

**HOUSEHOLD STRUCTURE, FORMATION AND DISSOLUTION IN RUSINGA
ISLAND**

By

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of Arts in Population Studies at the Population Studies and Research Institute (P.S.R.I)
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DECLARATION

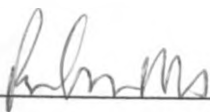
This project is my original work and has not been presented before for the award of a degree in any other university

Signature  _____

Lyaga, Zena

This project has been submitted for examination with our approval as University Supervisors

Signature  _____
Name: Dr. Alfred Otieno

Signature  _____
Name: Dr. Kimani Murungaru

DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to my baby Kip, may the Almighty always be with you and may you always seek to pursue knowledge.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project has been realized through efforts of various individuals. I acknowledge the enormous contributions made by my supervisors Dr. Otieno and Dr. Murungaru, and Mr. Mutuku though not my supervisor but you assisted me greatly. To all the lecturers and class of 2006 from whom I gained a lot during my coursework and project. PSRI and PSRI library staff who were always willing and ready to assist and your friendly nature cannot go unappreciated.

My dear husband, all the nights you stayed up with me while I was doing my project and assignments, the evenings you stayed on in town waiting for me, your assistance in math and statistics and for your undying support. I am forever indebted, God bless you.

To my parents and siblings your moral support and prayers helped me achieve this. Mummy your constant checks on my progress is highly appreciated. My niece Zai, sis Sheila and cousin Jojo in addition to prayers and moral support you assisted me with the maths. Thank you all and God bless you.

Above all thanks be to Allah without whose mercy's I would not have made it.

ABSTRACT

The objective of the study was to explore household structure, formation and dissolution in Rusinga Island. The specific objectives were to describe the household structure and typology in Rusinga, determine rate of dissolution and characteristics of dissolved households, to determine the proportion of new households and their characteristics and finally to explore the factors leading to formation and dissolution of households.

The study used data from Rusinga DSS collected between 2001 and 2007 covering the entire Island. Data was analysed using descriptive frequencies to determine the mean household size, the smallest and largest household sizes and the distribution of households in the Island. Cross tabs were used to establish the typology, proportions of new and dissolved households, to explore the characteristics of the households formed and dissolved and to explore factors responsible for the formation and dissolution of households in the area.

The population of the Island is 25,322 and there are 5,943 households. This study shows that the average household size in Rusinga is 4.1 and the size varies between 1 and 14. The size of households has reduced over the years. The initial survey established the largest household as having 14 members while in the latest survey of new households formed after the initial survey the largest was the 12 member household. The male headed households account for more than 50%. Only less than 1% of the households are headed by children. Solitary living in the Island is not common, it accounts for only 10.5% of households in the Island. Migration is the leading cause of both household formation and dissolution.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION AND PROBLEM STATEMENT

1.0. INTRODUCTION

Rusinga just like the rest of the country has been undergoing social, economic and demographic changes. These changes are not unique to Rusinga alone, other parts of Kenya and the rest of the countries in the world are also experiencing changes in their social, economic and demographic structures. The changes have affected the family and household structure. Indeed, it is hard to comprehend adequately social, economic or demographic change without referring to its effect on the family institution and the household structure.

Changes have occurred in household formation, dissolution and structure. Households were formed by marriage and dissolved by death, with children coming in between. This pattern has however changed and has been referred to as "the second demographic transition". Households are now formed by factors other than marriage and death. The traditional family household of a married couple has also undergone transformation with the changes being closely linked to demographic trends (Weeks, 1999).

Preferences, family structure and economics have been given as the most predominant reasons for changes in households leading to hypotheses on the preference, family structure and economics. The preference hypothesis states that tastes for privacy have grown in the population at large, while the family structure hypothesis suggests that the changes in household structure are due to changes in mortality, fertility and marriage patterns (Kobrin, 1976). The economic hypothesis gives greater emphasis on the affordability and costs of maintaining an independent household relative to living in a larger household (Ermisch, 1981). There is also a growing theoretical focus on households as a key decision-making unit in demographic behaviour as illustrated by the economic theories of fertility (Becker, 1976; Easterlin, 1978).

