

## ABSTRACT

This study sought to investigate the influence of widow inheritance rituals on socio-economic well-being of the widows in Kagan clan. A major area of research in religion is ritualistic aspects of cultural practices such as widow inheritance. Religion also investigates questions connected to sexual morality and the ethical implications related to the social-economic dimension of such cultural practices. Some scholars argue that widow inheritance and its associated rituals remain the greatest impediment to the realization of the goals of empowerment and the general community well-being, others indicate that there has never been a coordinated scientific study directly linking widow inheritance to the spread of HIV/AIDS, social decadence and poverty. The specific objectives of this study were: influence of pre inheritance rituals, final funeral rituals and post inheritance rituals on socio- economic well-being of the widows in Kagan clan. The study was held significant to several individuals and entities in the domain of religion, health matters, community empowerment and general development. The study was grounded on the basic assumptions that the final selected sample would be a true reflection of the salient characteristics of the target population; respondents being willing to give information truthfully and objectively and that the data collection instruments would be valid and reliable in taking the expected measures. Moreover, the study was anchored on the culture change theories which explain how an element of change is introduced, disseminated, adopted and sustained by the general community in an endeavour to become progressive for general community prosperity. On methodological aspects, a descriptive survey research design was used, targeting a population of 602 widows from where a sample size of 120 respondents was drawn employing stratified random sampling procedures. Data was obtained using researcher developed questionnaire, initially pretested with a sample similar, yet not the actual study sample and whose validity and reliability were ascertained to ensure collection of relevant information. Validity was ascertained through adequate coverage of research objectives, peer review and expert judgment, while reliability assured through split half reliability measure. Data was analysed using descriptive statistics such as, frequencies and percentages aided by Statistical Packages for Social Scientists (SPSS) and presented using frequency distribution tables. All ethical concerns were addressed in line with the fundamental principles of scientific undertakings such as plagiarism, authorized data collection and observation of intellectual property rights. The results established that widow inheritance rituals had significant influence on socio economic well-being of the widows in Kagan clan and recommended different strategies of addressing such issues in order to improve the socio- economic well-being of the widows. The researcher finally recommends four areas, as emanated from the study, to be considered for further research.