

EAST AFRICAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

**THE CHURCH AND FAMILY CHALLENGES IN
RWANDA, CASE STUDY ANGLICAN CHURCH OF
RWANDA, GAKENKE PARISH/SHYIRA DIOCESE (2021-
2024)**

BY

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**DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE EAST AFRICAN CHRISTIAN
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THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR
OF THEOLOGY**

DECLARATION

Declaration by the Candidate

We, HATANGIMANA Donat and MUKAMANA Clementine declare that this dissertation is our own original. It has therefore not been previously submitted for any other degree, or other qualification to East African Christian College or any other institution. All materials cited in this paper which are not our own have been duly acknowledged.

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Declaration by the Supervisor

This dissertation has been submitted for examination with our approval as East African College Supervisor.

Supervisor's name: Dr. MUGIRANEZA Emmanuel

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Date.....

DEDICATION

This research is dedicated

To our beloved families

Relatives, classmates and friend

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First of all, we thank the Almighty God who has kept our life until now and who helped to reach this stage in our academic life.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACR	:Anglican Church of Rwanda
EACC	:East African Christian College
EAR	:Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda
F.C.P	:Family Challenges and Parenting
F.P	:Family Planning
F.U	:Fathers Union
M.U	:Mothers Union
MIGEPROF	: Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
NGOs	:Non-governmental organizations
NURC	: National Unity and Reconciliation Commission
S.S	:Sunday School
Y.U	:Youth Union
SPSS	: Statistical Package for Social Sciences

ABSTRACT

The study examined the contribution of the church to addressing family challenges in Gakenke Parish. The church and Family challenges has been a problem not only in Anglican Church of Rwanda but also in the whole world including family conflicts which negatively affect parenting. The main of this study was to examine contribution of the Anglican church of Rwanda in addressing family challenges in Gakenke Parish and was conducted with the following objectives such as to examine the family challenges in Gakenke Parish, to analyze the effect of family challenges on parenting issues in Gakenke Parish and to evaluate the contribution of the Anglican church in addressing family challenges in Gakenke Parish. The target population was 758 EAR parents and church leaders. The sample size was 79 respondents selected randomly and the data were analyzed using SPSS whereby descriptive statistics was used. The results show that 70.9% of the respondent's witness family challenges in their community. The results also show that there are major family challenges in Gakenke Parish such as infidelity as indicated by the mean value of 3.88, domestic violence indicated by the value of 4.25; lack of mutual interest indicated by the mean value of 4.32 which is close to 5 implying strongly agree. The results also show that there are parenting challenges, diseases, poverty and illiteracy. The results show that family challenges affect parenting in EAR Gakenke Parish by inhibiting the possibility to be role model as indicated by the mean value of 4.38, lack of education indicated by the mean value of 4.70, malnutrition as indicated by the mean value of 4.94 which is close to 5 or the maximum or strongly agree. The results show that family challenges lead to juvenile delinquency, sibling rivalry, lack of guidance and behavioral problems as indicated the highest value of the mean of responses. The results also showed that Anglican Church of Rwanda contribute in addressing family challenges and parenting issues in EAR Gakenke Parish as indicated the highest mean value of responses. Based on the findings, the study recommends that Church leaders should reinforce family education and empowerment strategies to build stable and happy families, reinforce the practices of fathers and mothers unions to help in visiting and educating family members including parents and children in different occasions such as family visits, Christians' forums, and Sunday services among others. The Church should also give consistent support to families to make them sustainable empowered at all means because the vitality of the church lies in the strength of the family. Moreover, Christians should Obey and abide by Bible studies about family, marriage and parenting as there is no family which is strong enough to manage its affairs apart from God's provision and should equally prioritize family wellbeing as the foundation of the Church as well as instituting Christians' groups and networks to discuss and promote family matters, empowerment and parenting initiatives.

CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, general objective, specific objectives, research questions, research hypotheses, significance of the study, limitations of the study, scope of the study, operational definition of terms and thesis organization.

1.1 Background of the study

This chapter presents the discussion of family challenges and parenting on global level, African level and sub-Saharan context. The section also presents the issue of family challenges and parenting in Rwanda to make the study clear and conceptualized. Among the major challenges highlighted include divorce, family conflicts that affect families and parenting initiatives.

1.1.1 Family challenges globally

Family challenges are universal and can be located in different countries. “Starting with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 which defined the family as ‘the natural and fundamental group of society,’” the International Community has continued to give special consideration to the needs and challenges facing the family and its role in development” (Conger, 2010:11). It is revealed that these concerns have been articulated in a number of programs and organizations including such as the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the Beijing platform for Action and the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the World Summit for Children and the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action. The above conventions show that a family is crucial unit of society that has to be protected.

However, the current trends of family challenges are quite different especially from subtle conflicts to divorce. The dramatic increases in divorce rates have been associated with the legitimization of institution of divorce laws in different countries (Velleman & Templeton, 2007:56). According to Conger (2010:12), “the decrease in divorce rates can be attributed to factors such as an increase in the age at which people get married, and an

increased level of education which is presumed to marital stability”. (Divorce does not occur equally among all people in the United States; some segments of the U.S. population are more likely to divorce than others. According to the American Community Survey (ACS), men and women in the Northeast and Midwest have the lowest rates of divorce. The South generally has the highest rate of divorce. Divorce rates are likely higher in the South because marriage rates are higher and marriage occurs at younger-than-average ages in this region. In the Northeast, the marriage rate is lower and first marriages tend to be delayed; therefore, the divorce rate is lower. This shows that different parts my experience different degree of challenges depending on different factors.

1.1.2 Family challenges in Africa

The modern African family is facing significant challenges in terms of politics, economics, social and cultural issues. According to Sanders and Woolley (2005:10), “Africa needs to be purged of violence against women, early birth or arranged marriage, inequality towards widows in relation to inheritance of property, exclusion of women in decision making, child abuse and exploitation,” It must be acknowledged that the new model of the church has to deal with family empowerment through different forms.

According to Markham (2019:14), “the opportunity to adopt the family’ model is further complicated by other emerging models and Africa is no exception. In Africa, the family is seen as the fundamental group of society and the natural environment for the growth and wellbeing of all its members, especially children”. In this perspective, children should be given the protection and assistance they need so that they can fully assume their responsibilities within the community.

Similarly, the statistics on child abuse indicate that willful neglect of children education and welfare within the context of the family in study conducted by McDaniel (2019:36) in South Africa, “census indicate that although the average South African house is headed by a man the number of female breadwinners is on the increase, as is the number of female headed households, which now account for 14% of the total.” Based on these

figures, it is seen that families in Africa suffer challenges which are quite different in developed countries.

At the same time, it is seen that that raising healthy individuals is mostly dependent on parental abilities or the degree to which children are nurtured. For instance “it is crucial to care for boys just as often as girl children, despite the fact that this may seem counterintuitive to some,” (Sanders & Woolley, 2005:10). It was also mentioned by Undiyaundeye (2006:50) that parenting and life skills programs are desperately needed in order to support parents in properly raising and disciplining their children. To address some of the family issues, churches and other faith-based organizations are especially need to offer guidance to parenting and continuing assistance to low-income families.

1.1.3. Family challenges in Sub-Saharan Africa

Family challenges are unavoidable in different societies and Sub-Saharan Africa is not an exception. According to Markham (2019:45), “poverty has also been manifested in high rates of illiteracy, increased disease burden, and limited access to essential drugs as well as food and nutrition insecurity”. As mentioned by Dumas & LaFreniere (1992:49), “family patterns and structures have also been affected as one observes the increasing cases of female headed households, consensual unions, rising rates of divorce, the impact of HIV/AIDS and other pandemics, domestic violence, sexual abuse, the rising phenomenon of street children and beggars”. From these challenges children have been most affected as a great number have dropped out of school, are deprived and many are engaged in violence, drug and substance abuse and trafficking, crime and juvenile delinquency.

It was also highlighted by McDaniel (2019:39) that diseases such as HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other related infectious diseases have changed the demographic structure of the African family. Due to these challenges, low life expectancy and loss of household income have considerably increased poverty at the family level. The family has to bear the additional burden of care and support for the terminally ill and women bear a disproportionately larger share of the negative impact of all these changes.

Wars, conflicts and natural disasters have had devastatingly negative consequences on families and on their support structures, forcibly displacing millions inside their home countries or to seek refuge in neighboring countries (Dew, 2018:46).

Moreover, family challenges in Saharan Africa have increased several negative effects on parenting and child life. For instance, “there are high levels of rape and sexual abuse of adolescent girls in their homes, by teachers at school and by male learners at school or in their way home in Kenya and Uganda,” (Dumas & LaFreniere, 1992:47). Teenage pregnancy is a complex issue. Some suggest that teenage girls fall pregnant to access the child support grant, thus giving them a small income for luxuries (Elder & Crosnoe 2003:41).

1.1.4. Family challenges in Rwanda

In Rwanda, a family is seen family is the foundation of any society. It is an entity that gives real meaning to life and existence. As such, it constitutes the cornerstone of any social system. A family is not a casual or spontaneous organization of people but a divinely ordained institution. The foundation of a family is based on marriage, which is a right to every human being.

