaningful relations, while the male respondents generally engaged a bit better in meaningful relationships with stepchildren, in-laws, friends, and neighbors. Positive relations involve give and take from both sides. Hence, remarriage satisfaction is mostly achieved where the relationship is reciprocal.

Lastly, the study assessed the relationship between self-acceptance and the respondents' satisfaction with their remarriage. The female respondents were relatively satisfied that their sense of self-acceptance enabled them to meet needs at all levels as indicated by a mean of 3.27. Similarly, the male respondents were relatively satisfied as indicated by a mean of 3.52. This finding indicates that both the female and male respondents had positive attitudes towards themselves, implying that they are able to accept themselves regardless of the challenges posed by their partners, children, and the community. Therefore, the challenges posed inherent in remarried families notwithstanding, self-acceptance by partners enhances the continuity and development of these families.

Overall, the results indicate that psychological well-being is a major determinant of remarriage satisfaction. The findings are in tandem with those of Ochiai (2005) that the greatest stabilizing factor for remarried couples lies in their psychological state. This is because the decision to remarry is primarily driven by the need to satisfy one's psychological needs and fill the void left by the deceased spouse. Therefore, remarriage must be examined from a psychological perspective in order to get a true picture of marital satisfaction among these couples.

#### **4.6 Chapter Summary**

This chapter has presented the primary data collected in the field. The data was presented in four subtopics, namely; demographic information of the respondents, the influence of social and demographic factors on the satisfaction of remarried couples, the influence of economic factors on the satisfaction of remarried couples, and the influence of psychological well-being of remarried couples on their marriage satisfaction. This data was presented using descriptive statistics as well as content analysis of the respondents' qualitative comments.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents a summary of the research findings, conclusions, recommendations, and suggestions for further research based on the analysis of data that was collected. Specifically, the chapter summarizes the results that were made from the field research and makes conclusions based on the findings. Thereafter, the chapter provides recommendations based on the results.

#### **5.2 Summary of Major Findings and Discussions**

##### **5.2.1 Demographic Factors of Respondents**

The researcher sampled 25 widowed men and women in Likuyani Sub-County. The study found out that majority of the respondents were, females comprising of 60%. Conversely, only 40% of the respondents were male. This gendered disparity could be attributed to the unavailability of a similar number of male respondents at the time of the study. Regarding the length of widowhood, most of the respondents had stayed for 1-5 years before remarrying. This finding could be an indication of widows'/widowers' readiness to move on and remarry from about the end of the first year till the fifth year. The female respondents were ranging from age 25, while the male respondents ranged from age 46 onwards, indicating that there could be fewer young remarried widowers than widows. This finding could be attributed to early first marriages. Therefore, widows are prone to early age of widowhood and remarriage than males. The present study further found that most of the respondents were in their midlife. This finding suggests a progressive rise in the number of remarried widows in relation to the increasing age. The findings further revealed that majority of the

respondents had attained only primary level of education. Although most of them had some form of employment, they earned Sh. 5,000 a month. These findings are typical of rural areas, which are characterized by high illiteracy levels, thereby rendering the individuals in question unfit to compete effectively in the job market and provide for their families.

### **5.2.2 Demographic Factors and Marriage Satisfaction**

The male respondents rated higher levels of remarriage satisfaction than their female respondents in all areas. The females were happy that their male partners were providing their basic needs. On their part, the male respondents were happy that the females provided services in child care, companionship and housekeeping. Based on these findings, it can be concluded that gender roles are still upheld in remarriage. While most female respondents were relatively satisfied in meeting their needs, some of them were married into polygamous families where they faced discrimination and competed for minimal resources. This finding suggests that widows have high chances of getting into polygamous remarriages that render them vulnerable in the long-run. Other findings revealed that some of the female respondents were unhappy after they faced rejection from their partner's children.

Some of the male respondents were happy that remarriage reduced their vulnerability to contracting HIV. This finding further suggests that remarriage shields people from acquiring HIV/AIDS. The findings further revealed that some male respondents were unhappy either when their wives neglected their needy children or the children refused to accept their stepmothers. This outcome suggests the need for females to pay extra attention to all children alike and according to their needs.