Rusinga Island is in Suba District in Nyanza Province. The Island is divided into rural, urban and beach residences. In the initial survey (2001) there were a total of 4,161 households, the rural residence having the lion's share of 75 percent, 18 and 6 percent being the urban and beach respectively. The total population of Rusinga Island is 25,322. The main economic activity is

fishing, though they also engage in agriculture. The island is in the early stages of demographic transition.

1.1 Definition of Concepts

A household refers to a group of persons who share a common living arrangement for providing themselves with food or other essentials for living. Households are not limited to groups of persons but they may also comprise of one or two persons. The persons occupying a household may or may not be related. Sometimes two or more families may form a single household depending on the availability of the source of food and the source of authority among the families, e.g. polygamous families which decide to share all the food and essential living arrangements (United Nations: 1956).

A family is defined as a social group characterized by a common residence, economic cooperation and reproduction. This signifies a relationship by blood or marriage. The head of the household is the person who is regarded by other members of the household as the authority and in most cases he or she is the breadwinner of that household.

1.2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

Household is an important unit of analysis and has been emphasized in various disciplines. Households are important demographic units that contribute to most of the demographic processes that determine the size and other demographic characteristics of the population. Households are also created as a result of certain demographic processes including marriage and migration.

In Demography, it is thought that household factors play a key role in determining patterns of fertility, mortality, migration and marriage. Demographic processes are highly dependent on the household condition of the individuals involved. They take place within the family or are highly related to the family situation.

Demographic factors influence changes in households. Bongaarts (2001) identifies changes in the, age at marriage, adult mortality, propensity of adult sons/daughters (unmarried or married) to remain the parental household, fertility, child mortality, risk of marital disruption and remarriage, the tendency and ability of the elderly to live alone and the presence of other

relatives and nonrelated individuals to be among the factors responsible for the changes in the process of household formation, dissolution, size and composition.

In Kenya, studies in household are lacking despite the availability of data sets from census' and surveys that have sufficient information to allow for an analysis in household and family (Otieno, 2003). Furthermore, studies that have been conducted tend to lean more towards size, composition and complexity which have been the areas of emphasis by most family demographers, and studies are available for the developed and the developing countries as opposed to those that include dissolution. This study has focussed on household formation, structure and dissolution in Rusinga Island.

1.3. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1.3.1. Main Objective

This paper seeks to examine the structure and the processes of household formation and dissolution.

1.3.2. Specific Objectives

1. To describe the household structure and typology in Rusinga
2. Determine the rate of formation of new households, the proportion and their characteristics
3. Determine the rate of dissolution and the characteristics of dissolved households
4. To explore the factors responsible for formation and dissolution of households in Rusinga

1.4. JUSTIFICATION

Demographers for a long time neglected the quantitative aspects of the size, composition and changes in households and their causes and consequences (Bongaarts 2001). The importance of families and household has been treated with great importance in social sciences including anthropology, economics, political science, gender studies, urban and rural planning, human geography and sociology.

The Household decision making approach has also been applied to the study of other demographic behaviour such as family planning and abortion, marriage, migration and moving from the parental home. Budget expenditures, housing demands, transportation, labour force participation, and demand for educational and medical services are all related to family and household relationships. Households all over the world have been transforming, with developments being witnessed in the number, composition, size and type. Various forms of residence have emerged at the expense of traditional living arrangements, while household size has become smaller in both developing and developed countries. All of these disciplines regard the change in the number and structure of family and households as crucial elements to understand the prevailing social trends. What family and household demographers try to achieve basically is to link demographic components to the core of the population studies. Family and household units mainly constitute the core in this respect, where demographic behaviour appears. Computing the proportions of different household types may provide considerable information on analyzing household composition and living arrangements of the society since such studies have not been done in Kenya. Just like in other parts of the world households in Kenya have undergone transformations with the smaller households being favoured over the larger traditional households.