Rwanda recognizes the importance and role of families in safeguarding cultural values. The concept of family generally goes beyond the definition which conceives it as a “group of people united by marriage, blood or adoption, characterized by a common residence,” (Marks, 2005:10). In Rwanda, like almost everywhere in Africa, family relationships extend beyond people having a common residence; one must also include extended family members living outside the household and who sometimes live far apart (UNICEF, 2015:32).

However, family challenges are reported to be the major cause of many offences and suicide cases occurring in Rwanda. In a report on types of conflicts in Rwanda, the National Commission for Unity and Reconciliation, it was revealed that “family conflicts not only affect those who are abused, but they also have a substantial effect on family members, friends, co-workers, other witnesses as well as the community at

large,”(NURC, 2008:89). Seeking the ways to address family challenges such as issues such as violence between couples; the church is expected to address them in church life including pre-marital counseling for those preparing to get married and marriage enrichment seminars for those already married.

1.2. Problem statement

Generally, the Anglican Church is a Christian denomination which gives more value to families. This is done through Mothers Union ministry (M.U) and Fathers Union (F.U) across the whole of Shyira Diocese and more especially in Jomba Archdeaconry, Gakenke Parish. Despite the more efforts and teachings to empower families, there is a great number of families facing family challenges such as conflicts and violence which escalate to divorce or other severe violent actions. As result of these challenges, many families face parenting problems related to raising their children (Feinberg, 2003:54). These may include discipline and behavior management, communication, academic and social development, health and safety, balancing work and family, and dealing with complex family dynamics. Lack of parenting initiatives has therefore an adverse effect on child’s emotional and psychological well-being (MIGEPROF, 2021:25).

Such effects are equally observed among children in Gakenke Parish through children behavioral problems such as delinquency, drug abuse, aggressive behaviors, disobedience, prostitution, and moral decadence among others. Therefore this study investigated the effect of family challenges and parenting, and come up with possible solutions to family challenges and parenting issue in Gakenke parish, hence to the whole of Shyira Diocese and Rwanda.

1.3. Objectives of the study

This study achieved the following specific objectives:

- a) To examine the family challenges in Gakenke Parish
- b) To analyze the effect of family challenges on parenting issues in Gakenke Parish

- c) To evaluate the contribution of the Anglican church in addressing family challenges and parenting issues in Gakenke Parish

1.4. Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study is to resolve the effects of family challenges and parenting, so the family member has well-being and good behaviors. Based on the current trends of families and surrounding challenges, it necessary to conduct a study that will help to mitigate the challenges that families face nowadays which lead to different types of conflicts from subtle to severe conflicts such as divorce and violence of any type.

As the common global family challenges include divorce, domestic violence, conflict, tension, insensitivity, communication breakdown, and more abuse, the present study will help different organizations to critically provide support to families in different ways to that family challenges can be addressed by focusing on the causes on their root causes I different families.

1.5 Research questions

This study was conducted based on the following research questions.

- a) What are family challenges in Gakenke Parish?
- b) What are the effects of family challenges on parenting issues Gakenke Parish?
- c) How does the Anglican Church contribute to the reduction of family challenges and parenting issues in Gakenke Parish?

1.6 Research assumptions

- a) There are several family challenges in Gakenke Parish.
- b) Family challenges negatively affect parenting initiatives in Gakenke Parish
- c) Anglican Church significantly contributes in addressing family challenges and parenting issues in Gakenke Parish

1.7 Justification of the study

This research is expected to be important in different dimensions whereby the researcher, the society as well as the scholars and other researchers may benefit from the findings from the current research. All parties may benefit from this study in the following way as illustrated in the section below. Personally, this research developed the researcher's knowledge in terms of church and how it contributes in addressing family challenges. Therefore having a package of knowledge about the way Church has contributed on family empowerment especially through the ways in which it contributes to the reduction of family challenges is an important achievement for the researcher and is one of the requirements for the award of Bachelor's degree from East African Christian College. This study also serves as a part of requirements for the award of Bachelor's degree in Theology from East African Christian College. It will help other researchers of the same area of study to undertake their researches in future and it will be used by EACC library as documentation to everyone who will be involved in different researches related to this domain.

The study was important as it revealed how religion more specifically Anglican Church contributed to the family resilience after suffering several family problems. This will raise the awareness of population in the way they take chance to critically analyse the major benefits of churches especially the ones that can contribute to the improvement of family wellbeing. The findings from this study may enable the population to know the role played by Anglican Church in focusing on family and providing parenting skills which is essential for family prosperity.

1.8 Scope of the study

The scope of this study was selected in the following ways. There was a geographical, content and time scope to make this study rather sensible and cost-effective.

1.8.1 Geographical scope

The study of the family challenges and parenting took place in Rwanda, Northern Province, Gakenke District, Gakenke Sector, Nemba and Karambo where Gakenke Parish covers. The participants involved in this study are parents, Christians and church leaders and local government leaders.

1.8.2 Time scope

With regard to the time scope, this study covered the period from the year 2021 to 2024.

1.8.3 Content Scope

The research focused on the way Anglican Church handles family challenges and parenting issues in Rwanda. For this reason, the church is the independent variable while family challenges and parenting are the dependent variable.

1.9 Limitations of the study

The present study encountered a number of limitations. While conducting this study, some secondary data were not easily available and some participants felt reluctant to provide reliable information. To address this challenge, the researchers explained the purpose of this research so that respondents eventually felt free to answer questions. Secondly, there was limited time to carry out exhaustive data based on various academic programs and students' extensive responsibilities. Furthermore, technological issues such as lack of access to the required written materials, lack of reliable internet connection were among the limitations.

1.10. Organization of the study

The actual research is organized into five chapters. The chapter one is composed by the general introduction, background of the study, problem statement, research objectives, research questions, significance of the study, justification of the study, scope of the study, organization of the study and conclusion. The chapter two covers the literature review, definition of key concepts, theoretical framework, conceptual framework, related studies and conclusion. The chapter three is about the methodology, research design, and

population of the study, sample size, sampling procedures, techniques, research instruments, validity & reliability of instruments, data collection, data analysis, ethical considerations and limitations of the study. The chapter four details as other chapters results and discussion deals with presentation, analysis and interpretation of the findings. Finally, the general conclusion and recommendations are presented as chapter five.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter covers the definitions of key concepts and terms, conceptual review, theoretical review, theoretical framework, empirical review, gap in literature, gap analysis, conceptual framework and summary.

2.1. DEFINITINS OF KEY CONCEPTS

This section is devoted to the definitions of the key terms used in our work for its comprehension. In order to make the content of this report logical and comprehensible, the key terms are defined such as church, family, family challenges and parenting.

2.1.1. Church

The word ‘church’ as it is used in the New Testament always means "an assembly, a company of people gathered together for a certain purpose." Therefore as we read the New Testament we are not surprised to find the word "church" used with words that mean "gather together, come together, and assemble together. The Christian Church is the assembly or association of followers of Jesus Christ (Kinoti, 2007:30). In the New Testament the church is referred to as “church” basically meaning “assembly”. It appears in two verses of the canonical Gospel of Matthew, 24 verses of the Acts of Apostles, 58 verses of the letters of Paul the Apostle, 2 of the Letter of the Hebrews, 1 of the Epistle of James, 3 of the Third Epistle of John and 19 of the Book of Revelation.

2.1.2. Family

A family is a group of people affiliated either by consanguinity, affinity or co-residence or some combination of these. It is a group consisting of two parents and their children living together as a unit. In most societies, the family is the principle institution for the socialization of children. As the basic unit of raising children, anthropologists generally classify most family organizations’ as matrifocal (a mother and her children) conjugal (a wife, her husband and children are also called a nuclear family avuncular (a grandparent,

a brother, his sister and her children) or extended (parents and children co-reside with other members of one parent's family) (MIGEPROF, 2021:35).

2.1.3. Family challenges

Family challenges regarding conflict between or related to family members becomes especially intense or frequent, to the point that it interrupts your day-to-day life. Some degree of conflict within families is normal (and even, to a point, healthy) and the family dynamic for each person may be different (Fingerman, 2016:61).

2.2 CONCEPTUAL REVIEW

The key variable of our study are the Church and family challenges. Christensen and Shenk (1991:30) say that the family is a good place of expressing the emotions and feel free in the union, sharing all you have but the challenges are the obstacles of well-being when they are not prevented or managed when they arise. However, Keller (2019:56) added that family challenges are reported to be the major cause of many offences and suicide cases occurring in Rwanda. In a report on types of conflicts in Rwanda, the National Commission for Unity and Reconciliation, it was revealed that family conflicts not only affect those who are abused, but they also have a substantial effect on family members, friends, co-workers, other witnesses as well as the community at large (NURC, 2008:19).

On the other hand, Ndushabandi, et al (2016:51) mentioned that parenting is pillar of training children in every aspect of life but now parents haven't time to do that. Many children re not taken care for because of the family conflicts and challenges and these lead children to behave badly. In this context, NURC reported that children, who grow up witnessing family conflicts, are among those seriously affected by crimes. Frequent exposure to violence in the home not only predisposes children to numerous social and physical problems, but also teaches them that violence is a normal way of life—and this increases their risk of becoming society's next generation of victims and abusers (Ola & Akande 2011:14).