The study also yielded significant insights into the intersection between age and remarriage satisfaction. In terms of providing and receiving the basic needs, the younger spouses were largely satisfied. Their surprisingly high satisfaction levels could be attributed to their previous widowhood experience and the positive turn towards fulfillment. However, there was a decline in satisfaction levels between 35 to 45 years due to increased demands. The level of satisfaction then increased steadily to the peak in old age. These findings indicate that there is more satisfaction in meeting physiological needs both in age groups 25-35 and beyond 46 years due to various developmental demands.

In terms of safety, remarriage satisfaction was initially low at 25-35 years owing to the pressure from polygamous families, which was found to create a sense of loneliness on the female respondents. Hence, polygamy denies young remarried females the much-needed emotional support. Another notable observation was the adolescent's disapproval of remarriage reported by the respondents aged 36-46, which caused disappointment to the remarried widows. This was most likely viewed as a normal concern by adolescents. On the other hand, it could also be interpreted as indicative of the female respondents' lack of knowledge in handling adolescents. Indeed, the findings indicated that with time, remarried families begin developing a sense of safety with each other.

Regarding the nexus between age and love/belongingness needs, the female respondents aged 25-35 were apprehensive when they were not addressed as mothers by their stepchildren. However, this apprehension was not reported by the older female respondents. This could mean that the younger female respondents were too hasty with this expectation



With time, however, the satisfaction level declines, and thereafter increases once the couple regain their confidence.

### **5.2.3 Socio-Economic Factors and Remarried Marriage Satisfaction**

The study established that majority of the respondents were self-employed (60%) while 24% were unemployed. Additionally, most of the respondents were found to have attained only primary school level education. Moreover, majority of the respondents earned just about KShs. 5,000 per month through self-employment. Only 20% earned between Kshs. 6,000 and 10,000 per month. Of significant to note is also the fact that the remarried couples were taking care of an average of five children per household. The relatively low earning potential could be linked to the fact that they reside in rural environments, which provide minimal avenues for income generation. This indicates that remarried widows, especially primary school leavers living in rural areas, are likely to face a myriad of responsibilities. Additionally, the low income can be described as a precursor to financial insecurity among remarried couples.

Another pertinent issue associated with remarriage dissatisfaction among the female respondents, was the inability to acquire land for putting up a home. Therefore, remarried females who fail to acquire some land and a home are often dissatisfied.

Lastly, the female respondents complained that the men were usurping all their financial and property decisions. To some extent, some of the female respondents surrendered their wealth to their spouses, which left them more vulnerable. This could be typical in rural areas where most females lack basic education and the much needed financial empowerment.

#### **5.2.4 Psychological status and Remarriage Satisfaction**

In terms of how their psychological status influenced remarriage satisfaction, the male respondents in this study reported higher levels of satisfaction than their female counterparts. However, their ratings seemed to flow towards the same direction either in ascending or descending form. The respondents were generally satisfied in the four areas of Ryff's psychological well-being, namely, having purpose in life, having sense of a purpose, self-acceptance, and environmental mastery. Nonetheless, they were dissatisfied about having positive relations with others and attaining personal growth. Worth noting is that the respondents were not doing much to exercise the personal growth to their advantage, or else, they would have sought knowledge for financial empowerment that would free them from financial exploitation.

The findings also indicate a low rating in the respondents' positive relations with others. It is a clear indication that they could be lacking the skills of enhancing relationships.

#### **5.3 Conclusions**

The present study established that there are different needs facing previously widowed couples in remarriages, ranging from demographic, socio-economic, to psychological needs. For example, it was established that demographic characteristics, particularly gender and age, play a critical role in influencing remarriage satisfaction for previously widowed couples based on levels of needs.

