

Probing polygamous marriages in Zimbabwe

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ABSTRACT

This study highlights the daily experiences of people in polygamous marriages face on a daily basis. It argues that there are more disadvantages for women in polygamous marriages than their counterparts in monogamous relationships. The study further suggests that the patriarchal power structure seems to take a powerful and effective role on polygamous marriages in our societies, particularly in Zimbabwe where this study took place. The study explored the intricacies of polygamous marriages and how these dominances can be resolved. The research is therefore presented through the 'lived realities' of the affected women in polygamous marriages in Gutu District located in Masvingo Province of Zimbabwe. The study was conducted in a village called Matizha. In the study, a qualitative research approach was employed to stimulate awareness of the social, cultural, religious and the effect of economic factors in polygamous marriages. This approach facilitates a unique understanding of the experiences of women in polygamous marriages.

Keywords: Polygamy, Polyandry, Co-wives, Egalitarianism, Experiences, Woman