However, the church is expected to have power on families' wellbeing by addressing issues like violence between couples. These should be addressed in all aspects of Church life including sermons and synod resolutions. The ministry of the Church with regard to Christian marriage and family life should begin with pre-marital counseling for those preparing to get married and marriage enrichment seminars for those already married (Kinoti, 2007:45).

2.3 THEORETICAL REVIEW

This section review on the different theories related to the Church and family challenges of this study refers to the objectives.

2.3.1. The family challenges and parenting

2.3.1.1 The family challenges

“Family challenges can vary widely and may include interpersonal, financial, or health-related issues” (Keller, 2019: 12). Here are some common family challenges along with brief explanations, communication issues, financial strain, parenting challenges, health crises, generational conflict, blended family adjustments, cultural or religious differences, technology and screen time, elder care responsibilities, addiction and substance abuse (Undiyaundeye, 2006:51).

2.3.1.1.1 Communication issues

Other family challenges may include communication issues. Difficulty in effective communication, leading to misunderstandings and conflicts,(Markham, 2019:45).”Couples who struggle with lack of communication in their relationship usually experience ongoing, unresolved conflict, making it difficult to manage stressors such as finances, sexual intimacy, children, and work” (MAZIBUKO,2000: 45). However, couples can learn how to communicate more effectively, which helps resolve conflict and experience greater relational growth.

2.3.1.1.2. Financial strain

These are economic difficulties causing stress and impacting family dynamics. According to Dew (2018:25), “financial stress is commonplace in today’s society and can come from a variety of sources and at varying levels of intensity”. Unfortunately, the repercussions of this stress may go far beyond the stress itself. “While many individuals are able to cope with financial stress and adapt, others cannot,” (Keller, 2019:75). As a consequence, potential long-term implications from an inability to cope with financial stressors may be problematic and lead to such things as poor physical health, diminished well-being, and reduced social functioning

2.3.1.1.3. Conflicts and divorce

The current trends of family channels are quite different especially from subtle conflicts to divorce. “The common global family challenges include divorce, remarriage, domestic violence, conflict, tension, insensitivity, communication breakdown, and more abuse” Divorce is big challenge which attack many families in modern U.S. Society and was once a word that would only be whispered and was accompanied by gestures of disapproval (Keller, 2019:12). The dramatic increase in divorce rates has also impacted different countries not only in the United States but also in Africa and Rwanda as well.

2.3.1.1.4. Health crises

There are many issues about coping with serious illness or mental health issues within the families. For instance, “without access to medicines, Africans are susceptible to the three big killer diseases on the continent: malaria, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS. Globally, 50% of children under five who die of pneumonia, diarrhea, measles, HIV, tuberculosis and malaria are in Africa,” (Rolland, 2017:25). African families are confronted by a heavy burden of communicable and non-communicable diseases and there is a need of cost-effective interventions that can prevent the disease burden.

2.2.3. Contribution Anglican Church in addressing family challenges

It is apparent that stronger and healthier marriages and families will make thriving church. However, “many marriages and families in the contemporary African societies are in weak states that demands consistent support from the church for sustainability,” (Marks, 2005). The church must play her mandate as the sole nurturer of Christian marriages and families other than leaving this responsibility to the government and other non-church actors. Kent Hughes (2004:46) has rightly observed that Christian family is dependent on God’s grace and providential care to see it through the difficulties that are an inevitable part of family life. Therefore, Christians must acknowledge that the vitality of the church lies in the strength of the family which is often constituted through marriage

According to Bakari and Ndumbaro (2006:123), “there is no better agent and or institution to minister God’s grace and providential care to Christian marriages and families other than the Church. The church should protect the family from false ideas about family, including those that arise from our cultures rather than the Bible.” For example, we must correct the idea of rigid male domination and present a more Biblical understanding of gender relationships that stresses the equal value of men and women.

In the same way, Marks (2005:105) viewed that the “church must protect families from wrong concepts of marriage that are often portrayed through media and other negative external influences”. It should also rearrange priorities to focus more attention on family-related issues such as sexuality education and marriage enrichment and provide training and enhanced emphasis in seminaries and other theological training institutions to better prepare future leaders for their responsibilities to our families.

Kinoti (2007:69) stressed that “the church should equip pastors and church leaders to provide more teachings about family matters in the pulpit, the classroom and in their counseling and go beyond negative prohibitions related to sex to a holistic, meaningful and fulfilling presentation of relationships.” Similarly, it has to develop more materials and provide more opportunities for Christian parents to develop responsible parenting

skills while addressing issues of economic empowerment to help break the downward spiral of poverty. The church also speaks out against the separation of families and, within the church, design policies that will prevent separation of families in the line of duty and also encourage and promote positive male role models.

Evidently, the church has a bigger role in sustaining Christian marriages and families and there should be the mutual relationship between the church and families. “Stronger churches make stronger families, and the reverse is true: stronger families make stronger church. The church’s role in building strong families is not just an option; it is the mandate of the church. If the church utilizes fulfills its functions well, it will have a lasting impact on Christian marriages and families,” (Marks, 2005:109). Marriage belongs to God who instituted it and he would love to see that marriages and families are lived in his intended purposes. It is only the Church to teach marriages and families to live up to the purposes of God; it is the Church alone that can deliver God’s purpose for marriages and families.

As mentioned by Bakari and Ndumbaro (2006:59), churches can particularly play a central role in encouraging family members, parents and children to nurture their talent or engage in entrepreneurial activity. The church community can help families to mobilize resources for financing economic activities as well as act like social capital that enable them to gain market linkages, essential skills, and other resources that are vital to their economic empowerment (Jomier, 2011:231). Kinoti (2007:45) also noted that the church has been actively involved in the assistance of vulnerable members of the society. However, the church’s efforts have mainly been limited to provision of emergency aid such as food to hunger victim and shelter to displaced person. Anozie (2013:45) stressed that churches need to extend their effort towards promoting sustainable development of the community through long-term initiatives rather quick interventions.

2.4. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This section provides the key theories and models that are related to this study such as family systems theory, family development theory and Epstein model.

2.4.1. Family systems theory

Family systems theory is a theory of human behavior that defines the family unit as a complex social system in which members interact to influence each other's behavior. Family members interconnect, making it appropriate to view the system as a whole rather than as individual elements. The Family Systems Theory assumes that a family is understood best by examining the family as one whole system. This one system is a complex, deeply-connected changing collection of parts, subsystems and family members, where each member has a known purpose or function (Hammod, 2015:89).

Based on this theory, individuals experiencing a crisis or problem are best-served by assessments that include other members of the system as opposed to examining only one family member (Choi & Harachi, 2008:64). This theory also assumes that families can examine their own processes and set deliberate goals. Change can occur when a family system acknowledges that a particular family pattern is dysfunctional and identifies new processes that support the family's goals.

2.4.2. Family development theory

Family development theory focuses on the systematic and patterned changes experienced by families as they move through their life course (Carter & McGoldrick, 2014:123). The term family as used here represents a social group containing at least one parent-child relationship. The family group is organized and governed by social norms. Family development theory sensitizes users to a variety of family-oriented ideas that provide an organized approach to the pursuit of knowledge about families with adolescents (Bengston & Allen, 2013:48). Great attention is paid to the normal and typical experiences and events contained within this family life cycle stage.

2.5. EMPIRICAL REVIEW

Families are under pressure everywhere due to family challenges. Studies have been conducted in the area of the church and how it contributes in curbing family challenges. The study by International Anglican Family Network (2015:78) suggested that challenges affecting families should be addressed in all aspects of Church life including sermons and synod resolutions.

In a study by Garfinkel (2011:62) on church and families prosperity, he highlighted that the ministry of the Church with regard to Christian marriage and family life should begin with pre-marital counseling for those preparing to get married and marriage enrichment seminars for those already married. The issues to be addressed at both should include mutual agreement between partners on family budgeting, family planning and the making of wills etc.

Another study by Heyman (2010:45) about family and conflicts, he examined the role of churches in boosting family bonds. He came to suggest that as Christians, we derive our norms of family life from the teachings of the Bible. However, there is a great need for a more appropriate reading and interpretation of the Bible, especially with regard to the roles of husband and wife within the home, the Church and the wider community. In a study by Marks (2005:108) on how does religion influence marriage, he found that that theological education is significant in preparing both men and women for various ministries in the Church. Therefore, it should not be exclusively for the ordained ministry but open to lay people – including clergy wives should they wish it (Kinoti, 2007:69).

Finally, in a study by Barclay (2011:49) about the sacrament of matrimony, he concludes that the prophetic role of the Church should include advocacy and lobbying of government and NGOs, and the participation in existing organisations to improve legal and social systems which serve to control and reduce family violence. This may include the creation of new groups, eg a couples' group or a gender desk, within the Church, which can adequately sensitise people on social issues of great concern to Christians.

2.6. GAP ANALYSIS

Several studies were conducted in family challenges globally. These concerns have been articulated in a number of blue-prints including: the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD), the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action, the Beijing platform for Action, the Agenda 21, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Plan of Action of the World Summit for Children and the Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action, to mention but a few (MIGEPROF, 2021:47).