1.4. SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS

This study has highlighted the structure, formation and dissolution of households in Rusinga Island. Rusinga Island was chosen due to the availability of longitudinal data that is the only kind of data that can be used to explore the processes of formation and dissolution and also because it is in the early stages of the demographic transition and hence provides an ideal setting to investigate the dynamics of the process. Data used was collected by the Population Studies and Research Institute (PSRI) Laboratory in Rusinga Island (hereinafter referred to as Rusinga DSS). The sample for the survey covered all households in the island, which is a total of 5,943 households. Information collected on the households included characteristics of the household's dwelling unit, such as the source of water, type of toilet facilities, materials used for the floor and roof of the house, ownership of various durable goods e.g. radio, bicycle, boat, television, refrigerator among others. Information on each member of the household was collected, i.e. age, marital status, sex, level of education, economic status and relationship to the household head.

All this information was captured in the household questionnaire which also included a question on how the household was formed. This questionnaire was administered for all households in the baseline and for new households in the subsequent rounds. For dissolved households only reason for dissolution was given. The data was adequate to comprehensively analyze the structure of households.

The data had limitations due to non-response especially questions relating to reasons for formation and dissolution making it impossible to conclude this study. There was no questionnaire on dissolution thus all information necessary for this study was not recorded. Concerning the date and reason for dissolution part of limitation is because information is given by non-members of the dissolved households, some of whom were not in a position to answer the questions adequately.

The data capturing process also presented errors in the data contributing to limitations of this data. The data was captured using fox-pro then converted to SPSS for analysis. In the process of the conversion some information was lost especially information pertaining to dates. In light of this limitations this project did only what was permissible by the data.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0. Introduction

While acknowledging the importance of the social world, demographers have tended to focus on the household as the most important arena of social relations. There are good reasons for this, with perhaps the most persuasive one being its analytical convenience. The widespread application of western concepts of the household to the developing country context has further entrenched assumptions that the household represents the most critical locus of social interaction.

Household and family demography entails: the composition and size of households, families and related groups; their variation among nations and among subgroups within nations (differential size and structure); changes over time; determinants of the changes, the demographic (the age structure and the basic demographic processes of fertility, mortality, marriage, divorce and migration) and socio-economic determinants including income, culture, rural or urban, among others; the socioeconomic consequences of household variation and change (including age and sex roles, intergenerational relations and dependency among the elderly among others); demographic measures and models of household and family structure and change (Burch, 1979).

2.1. Household Structure

2.1.1 Typology

The types of households are not distinct; they vary for different theoretical perceptions. The factors (how they are formed), 'authority relations' or the size may all be considered as distinguishing factors in the determination of household type. Household typology defines the overall kinship structure of the household and provides an evaluation of its degree of "nuclearity". At the basis of this typology lies the concept of "family nucleus", defined as a group of persons linked by a relationship of reproduction or a conjugal tie: i.e., a couple, or a couple with children, or only one parent with children. All the households which do not contain one or the other of these groups are classified as non-nuclear.

In Yavuz citing Timur's classification of households he had four main categories with their sub-categories. The four main categories are:

- a. Nuclear Family: composed of husband, wife and their unmarried child(ren)
- b. Patriarchal Extended Family: Composed of a man and his wife, their married son(s) and wife(s) with their child(ren), and/or unmarried son(s)/daughter(s) of household head.
- c. Transient Extended Family: in which the male, who is the household head, his wife and his unmarried child(ren) live together with either the man's or his wife's widowed parent(s) and their unmarried siblings.
- d. Dissolved Family: in which one spouse is missing due to separation, divorce, death etc. or non – family households.