Furthermore, it was established that previously widowed remarried women are generally satisfied that the basic needs are provided for their children and themselves. However, majority of the women are dissatisfied by the lack of land, homestead and the lack of integration into the family. On the other hand, the study highlighted that

widowed men are generally satisfied with companions, homemakers, child care, and sexual need fulfillment, failure to which they were disappointed.

At the same time, while the younger spouses are relatively satisfied when their basic needs are met, the older spouses are largely satisfied. However, the middle-aged spouses are faced with more demands of a growing family and discrimination by the different sets of stepchildren, which leave them feeling uncertain.

Similarly, this study established that socio-economic status significantly influences remarriage satisfaction levels of various needs among widowed males and females. The socio-economic status of remarried widows and widowers in the study is generally low, and satisfaction is majorly sought through the joint struggle to meet the basic needs for survival. While some of the remarried men have taken over most of the financial responsibilities of providing for their families', they do not exercise fairness towards the remarried women. Majority of the women feel insecure since they do not own land, or they have surrendered their own land to the male spouses, rendering them more vulnerable.

To some extent, psychological well-being was found to influence the sufficiency of needs among remarried previously widowed couples. Though the social exchange between the couples themselves is satisfactory, the lack of acceptance and absence of positive relations with children and relatives still persist. Therefore, remarried couples tend to lack the much-needed personal growth that would enable them to develop their potentials.

## **5.4 Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the study makes the following recommendations:

### **5.4.1 Recommendations for Remarried Couples**

- The remarried widows/widowers in Likuyani Sub-County seem to lack motivation to achieve personal growth. For this reasons, there is need for them to attend workshops on interpersonal communication, self-reliance, loss and grief, and conflict resolution strategies.
- Area chiefs should organize platforms where remarried widows and widowers can freely discuss and iron out pertinent cultural and gender issues.

### **5.4.2 Recommendations for Marriage Counselors**

Marriage counselors in Likuyani and elsewhere should:

- Empower remarried couples who have been previously widowed by expanding their focus on demographic, socio-economic, and psychological well-being in order to enhance remarriage satisfaction.
- Embrace the theory of needs while exploring issues pertaining to remarried, previously widowed couples at various stages of the newly formed family life cycles.
- Address the emotional concerns that might hinder the attainment of marital satisfaction for remarried couples following widowhood.
- Explore viable strategies of assisting couples in pre-marital counseling and educate the larger community about fundamental facts surrounding post-bereavement remarriages.

### **5.4.3 Recommendations for Social Workers**

- Those working at the community level should utilize the findings of this research to come up with more pragmatic ways of assisting vulnerable members in the society, especially widows and widowers.

### **5.4.4 Recommendations for Religious Leaders and Administrators**

Religious leaders and administrators should:

- Encourage couples to seek premarital counselling services in order to address the pertinent concerns that could arise, thus enhancing remarriage satisfaction.
- Encourage dialogue and moral support for remarried families of previously widowed couples so as to augment their psychological well-being.

### **5.5 Suggestions for Further Research**

Additional studies involving families and children from remarried families should be conducted to explore their concerns about remarriage satisfaction. Moreover, further research is needed to explore urban residents' concerns on remarriage satisfaction.

### **5.6 Chapter Summary**

The research findings revealed that demographic, economic, and psychological factors impact widows' and widowers' remarriage satisfaction levels differently. Additionally, psychological well-being was found to be critical in determining the extent to which remarried couples utilize their potential to achieve higher levels of remarriage satisfaction. Based on these findings, marriage counselors, religious leaders, administrators, and social workers can come up with viable strategies that could assist in improving the lives of remarried widows and widowers. Besides, more extensive research needs to be carried out so as to compliment the findings of this study.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix I: Request Letter to the Chief

Dear.....

My name is Mary Ogina, a student at Moi University, undertaking a Master's degree in Counseling Psychology. As one of the academic requirements, I wish to carry out some research on, **“The Influence of Demographic, Socio-economic and Psychological factors on Remarriage Satisfaction”**, in Likuyani Sub-County. The results will be used to shade some light on the real facts surrounding these families, with the aim of understanding them better. Through your esteemed office, I wish to humbly request you to assist me by handing me a list and of names and contact addresses of remarried widows and the spouses, which may enable me to access them for interview purposes. I wish to reassure you that the information provided will be treated as confidential, just to be shared for academic purpose only.