It was seen that the current trends of family challenges are quite different especially from subtle conflicts to divorce. The common global family challenges include divorce, domestic violence, conflict, insensitivity, communication breakdown, and more abuse. Divorce is big challenge which attack many families in modern U.S. Society and (Wang, 2020:49). In The modern African family faces serious challenges, given the political, economic, social and cultural difficulties. They also need to be purified from impurities such as plural relationships, violence against women, early childbirth or arranged marriages, injustice towards widows regarding inheritance of property, exclusion of women in decision-making, child abuse and exploitation.

Among the family challenges that highlighted by various authors include poverty high rates of illiteracy, increased disease burden, and limited access to essential drugs as well as food and nutrition insecurity. Family patterns and structures have also been affected as one observes the increasing cases of female headed households, consensual unions, rising rates of divorce, the impact of HIV/AIDS and other pandemics, domestic violence, sexual abuse, the rising phenomenon of street children and beggars. Children have been most affected as a great number have dropped out of school, are deprived and many are engaged in violence, drug and substance abuse and trafficking, crime and juvenile delinquency (Ndushabandi, et al., 2016:40).

Even though, it is well stipulated in different studies that the church has a bigger role in sustaining Christian marriages and families and there should be the mutual relationship

between the church and families, no documented studies were conducted in the area of Anglican Church and its contribution in addressing the family challenges including parenting issues. This shows that this study to analyze how the Anglican Church contributes to the reinforcement of parenting skills is important to parents, children and the church itself.

2.7. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

This section entails the conceptual framework that clearly demonstrates variables that are formulated in this research. As the figure shows, there are dependent, independent and intermediary variables which are interrelated as shown in the figure below.

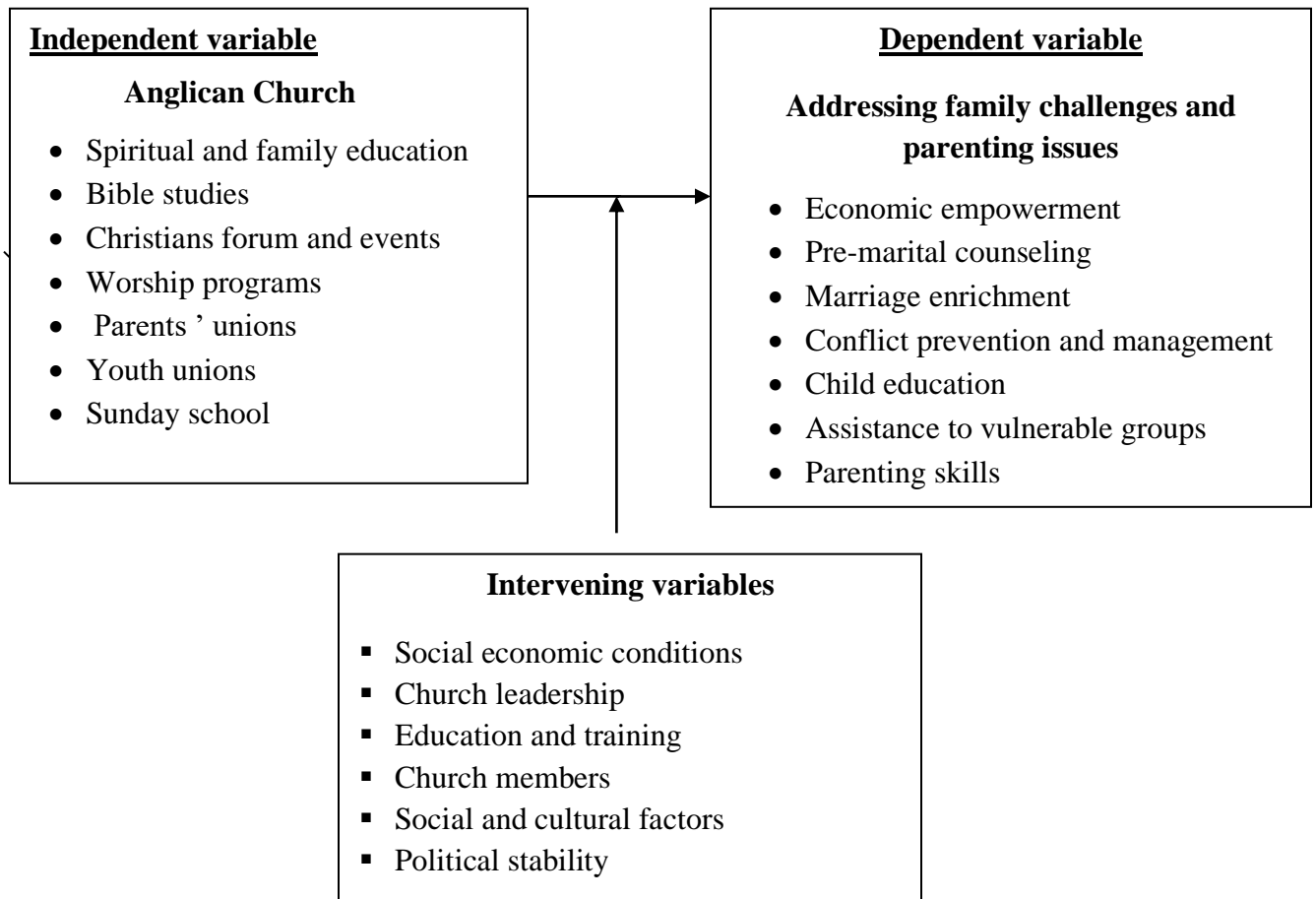


Figure 1: Conceptual framework compiled from literature

Figure 1 illustrates the major variables in the study. It is shown that Anglican Church represented by its proxy variables such as spiritual and family education, bible studies,

church forum and events, worship programs, parents' unions, youth unions and Sunday school. The diagram also shows that the contribution of church in addressing family challenges which is represented by empowering families, pre-marital counseling, and marriage enrichment, conflict prevention and management, child education , economic empowerment and parenting skills. The diagram finally presents the intervening variables such as social economic conditions, church leadership, education and training, church members, social and cultural factors and political stability.

2.8. SUMMARY

This chapter reviewed the works of other researchers pertaining to the current topic. It has provided the definitions of the key terms and theories which are the base of this research. It has shown the empirical studies about church and family challenges and parenting. Therefore, it has been helpful for it enabled to conceptualize the current research.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0. INTRODUCTION

This chapter cover and describe the research design ,approaches, target population, sampling procedures, sampling size, data collection process, reliability and validity of measurements, data analysis, ethical considerations and research instruments for data collection.

3.1 RESEARCH APPROACHES AND DESIGN

3.1.1 Research approaches

This research used quantitative and qualitative approaches. These approaches seem to be most appropriate primary and secondary.

3.1.1.1 Quantitative research approach

Quantitative research is the process of collecting and analyzing numerical data. It can be used to find patterns and averages, make predictions, test causal relationships, and generalize results to wider populations (Pritha, 2023).

3.1.1.2 Qualitative approach

According to Kothari (2004), qualitative approach is concerned with subjective assessment of attitudes, opinions and behavior. Qualitative approach uses words rather than numbers, where it concerns subjective assessment of attitudes, opinions and behavior. The qualitative method was used to get and interpret the meaning of the information gathered through questionnaires and interviews.

3.2. Research design

Research design is the framework of research methods and techniques chosen by a researcher to conduct a study. According to Grinnel (1996), research design is the entire process of study, the problem formulation through dissemination of findings. It is also

used to refer to graphic representation of independent and dependent variables. Concerning the present study, descriptive research design was used. The main aim of descriptive research is that it helped to provide an accurate and valid representation of the factors or variables that are relevant to the research questions (Cochran, 2004).

3.3. TARGET POPULATION

Bhattacharjee (2012) reported that a population is all people or items with the characteristics that the researcher wishes to study and to select a sample size. Target population refers to the total number of people that the researcher feels that they are enough to get information from in order to compile the research. William (1990) defines population as a set of cases from which a sample is drawn and to which a researcher wants to generalize. Grinnel (1990) defined a study population as “a totaling of persons or objects within which a study is conducted. For the sake of this study, the targets are parents who are members of Anglican Church in Gakenke Parish and the church leaders in Gakenke Parish. Therefore, the total population was 758 parents.

3.4. SAMPLING PROCEDURES

In this study, two sampling techniques were used to name random sampling and purposive sampling.

3.4.1. Purposive sampling

According to Kothari (2013), purposive sampling also called deliberate sampling is a non-probability sampling that was used. This sampling method involved purposive or deliberate selection of particular units of the universe for constituting a sample which represents the universe. Therefore, the researcher used purposive sampling while selecting key informants to provide particular information such as EAR Church officials in Gakenke Parish including catechists from local churches.

3.4.2. Simple random sampling

This study also used simple random sampling to select a statistical population in which each member of the subset had an equal probability of being chosen. This sampling technique helped to select Anglican Church members whereby all respondents had equal chance to be selected. The objective of this sampling method was used to obtain a sample that was representative of the population.

