
**Effects of Covid-19 Pandemic on the Welfare of the Maasai Girl Child in
Narok County, Kenya**

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Abstract

The Maasai girl child is vulnerable to poor menstrual hygiene, teen pregnancies, early marriages, domestic violence and female genital mutilation (FGM). Schools had temporarily offered the shelter towards these challenges. However, the covid-19 pandemic led to the indefinite closure of schools forcing the girls back home to the full glare of these predicaments. Additionally, the fear of the health pandemic which had also affected the economy. This study aimed at examining how the covid-19 pandemic had affected the welfare of the Maasai girl child in Narok County, Kenya. A cross-sectional design of the study was used. Data was collected using questionnaires and observations. Descriptive analysis was used to analyze the data. The findings indicated frustrations over lack of basic needs coupled with numerous domestic violence incidences that forced the girls to engage in 'sex for sanitary towels'. 83.1% of the girls did not use any sex protection means while a majority of the rest used ineffective methods. FGM was at its peak as there was abundant time to practice it and less government interference. In conclusion, the Maasai girl child's welfare was in dire need of external assistance. Government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should urgently intervene to rescue the Maasai girl child.

Keywords: Maasai girl child; covid-19 break; teen pregnancies; early marriages; Female Genital Mutilation