Please feel free to ask me for any further clarification if necessary, through the telephone number: 0721733567.

Thank you very much.

Yours Faithfully

Mary Ogina

Signed.....

Date.....

## Appendix II: Consent Form

Thank you for accepting to give me your time. My name is Mary Ogina, a student at Moi University undertaking a Masters in Counseling Psychology.

As one of the academic requirements, I am carrying out some research on, “**The Influence of Demographic, Socio-economic and Psychological factors on Remarriage Satisfaction**”, in Likuyani Sub-County. It will be carried out in Likuyani Sub-County. The results will be used to shed some light on the real facts surrounding these families, with the aim of understanding them better.

I will first read to you some statements from a questionnaire for you to answer some questions on how strongly you are satisfied with it. Following each statement, I will further be asking you to elaborate how your experience in each area. Secondly, I will be offering you another questionnaire for which you only need to read and append a tick on how you feel. You are free to ask me for assistance in case you are unable to read or understand it.

The test should take about one hour. I will be taking some notes and taping so that I can capture the comments. You are free to choose to volunteer in participating in the research.

Please feel free to stop any time, or omit any questions you feel you are not in position to answer. In case the interview raises some discomfort, feel free to ask for free psychological assistance at the end.

The final results will be communicated to you. The information provided will be treated as confidential, just to be shared for academic purpose only.

Do you have any questions on what I have said?

Are you willing to participate in the interview?

Respondents

Signature.....Date.....

Researchers Signature..... Date.....

Thank you.

**Appendix III: Questionnaire for Widowed Remarried Couples****SECTION A: BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Please insert/tick (✓) details or circle the appropriate category for you.

1. Gender

Male

Female

2. Age

25 – 35

36 – 45

46 – 55

56 – 65

66 – 75

3. Employment

Employed

Self – employed

Unemployed

4. Level of Education

Primary

Secondary

University

College

Others (specify)

5. Average monthly income

< Kshs. 5,000

6,000 – 10,000

11,000 – 19,000

20,000 – 30,000

> Kshs. 30,000

6. Number of children
- None
  - 1 – 2 children
  - 3 – 5 children
  - 6 – 9 children
  - More than 9 children
7. For how long have you been a widow/widower?
- 1 – 4 years
  - 5 – 9 years
  - 10 – 14 years
  - 15 – 19 years
  - More than 20 years



## SECTION B: GENDER AND AGE ON REMARRIAGE SATISFACTION USING MASLOWS HIERARCHY OF NEEDS

Maslow's hierarchy of needs is a motivational theory in psychology comprising a five-tier model of human needs, often depicted as hierarchical levels within a pyramid. From the bottom of the hierarchy upwards, the needs are: physiological, safety, love and belonging, esteem and self-actualization. For each of the following statements regarding Maslow's hierarchy of needs, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements and they influence your remarriage satisfaction: Use the scale of 1= strongly disagree 2= partly disagree 3= disagree 4= partly agree 5= strongly agree. Please feel free to further explain or elaborate your answer further.

S/No	Statements	1	2	3	4	5	Comments
1.	I never starve through lack of food/water.						
	I have no worry at all about having clothes/ fees/ and somewhere to sleep.						
2.	I generally feel safe and am protected from harm.						
	I generally feel secure in terms of work/ health/ and finance.						
	My life generally has routine and structure.						
3.	I am part of, and loved by my family.						
	I have good relations with my friends and neighbors.						
4.	I am successful in life and/or work, and I'm recognized by my peers for being so.						
	I generally feel proud of my status, esteem, reputation, the responsibilities and role that I have in life.						
5.	I am totally comfortable with all facets of my personality.						
	I feel that I am completely self-fulfilled in being the person I always wanted to be.						