3.5. SAMPLE SIZE

In the present research, the sample size of Anglican Church members in Gakenke Parish was determined with reference to the formula of Alain Bouchard (2009). Given that the total population group (N) lies between 500 and 1,000 individuals, sample size for a finite population is 88 individuals with marginal errors of 10% and a precision of 90% according to Bouchard's formula (Grawitz, 2016). To obtain the adjusted sample size of the respondents from population of Gakenke Parish, the following formula was used:

$$nc = \frac{n}{1 + \frac{n}{N}}$$

Where

N: Population size

n: Sample size for a finite population

nc: Adjusted sample size for a finite population

By simplifying this formula, we have

$$nc = \frac{n}{1 + \frac{n}{N}} =$$

$$nc = \frac{n}{\frac{N+n}{N}}$$

$$nc = \frac{n \times N}{N+n}$$

Therefore, in this study the sample size for involved respondents from Gakenke Parish was determined by taking

$$nc = \frac{88 \times 758}{758 + 88} = \frac{66704}{846} = 78.84 \sim 79$$

By the application of the formula the sample size of church members from EAR Gakenke Parish is 79 respondents.

3.6. DATA COLLECTION INSTRUMENTS

Data for this study were collected using the interview and questionnaire

3.6.1. Questionnaire

According to Bailey (1978), a questionnaire is defined as a set of questions handed to the respondents and filled in by them with no help of the interviewer. Grawitz (1996) also defines questionnaire as a list of questions to be answered by the survey respondents, often the term questionnaire is restricted to self-administered instrument as opposed to interview. The questionnaire as used to obtain responses from the 79 respondents. The questions were open and closed according to the study objectives.

3.6.2. Interview

Grinnel (1990) noted that an interview is a dialogue between an interviewer or panel of interviewers and interviewee. The researcher used this technique in conducting this study. The church leaders were interviewed to provide more evidences and opinions about this study.

3.7. RELIABILITY AND VALIDITY OF MEASUREMENTS

3.7.1. Reliability

Reliability on the other hand refers to a measure of the degree to which research instruments yield consistent results. Based on the findings of the pre-test and comments of language and measurement experts, certain amendments was made on the questionnaire and lastly by giving the necessary orientations to respondents, the questionnaires were distributed to the whole respondents twice to ensure validity and reliability of data.

3.7.2. Validity

Validity is the degree to which result obtained from the analysis of the data actually represents the phenomenon under study. Validity was ensured by having objective questions included in the questionnaire. In assuring the reliability and validity of the results, the questionnaire has been pre-tested by the researcher in which they submitted them to the group of people for assuring the reliability and validity of the final results. According to Moses (2009) taking the number of items in the questionnaire and the characteristics of respondents, the value can verify the reliability of the testes. In addition, it was checked for grammar and other spelling errors using language and measurement professionals.

3.8. DATA ANALYSIS

In this research, different methods of data analysis were used in order to make the results rather accurate and comprehensible. Statistical method was be used. Audrey (1990) defines statistical analysis as the collection, examination, summarization, manipulation, and interpretation of quantitative data to discover its underlying causes, patterns, relationships, and trends. After the data collected have been organized, edited and coded, quantitative data were entered into statistical applications namely SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences). The main statistical tools that were used to analyze the responses are descriptive statistics that show frequencies, percentages, means and standard deviations.

3.9. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

While conducting this study, ethical standards were highly respected as avoiding the fabrication or falsifying of data. Regarding this study, respect for the dignity of research participants was prioritized. Full consent from the respondents and church administration and Gakenke Parish was obtained prior to the study. While collecting data, answers from respondents were treated with adequate confidentiality. Anonymity of individuals in this study was ensured. There was no deception or exaggeration about the aims and objectives of the research. Communication in relation to the research was done with honesty and transparency. Any type of misleading information, as well as representation of primary data findings in a biased way was avoided. All citations from different sources were adequately acknowledged.

3.10. SUMMARY

In brief, this chapter presents different methods, techniques and scientific approaches that were used to conduct this research. We are also presented with how this research was carried out including the way data were collected and analyzed. The reasons of using above mentioned methods and techniques were also given.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND SUMMARY

4.0. Introduction

This chapter presents analysis and interpretation of the findings from this research conducted in Anglican Church of Rwanda, Gakenke Parish. The data were collected from 79 respondents including the Christians of EAR Gakenke Parish and church leaders selected randomly and purposively. Results were now presented and discussed using descriptive statistics including tables showing frequencies and percentages, mean, and standard deviation. Therefore the following section starts by providing information about the demographic information about the respondents.

4.1. Respondents' profile

This section helps to know whether the information gathered from the field survey is related to the demographic characteristics of respondents.

4.1.1. Gender of respondents

The section below demonstrates gender of the respondents. As the results showed, respondents were both male and female. The table below shows the gender of the respondent in details. As the table shows, the great numbers of the respondents were male.

Table 1: Distribution of respondents by gender

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Male	32	40.5
	Female	47	59.5
	Total	79	100.0

Source: Field data, 2024

In this study, both male and female respondents were involved as they both have such knowledge about family challenges and parenting issues. Referring to the results in the table above, the majority of the respondents were female account to 59.5% of respondents. The results indicated that male respondents were 40.5% of the entire population. The figures demonstrate the superiority of female members over male in Gakenke Parish.

4.1.2 Marital status of respondents

The study has also examined the marital status of the respondents as being the demographic characteristics of the respondents. The details were summarized in the table below.

Table 2: Distribution of respondents by marital status

Age	Frequency	Percentage
Married	78	98.7%
Single	0	0%
Widow	1	1.3%
Divorced	0	0%
Total	79	100%

Source: Primary data 2024

According to table 3 above, we see that the majority of equal to 98.7% of respondents was married. This was based on the intent of our research which focuses on family challenges and parenting issues that concern married respondents who have experience and relevant information about family issues. Assessing the marital status of the respondents was of paramount importance because people of the different marital status have different attitudes towards phenomena.

4.1.3. Age groups of respondents

The research involved respondents of different categories of ages. The respondents' age categories were illustrated as follows. The respondents were classified in categories from 21-30; 31-45; 45-55 and above 20 years. Results about age categories are presented below.

Table 3: Table Distribution of respondents by age

Age	Frequency	Percentage
From 21- 30	16	20.3%
From 31 to45	32	40.5%
From 45 to 55	22	27.8%
Above 55	9	11.4%
Total	79	100%

Source: Primary data 2024

According to the table 4, a great number of the respondents accounting for 40.5% are in the category of ages between 31-45 years. We also see in the table that 27.8% of the sample was between 45 and 55 years old whereas 20.3% of the respondents were between 21 and 30 years. According to Saunders (2017), the level of age can affect the individual ability to carry out a given task. It may also affect the respondents' decision-making and reactions and attitudes towards the researcher. More importantly such demographic information helped to know well about respondents and how far they were able to provide trusted information.

4.1.4. Educational levels of respondents

The following table shows the level of education of the respondents selected from Gakenke EAR Parish.

Table 4: Distribution of respondents by levels of education

Education level	Frequency	Percentage
Primary	48	60.8%
Secondary school	27	34.1%
University	4	5.1%
Total	79	100%

Source: Primary data 2024

According to table 4 above, we see that the majority of the respondents equal to 60.8% have primary education only while 34.1% of the respondents have studied secondary schools. Furthermore, 5.1% of the respondents achieved higher education level. The results showed that all respondents have significant level of literacy and the knowledge of the topic to help them easily answer the questionnaire.

4.1.5. Types of occupation of respondents

In this study, types of occupation were examined and the results were presented in the section below. The table below describes occupation types such as civil servants, farmers, traders among others.

Table 5: Distribution of respondents by occupation

Types of occupations	Frequency	Percentage
Civil servants	8	10.1%
Farmers	47	59.5%
Traders	11	13.9%
Technicians	9	11.4%
Others	4	5.1%
Total	79	100%

Source: Primary data 2024

With reference to the results in the table 5 above, the study finds out that 59.5% of the surveyed population are farmers as the study area is a rural where the majority populations are farmers. Secondly, the study demonstrates that 13.9% of the respondents in this study are traders who are involved in different domains of business activities. The results also show that 11.4% of the respondents are involved in technical domain while 10.1% were civil servants as being the government employees who work in different institutions such as schools, health centers and local government institutions such as cells. On this point, the study necessitated to examine the types of occupation that the respondents were involved in. A type of occupation also influences the respondents' perceptions towards phenomena.

4.2. Family challenges in EAR Gakenke Parish

This section provides the results of the study based on the first specific objective about family challenges in Gakenke Parish of the study and provides vivid interpretations that help to illustrate the real phenomena.

4.2.1. Knowledge of family challenges

Table 6: Respondents views on their knowledge of family challenges

Do you know about family challenges?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	79	100%
No	0	0%
Total	79	100%

Source: Primary data 2024

With reference to the results in table 6, it is illustrated that 100% of the respondents were aware of family challenges in Gakenke District or their community. This shows that family challenges are unavoidable in any society even if their levels and management may be different.

4.2.2. Existence of family challenges in EAR Gakenke Parish

Table 7: Respondents' views on the existence of family challenges in EAR Gakenke Parish

Are the any family challenges in your community?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	56	70.9%
No	23	29.1%
Total	79	100%

Source: Primary data 2024

The results in table 7 show that the respondents admit the presence of family challenges in their community. This was indicated by 70.9% of the respondents who witness family challenges in their community while 29.1% had different opinions. Family challenges can vary widely and may include interpersonal, financial, or health-related issues.

4.2.3. Major challenges families faced in Gakenke Parish

This section examines the major family challenges present in Gakenke District that were witnessed by respondents from EAR Gakenke Parish. The results in details were presented in the table below.

Table 8: Respondents’ views on major challenges families faced in Gakenke Parish

Descriptive Statistics					
Types of family challenges	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Polygamy	79	1.00	3.00	2.15	0.566
Infidelity/Cheating	79	2.00	5.00	3.88	0.616
Divorce	79	1.00	4.00	2.72	0.641
Domestic violence	79	2.00	5.00	4.25	0.645
Parenting problems	79	3.00	5.00	4.72	0.341
Poverty	79	4.00	5.00	4.53	0.564
Diseases	79	4.00	5.00	4.82	0.232
Illiteracy	79	3.00	5.00	4.25	0.645

Source: Primary data 2024

In table 8 are details of the measures of family challenges that are faced in EAR Gakenke Parish. The statements have also been ranked in terms of their means and standard deviations so as to deduce meaning out of the results. Therefore, the details of the table are discussed under following section.

The results of the survey as reflected in table 8, suggest that respondents were in agreement as to whether there is infidelity or cheating in families living Gakenke District as revealed by the mean value of 3.88 which is above the average of the mean presented in the table. However, the corresponding standard deviation is high which means there are varied responses per this statement.

With reference to the third statement in the table above, the results show that respondents were in disagreement as to whether there are challenges related to divorce in Gakenke Parish as revealed the low mean value of 2.72 which is below the average or in the position of disagree. The above evidences are clear indications showing that challenges of divorce are not prevailing in the EAR Gakenke Parish community.

The results in table 8 also demonstrate that respondents were in agreement as to whether there is domestic violence in the area where Gakenke Parish covers as indicated by the value of the mean which is 4.25 or which is close to maximum of 5 on likert scale which is in the position of strongly agree. It was also demonstrated that respondents show that there is a lack of respect among the family members as evidenced by the mean value of 4.32 which is close to maximum of 5. It was also highlighted that families face parenting problems, poverty, diseases, and illiteracy as proved by the high mean value close to 5 which is the maximum implying the position of strongly agree.

4.3. Effect of family challenges in EAR Gakenke Parish

This section the study examines the effect of family challenges on parenting initiatives in the area covered by EAR Gakenke Parish. The results in details were presented in the table below.

Table 9: Respondents views on the effect of family challenges in EAR Gakenke Parish

Descriptive Statistics					
Effect of family challenges on parenting	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Lack of role model	79	3.00	5.00	4.38	0.438
Lack of education	79	4.00	5.00	4.70	0.253
Malnutrition	79	4.00	5.00	4.94	0.208
Juvenile delinquency	79	3.00	5.00	4.19	0.585
Sibling rivalry	79	2.00	5.00	3.88	0.632
Lack of guidance	79	3.00	5.00	4.55	0.445
Behavioral problems	79	2.00	5.00	4.38	0.598

Source: Primary data 2024

In table 9 are details of the measures of the effect of family challenges on parenting. The statements have been ranked in terms of their means and standard deviations so as to deduce meaning out of the results. Therefore, the details of the table are discussed in the section below. With reference to results of the survey as reflected in Table 9, respondents agree that family challenges affect the parents' abilities to be role model to their children when there are family challenges especially family conflicts. This was indicated by the mean value of 4.38 which is close to the maximum. With reference to the results in the table above the results show that family challenges affect the education of the children as revealed by the value of the mean which is 4.70% which is close to the maximum of 5 which means strongly agree.

The results also show that respondents were in agreement to the statement as to whether family challenges cause malnutrition to children as indicated by the value of the mean which is 4.94 implying strong agreement. With reference to the results of the study about the statement as to whether family challenges lead to juvenile delinquency, the respondents were in agreement as revealed by the value of the mean which 4.19 being in the position of strongly agree. The results also show that family challenges lead to sibling rivalry, lack of guidance and behavioral problems as indicated the highest value of the mean which close to 5 or in the position of strongly agree.

4.4. Contribution of Anglican Church of Rwanda in addressing family challenges in Gakenke Parish

This section of the study presents the contribution of Anglican Church of Rwanda in addressing family challenges and parenting issues in Gakenke Parish. The results in details were presented in the stable below.

4.4.1. Opinions on the contribution of EAR in addressing family

Table 10: Respondents ‘views on the contribution of EAR in addressing family challenges

Do you find that Anglican Church of Rwanda contribute in managing family challenges and parenting?	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	79	100%
No	0	0%
Total	79	100%

Source: Primary data 2024

With reference to the results in table 10, it is demonstrated that 100% of the respondents agree that Anglican Church of Rwanda contributes in addressing family challenges and parenting issues.

4.4.2. Ways in which Anglican Church of Rwanda contributes in managing family challenges

The study examines the ways in which Anglican Church of Rwanda contribute in addressing family challenges and parenting problems. The results in details were presented in the table below.

Table 11: Respondents views on ways in which Anglican Church of Rwanda contributes in managing family challenges

Descriptive Statistics					
Contribution of Anglican Church of Rwanda in addressing family challenges in Gakenke Parish	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Teaching parents through fathers and mothers unions	79	4.00	5.00	4.88	0.122
Teaching children in Sunday school	79	4.00	5.00	4.70	0.291
Bible studies in Sunday services	79	5.00	5.00	4.96	0.170
Gospel messages and family education in parent-child events	79	4.00	5.00	4.94	0.108
Empowering family communication	79	4.00	5.00	4.89	0.185
Counseling by church officials	79	3.00	5.00	4.59	0.285
Helping families to mobilize resources for financing economic activities	79	4.00	5.00	4.32	0.491
Providing assistance to vulnerable members of the society	79	5.00	5.00	4.62	0.270

Source: Primary data 2024

In table 11 are details of the measures of how Anglican Church of Rwanda contributes in addressing family challenges in Gakenke Parish. The statements have been ranked in terms of their means and standard deviations so as to deduce meaning out of the results. Therefore, the details of the table are discussed under following section.

With reference to the results of the study as discussed in table 11, respondents confirmed that Anglican Church of Rwanda contribute in teaching parents through fathers and mothers unions as indicated by the value of the mean which is 4.88 being close to 5 in the position of strongly agree. Similarly, the results in the table also show that Anglican Church of Rwanda provides education to children in Sunday school as indicated the man value of 4.70 which is close to the maximum. The results in the table 11 as reflected in the third statement show that Anglican Church of Rwanda contributes to in strengthening families through Bible studies in Sunday services as indicated by the value of the mean which is 4.96. The results also show that Anglican Church of Rwanda gives Gospel messages and family education in parent-child events which contribute in empowering families and addressing family challenges as relate to parenting. This is evidenced by the mean value of 4.89 which is close to the maximum. The results also show that the church contributes in addressing family challenges by empowering family communication, counseling by church officials, help families to mobilize resources for financing economic activities and providing assistance to vulnerable groups in the society.

4.5. QUALITATIVE DATA FROM KEY INFORMANTS

The study also used interview to data from church and local leaders. In interview with the one of the catechist in EAR Gakenke Parish nicknamed RESP1, he mentioned that family challenges often encountered in this parish are family conflicts where men beat their wives and deprive them from the use of and decision-making about of family resources. He added that family challenges are numerous but what they dare revel are few considering the existing challenges.

Another catechist in the same parish nicknamed RESP2 came to the effect of the challenges families in the well-being of the family especially on children. RESP2 mentioned that children are undernourished and malnutrition, lack of education and behavioral problem are the noticeable effect that children face when their families live in constant battle. In an interview the third catechist nicknamed RESP3, he emphasizes the issue of school dropout especially for children with family challenges, 'Children from constant troubles are not ready for study and when they attempt to go school they exhibit

social, emotional and behavioral problems which culminate to dropout and other possible cases of indiscipline such as delinquency and drug abuse.’

With regard to the contribution of Anglican Church of Rwanda in addressing family challenges and parenting, RESP1 mentioned Anglican Church of Rwanda contributes in addressing family challenges and parenting especially via church programs such as Mothers and Fathers Unions where they emphasize religious marriage, child protection and development through giving them balanced diet especially within their early 1000 days. RESP2 also reported they collaborate with that local convent institutions and schools to mitigate the effect of family challenges on children lives and education both in family and schools situations.

From the views of the local church leaders in Gakenke EAR Parish, RESP3 mentioned that the church has strengthened the work by educating mothers and fathers union representatives in working hand in hand with families so as to have information about family wellbeing nag challenges as well. We established regular visits to house by house so that we get to know how our fellow Christians live and how assist can hem their problems that they may experience in their lives,” the local church leader said.

4.6. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study examined the contribution of Anglican Church in addressing family challenges and parenting. The findings show that

4.6.1. Family challenges in Gakenke Parish

The results revealed that family challenges arise in Gakenke District specifically the area covered by EAR Gakenke Parish. The results show that 70.9% of the respondents witness family challenges in their community. The results also show that the major family challenges arising in Gakenke Parish include infidelity as indicated by the mean value of 3.88, domestic violence indicated by the value of 4.25; lack of mutual interest indicated by the mean value of 4.32 which is close to 5 implying strongly agree. The results also show that there are parenting challenges, diseases, poverty and illiteracy. As

revealed by the study, family challenges are conflict between or related to family members which can intense or frequent to the point that it interrupts day-to-day life (Fingerman, 2016:40). Family challenges are therefore unavoidable and family challenges can vary widely and may include interpersonal, financial, or health-related issues.