**SECTION C: SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS ON REMARRIAGE  
SATISFACTION USING MASLOWS HIERARCHY OF NEEDS**

<b>S/N</b>	<b>Statements</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1.	In general, I am happy that my employment status enables me to provide food, fees and a home.						
2.	Having a stable job and income generally gives me and my family a sense of safety and security.						
3.	My socioeconomic status generally enhances my friendship and connection with my family and others.						
4.	My socio economic status generally give raises my sense of achievement, confidence, and self-esteem.						
5.	My economic status gives me a sense of achievement of my full potential.						

**SECTION D: RYFF'S PSYCHOLOGICAL WELL-BEING QUESTIONNAIRE TO WIDOWED REMARRIED COUPLES**

For each of the following statements regarding Ryff's Psychological well-being scales, please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements and how they influence satisfaction of need in your remarriage: Use the scale of 1= strongly disagree 2= partly disagree 3= disagree 4= partly agree 5= strongly agree. Please insert/tick (✓) details or circle the appropriate category for you.

S/No	Statements	1	2	3	4	5
1.	In general, I feel I am in charge of the situation in which I live.					
	The demands of everyday life get me down					
	I do not fit very well in the community around me.					
2.	Most people see me as loving and affectionate.					
	I have not experienced a loving relationship with my spouse.					
	I enjoy personal and mutual conversations with family members and friends.					
3.	When I looked at the story of my life, I am happy with how things have turned out.					
	In many ways, I feel disappointed about my achievements in life.					
	In general, I feel confident and positive about myself.					
4.	I tend to worry about what other people think about me.					
	I judge myself by what I think is important, not by the values of what other people think is important.					
	My decision is not usually influenced by what everyone else is doing.					
5.	I have a sense that I have developed a lot as a person over time.					
	I do not enjoy being in new situations that require me to change my old familiar ways of doing things.					
	For me, life has been a continuous process of learning, changing and growth.					
6.	I enjoy making plans for the future and working to make them a reality.					
	I leave life one day at a time and don't really think about the future.					
	I don't have a good sense of what it is am trying to accomplish in life.					


Thank you for your cooperation

Mary Ogina

Signature..... Date.....

## Appendix IV: Kakamega County Research Authorization

**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION**

Telephone: 056 - 30411 FAX : 056 - 31307 E-mail : wespropde@yahoo.com When replying please quote.		COUNTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION KAKAMEGA COUNTY P. O. BOX 137 - 50100 KAKAMEGA
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**STATE DEPARTMENT OF EARLY LEARNING AND BASIC EDUCATION**


REF: KAK/C/GA/29/17 IV/24 27<sup>th</sup> June, 2018

Mary Naia Ogina  
 Moi University  
 P. O. Box 3900-30100  
 ELDORET

**RE: RESEARCH AUTHORIZATION**

The above has been granted permission by National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation vide their letter Ref: NACOSTI/P/18/46125/22740 dated 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2018, to carry out research on **“The effects of remarriage on family relationships” Kakamega County, Kenya**, for a period ending **22<sup>nd</sup> May, 2019**.

Please accord her any necessary assistance she may require.

  
 COUNTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION  
 KAKAMEGA COUNTY


PR. FREDRICK M. KIIRU  
 CDE/CEB – SECRETARY  
 KAKAMEGA COUNTY

### Appendix V: NACOSTI Research Permit

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT: **Permit No : NACOSTI/P/18/46125/22740**  
**MS. MARY NAIA OGINA** **Date Of Issue : 24th May,2018**  
**of MOI UNIVERSITY, 4244-30100** **Fee Received :Ksh 1000**  
**ELDORET,has been permitted to conduct**  
**research in Kakamega County**

**on the topic: THE EFFECTS OF**  
**REMARRIAGE ON FAMILY**  
**RELATIONSHIPS**

**for the period ending:**  
**22nd May,2019**



**Gloria**  
**Director General**  
**National Commission for Science,**  
**Technology & Innovation**

**Applicant's Signature**

**Appendix VI: Likuyani Sub-County/Wards**



*Source: Google map*