4.6.2. Effect of family challenges in Gakenke Parish

In this study, effect of the family challenges that affect parenting was revealed. The major effect of those challenges highlighted include the issue of inhibiting the possibility to be role model as indicated by the mean value of 4.38, lack of education indicated by the mean value of 4.70, malnutrition as indicated by the mean value of 4.94 which is close to 5 or the maximum or strongly agree. The results show that family challenges lead to juvenile delinquency, sibling rivalry, lack of guidance and behavioral problems as indicated the highest value of the mean of responses. Similarly, as mentioned by Taylor and Seeman (2002:101), family challenges have numerous effects on the wellbeing of the can lead to more family issues such as communication breakdown:

4.6.3. Contribution of the Anglican Church in addressing family challenges in Gakenke Parish

The results also showed that Anglican Church of Rwanda contribute in addressing family challenges in EAR Gakenke Parish as indicated the highest mean value of responses. The results indicated that 100% of the respondents agree that Anglican Church of Rwanda contributes in addressing family challenges and parenting issues by teaching parents through fathers and mothers unions, teaching children in Sunday school, Bible studies in Sunday services, empowering family communication, counseling by church officials, helping families to mobilize resources for financing economic activities and providing assistance to vulnerable groups in the society. This was confirmed by Garfinkel (2011:32) who revealed that the ministry of the Church should begin with pre-marital counseling for those preparing to get married and marriage enrichment seminars for those already married.

4.7. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

The study assessed the contribution of Anglican Church in addressing family challenges and parenting. This chapter presented the findings of study with regards to mentioned objectives. Data were analyzed and presented in tables and corresponding interpretations. This section therefore show the summary of the findings presented above.

The results in table 6 show that 100% of the respondents were aware of family challenges in Gakenke District or their community. This shows that family challenges are unavoidable in any society even if their levels and management may be different. The results in table 7 then show that the respondents admit the presence of family challenges in their community as it was indicated by 70.9% of the respondents who witness family challenges in their community. With regard to the family challenges highlighted in study, the results in table 8 shows that respondents were in agreement as to whether there is infidelity or cheating in families living Gakenke District as revealed by the mean value of 3.88 which is above the average of the mean presented in the table.

With reference to the third statement in table 8, the results show that respondents seem not to agree that there are challenges related to divorce in Gakenke Parish as revealed the low mean value of 2.72 which is below the average or in the position of disagree. These evidences are clear indications showing that challenges of divorce are not prevailing in the EAR Gakenke Parish community.

It was also revealed that the results in table 8 demonstrate that respondents were in agreement as to whether there is domestic violence in the area where Gakenke Parish covers as indicated by the value of the mean which is 4.25 or which is close to maximum of 5 on likert scale which is in the position of strongly agree. Moreover, it was also demonstrated that respondents show that there is a lack of respect among the family members as evidenced by the mean value of 4.32 which is close to maximum of 5. While it was also highlighted that families face parenting problems, poverty, diseases, and illiteracy as proved by the high mean value close to 5 which is the maximum and implying the position of strongly agree.

Concerning the effect of family challenges on parenting issues in EAR Gakenke Parish, the in Table 9, show that challenges affect the parents' abilities to be role model to their children when there are family challenges especially family conflicts. This was indicated by the mean value of 4.38 which is close to the maximum. With reference to the results in table 9, the results show that family challenges affect the education of the children as reveled by the value of the mean which is 4.70% which is also close to the maximum of 5 which means strongly agree.

Concerning the contribution of Anglican Church of Rwanda in addressing family challenges, 100% of the respondents were in agreement to this statement. With reference to the results of the study as discussed in table 11, respondents confirmed that Anglican Church of Rwanda contribute in teaching parents through fathers and mothers unions as indicated by the value of the mean which is 4.88 being close to 5 in the position of strongly agree. Similarly, the results in the table also show that Anglican Church of Rwanda provides education to children in Sunday school as indicated the man value of 4.70 which is close to the maximum.

The results in the table 11 as reflected in the third statement show that Anglican Church of Rwanda contributes to in strengthening families through Bible studies in Sunday services as indicated by the value of the mean which is 4.96. The results also show that Anglican Church of Rwanda gives Gospel messages and family education in parent-child events which contribute in empowering families and addressing family challenges as relate to parenting. This is evidenced by the mean value of 4.89 which is close to the maximum. The results also show that the church contributes in addressing family challenges by empowering family communication, counseling by church officials, help families to mobilize resources for financing economic activities and providing assistance to vulnerable groups in the society.

CHAPTER FIVE: GENERAL CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0. Introduction

The main objective of this study was to analyze the contribution of Anglican Church on challenges and parenting in Gakenke Parish in Gakenke District. Therefore, this chapter entails the conclusion and recommendations related to the findings. It also presents the relationship of these findings to earlier findings, the implications of the current situation, suggested improvements, the questions raised and the suggestions for further research.

5.1. Conclusion

The study examined the contribution of Anglican Church in addressing family challenges and parenting. The study assessed the contribution of Anglican Church in addressing family challenges and parenting. The results also show that the major family challenges arising in Gakenke Parish include infidelity, domestic, lack of mutual interest, diseases, poverty and illiteracy. It was also demonstrated that such family challenges affect parenting such as inhibiting the possibility to be role model for lack of education of children, malnutrition, sibling rivalry, lack of guidance and behavioral problems among others. Based on the findings, Anglican Church of Rwanda contributes in addressing family challenges and parenting issues in EAR Gakenke Parish as indicated the highest mean value of responses. The areas in which family EAR contribute in addressing family challenges and parenting include the work done by fathers and mothers unions, teaching children in Sunday school, Bible studies in Sunday services, empowering family communication, counseling by church officials and socio-economic empowerment. Based on the findings of the study Christians need to consider that the church has indispensable role in family wellbeing and prosperity as the church gets strong due to the stability of families. It is clear that the Anglican Church of Rwanda has a bigger role in sustaining Christian marriages and families and there should be the mutual relationship between the church and families. Stronger churches make stronger families, and stronger families make stronger church. Therefore, the mandate of the church is building strong families.

5.2. Recommendations

At the end of this study, the research formulated suggestions based on the findings. The suggestions are directed to the church leaders and Christians.

5.2.1. Recommendations to church leaders

- ✓ Church leaders should reinforce family education and empowerment strategies to build stable and happy families.
- ✓ Church leaders should reinforce the practices of fathers and mothers unions to help in visiting and educating family members including parents and children in different occasions such as family visits, Christians' forums, and Sunday services among others.
- ✓ Church should give consistent support to families to make them sustainable empower at all means because the vitality of the church lies in the strength of the family.
- ✓ The church should protect the family from false ideas about family, including those that arise from our cultures rather than the Bible.
- ✓ Anglican Church of Rwanda should protect families from wrong concepts of marriage that are often portrayed through media and other negative external influences.
- ✓ It has to develop more materials and provide more opportunities for Christian parents to develop responsible parenting skills while addressing issues of economic empowerment to help escape the challenge of poverty.
- ✓ Anglican Church of Rwanda should reinforce premarital counseling for the good of families, church and parenting.

5.2.2. Recommendations Christians

With reference to the results from the study, Christians should do great work to improve the family wellbeing so as to prevent and peacefully manage family challenges. Therefore, Christians should:

- ✓ Obey and abide by Bible studies about family, marriage and parenting as there is no family which is strong enough to manage its affairs apart from God's provision.
- ✓ Prioritize family wellbeing as the foundation of the Church
- ✓ Institute Christians' groups and networks to discuss and promote family matters, empowerment and parenting initiatives.

5.3. Suggestions for further researches

The study was concerned to examine the contribution of Anglican Church in addressing family challenges in Gakenke Parish, Shyira Diocese. However, the results were not exhaustive and therefore, the researchers suggest that other studies may be conducted in the similar domain to make in-depth research and analysis to provide extensive findings. For this occasion the researchers suggest that other studies may be conducted to:

- ✓ To examine the contribution of church on family empowerment
- ✓ The role of the Church on child behavior management

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: RESEARCH LETTER



EAST AFRICAN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (EACC)

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Telephone: +250 781 135 490, Email: info@eacc.ac.rw, Website: www.eacc.ac.rw

February 2nd, 2024

Received by Rev. Kuzigera Thomas
18/2/2024
RESEARCH LETTER



To whom it may concern;

We write this letter to humbly request you to allow Mr./ Mrs. HATANGI MANA Dorcas (Reg No: EACC 20210031) and Mr/ Mrs MUKAMANA Clementine (Reg No: EACC 201100) to collect data for / his/ her/ their research in your organization.

The above mentioned are bonafide student(s) of East African Christian College in the Faculty of Theology and Religion..

These/ This Candidate (s) are currently conducting a research entitled "The Church and Family challenges and parenting in Rwanda, case study Gakenke Parish, Shyira Diocese"

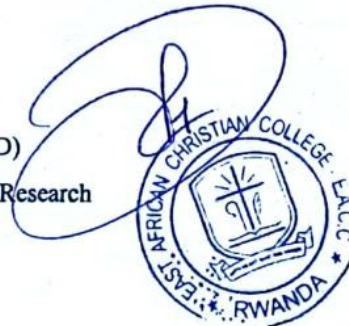
We are convinced that your organization will constitute a valuable source of information pertaining to his/her/ their research. The purpose of this letter is to humbly request you to avail him/her/ them with the pertinent information they may need. We pledge to ensure that all provided information will be used only for academic purpose.

In case of having any barrier, please contact us at the following email: dpa@eacc.ac.rw or on mobile phone number (+250788588510).

Any assistance rendered to the candidate(s) will be highly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dr. MUNYENGABE Sylvestre (PhD)
Deputy Principal for Academic and Research
East African Christian College



APPENDIX 2: QUESTIONNAIRE

On 20th February, 2024

Dear respondent,

Our names are HATANGIMANA Donat and MUKAMANA Clementine. We are currently completing our Bachelor's Degree in Theology at East African Christian College. On the basis of our degree requirements, we intend carrying out a study on Church and family challenges and parenting in Rwanda, case study Shyira Diocese, Gakenke parish.

The information will be treated in the strictest confidence and used for research purposes only. All participants in this study will be on a voluntary basis and participants will be free to withdraw from the study at any point in time. The highest level of confidentiality and anonymity will be assured and names will not be disclosed. The research will cause no harm to the school or the participants. Information will be made available to participants before publication.

Thank you for your support!

HATANGIMANA Donat

&

MUKAMANA Clementine

INSTRUCTIONS (Amabwiriza)

- Please use a tick to show your choice (√)(*korsha akamenyetso ka (√)*)
- Explain where it is necessary (*Sobanura aho biri ngombwa*)

SECTION ONE: PERSONAL INFORMATION(*Umwirondoro*)

1. Gender of respondent(*igitsina*)

Male (*gabo*)

Female (*gore*)

2. Marital status of respondent (*irangamimerere*)

a. Single (*ingaragu*)

b. Married (*ndubatse*)

c. Widow(*narapfakaye*)

d. Divorced(*natandukanye n'uwo twashakanye*)

3. Age groups of the respondent(*imyaka*)

a. Below 21-30

b. From 31 to45

c. From 45 to 55

d. Above 55

3. Level of study (*amashuri*)

a) Primary (*abanza*)

b) Secondary(*ayisumbuye*)

c) University (*kaminuza*)

4. What is your occupation?(*umurimo ukora*)

a. Business person(*umucuruzi*)

b. Civil servants(*umukozi wa leta*)

c. Farmers(*umuhinzi mworozu*)

- d. Technician(*umutekinisiye*)
- e. Others (specify)(*undi mwuga.....*)

SECTION B: To examine the family challenges in Gakenke Parish
(*Kugenzura ibibazo bigaragara mu miryango muri paruwsi ya gakenke*)

1. Do you know about family challenges? (*Uzi neza ibibazo biba mu miryango*)

Yes

No

2. Are there any family challenges in your community? (*ese hari ibibazo biba mu miryango aho mutuye*)

Yes (yego)

No(oya)

3. What are the major challenges families face in your community
(*Ni ibihe ibibazo biba mu miryango aho mutuye*)

Please rank the following statements on likert scale where:

1= strongly disagree; 2= Disagree; 3= Not sure; 4= Agree 5= strongly agree

Uzuza mu mbonerahamwe ukurikije imibare ikurikira

1=Sibyona gato ; 2= Sibyo ; 3= Simbyizeye ; 4= Ndabyemera ; 5= Ndabyemera cyane

No	Family challenges /Amakimibirane yo mu miryango	1	2	3	4	5
1	Polygamy(<i>Ubuharike</i>)					
2	Cheating (<i>gucana inyuma kw'abashakanye</i>)					
3	Divorce (<i>Gutandukana kw'abashakanye</i>)					
4	Domestic violence(<i>Ihehoterwa rikorerwa mu miryango</i>)					
5	Lack of mutual respect(<i>Kutubahana</i>)					
6	Parenting problems (<i>Imbogamizi mu kurera abana</i>)					
7	Poverty (<i>ubukene</i>)					
	Diseases (<i>uburwayi</i>)					
	Illiteracy (<i>kutiga</i>)					

Others/ibindi:.....

SECTION C: TO ANALYZE THE EFFECT OF FAMILY CHALLENGES ON PARENTING ISSUES IN GAKENKE PARISH(*Gusuzuma ingaruuka z'amakimibirane yo mu miryango ku burere bw'abana*)

4. Do family challenges affect parenting initiatives?

(Ese makimibirane yo mumiryango agira ingaruka ku burere bw'abana)

Yes(Yego)

No(Oya)

5. If yes, how do family challenges affect child parenting your community?

Niba ari yego, ni gute amakimbiranye yo mumiryango agira inagruka ku burere bw'abana?

Please rank the following statements on likert scale where:

1= strongly disagree; 2= Disagree; 3= Not sure; 4= Agree 5= strongly agree

Uzuza mu mbonerahamwe ukurikije imibare ikurikira

1=Sibyona gato ; 2= Sibyo ; 3= Simbyizeye ; 4= Ndabyemera; 5= Ndabyemera cyane

No	How do family challenges affect child parenting your community? <i>Niba ari yego, ni gute amakimbiranye yo mumiryango agira inagruka ku burere bw'abana?</i>	1	2	3	4	5
1	Lack of role model(<i>kubura urugero rwiza</i>)					
2	Lack of education (<i>kubura uburere</i>)					
3	Peer pressure(<i>kugendera mu bigare</i>)					
4	Malnutrition (<i>imirire mibi</i>)					
5	Juvenile delinquency(<i>ubuzererezi bu rubyiruko</i>)					
6	Sibling rivalry(<i>amakimbiran mu bana</i>)					
7	Lack of guidance (<i>kubura ubujyanama</i>)					
8	Behavior problems(<i>ibibazo mu myitwarire</i>)					

SECTION D: TO EVALUATE THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH IN ADDRESSING FAMILY CHALLENGES AND PARENTING ISSUES IN GAKENKE PARISH(*Kugenzura uruhare rw' Itorero Anglikani ry' Rwanda mu kurwanya imibazo mu miryango no muburere bw'abana*)

6. Do you find that Anglican Church of Rwanda contribute in managing family challenges and parenting ? *Ese mubona Itorereyo Anglikani ry' Rwanda rifasha mu gukemura ibibazo mu miryango no muburere bw'abana?*

Yes(Yego)

No(Oya)

7. If yes, how does Anglican Church of Rwanda contribute in managing family challenges? (*Niba ari byo, ni gute Itorero rifasha mugukemura ibibazo mu miryango no mumirere y'abana?*)

1= strongly disagree; 2= Disagree; 3= Not sure; 4= Agree 5= strongly agree

Uzuza mu mbonerahamwe ukurikije imibare ikurikira

1=Sibyona gato ; 2= Sibyo ; 3= Simbyizeye ; 4= Ndabyemera; 5= Ndabyemera cyane

No	The way Anglican Church of Rwanda contribute in managing family challenges (<i>uko Itorero rifasha mugukemura ibibazo mu miryango no mumirere y'abana</i>)	1	2	3	4	5
1	Teaching parents through fathers and mothers unions(<i>kwigisha ababyeyi mu mahuriro y'ababyeyi</i>)					
2	Teaching children in Sunday school (<i>kwigisha abana mu ishuri ryo kucyumweru</i>)					
3	Bible teachings in Sunday services(<i>inyigisho zo iteraniryo ryo ku cyumweru</i>)					
4	Gospel and family education in parent-child events(<i>ubutumwa bwiza n'inyigisho z'umuryango ahantu hatandukanye</i>)					
5	Empowering family communication (<i>guteza imbere ubusabane</i>)					
6	Counseling by church officials (<i>Ubujyanama bw'abayobzi b'itorero</i>)					
7	Socio-economic empowerment (<i>Guteza imbere umuryango</i>)					

Thank you very much (Murakoze cyane)

APPENDIX 3: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE CHURCH LEADERS

- 1) Are there any family challenges in your community?
- 2) What are the major challenges families face in your community?
- 3) Do family challenges affect parenting initiatives?
- 4) How do family challenges affect child parenting in your community?
- 5) Do you find that the Anglican Church of Rwanda contributes in managing family challenges and parenting?
- 6) How does the Anglican Church of Rwanda contribute in managing family challenges?

APPENDIX 4: DETERMINATION OF THE SAMPLE SIZE BY ALAIN BOUCHARD

	Precision								
	90 fois sur 100			95 sur 100			99 sur 100		
	10%	5%	1%	10%	5%	1%	10%	5%	1%
Infini	68	271	6765	96	384	9604	166	664	16589
1,000,000	68	271	6720	96	384	9513	166	663	16319
100,000	68	270	6336	96	383	8763	166	659	14229
50,000	68	269	5959	96	381	8057	165	655	12457
10,000	67	263	4035	95	370	4899	163	622	6239
5,000	67	257	2875	94	357	3288	161	586	3842
1,000	63	213	871	88	278	906	142	399	943
500	60	176	466	81	271	475	125	285	485
100	41	73	99	49	80	99	63	67	99
50	29	43	50	33	44	50	49	47	50