Yavuz added the following categories in his study

- a. No Family Households: this category includes; 'solitaries', 'co – resident siblings', 'co- resident relatives and other kind' and 'people not evidently related'.
- b. Simple Family Households: this category is used to cover what is described as the 'nuclear family' in Timur's classification system. Nevertheless, single parent families are also included here based on the assumption that losing one of the spouses in the family does not change its conjugal family unit status. Following household groups are included; 'married couples alone', 'married couples with children', 'single parent with child(ren)' and 'single parent with children + other relative(s) & or person(s)'.
- c. Extended Family Households: An extended family household is a conjugal family unit with the addition of one or more relatives other than offspring. If the resident relative is of a generation earlier than that of the conjugal family unit, the extension is identified as upwards. Similarly, if the resident relative is of a generation later than that of the conjugal family unit extension is identified as downwards. If the extension is formed by the same generation as that of the conjugal family unit, than the household is identified as lateral extended. If there are both vertical and horizontal generations present at the same time along with the conjugal family unit, this household is identified as combined. Following households have been included in this category; 'extended downwards', 'extended upwards', 'extended laterally (sideway)', 'combinations in extended family' and 'other extended'.

- d. **Multiple Family Households:** A multiple family household comprises two or more conjugal family units at the same time. The first conjugal family unit, which contains the household head, is called 'primary unit' and other conjugal units are called 'secondary' units. If secondary unit's conjugal link involves a generation earlier than that of the head, as for instance when father and mother (or father-in-law and mother-in-law) live with the head, that multiple family unit is called to be 'UP'. An upwardly extended multiple family may include offspring of the head's parents other than the head himself as well. If secondary unit's conjugal link involves a generation later than that of the head, for example when a head's married son or daughter lives with him/her along with his/her spouse and child(ren) if any, that multiple unit is called 'DOWN'. If conjugal family units are all disposed laterally, such as when married brothers and/or sisters live together, that multiple family is called 'units all on one level'.

Bongaarts (2001) used the following classifications in his study of changing households in the developing world:-

- a. Nuclear family: head, spouse, and their children
- b. Stem family additions: parents or grandchildren of head
- c. Other family: any other relatives of head
- d. Other nonfamily: any individuals not related to head.

Modernization has been thought to induce the process of "nuclearization," though it's not a simple process of society moving from extended families to families formed by a single biological father-mother-children nucleus, but rather the emergence of new rules of social life implies the diversification of family forms and the strengthening of new configurations rather than convergence on single nuclear family model.

2.1.2 Size and Composition

It is agreed among the family sociologists that the complexity of households and residential families decrease as a society industrializes and urbanizes (McDonald, 1992). Despite the notion that households decline in complexity as societies develop, households in traditional societies were not as large as we might expect if vertical and horizontal extensions were maximized (Burch, 1972). The average household size in preindustrial societies is usually between 4 and 6

members both in the contemporary developing countries and as well as historically in European societies (Laslett, 1972). Levy (1965) argued that a variety of economic and demographic constraints, in particular high mortality, prevented the extended family from becoming predominant in practice and that, as a consequence, actual household sizes vary much less than ideal types.

The household size has undergone change, recording a declining trend which is partly attributed to the observed declines in fertility. Trends are changing from extended to nuclear and there is an increase in the number of persons living alone both in developed and in some developing countries (Otieno 2003). Otieno (2003) lists increase in age at marriage, increased cases of divorce and separation, changing roles of women and the growing number of elderly persons living without spouses as factors contributing to these observable changes. The changes in household size and composition, in the United States are the result of a continuous process of household fission and decline in the importance of family. Measures of household characteristics are affected by social changes. Progression through the traditional family cycle has been affected as more and more people are now choosing to remain unmarried for longer, cohabitation and marriage dissolution are now acceptable (Jiang and O'Neill, 2007).

Fertility decline over the past century has been given as one of the reasons for the decline in household size in Europe and North America. Other things being equal, declining fertility reduces the number of children per household. Other factors besides fertility: the age at marriage, adult mortality, decision to live alone made by the elderly, and the adult offspring, decisions by married couples to live alone or remain in their parental household, divorce, decisions to accommodate other relatives or non-relatives, mortality and migration. The impact of these factors differs amongst societies as they are often affected by cultural and economic conditions (Bongaarts, 2001).

The size of a household is influenced by union formation and dissolution. An increase in union formation results in more larger households, while union dissolution leads to an smaller households (Jiang and O'Neil, 2007).

The function of the preindustrial household was defined as a production unit, and its size was determined largely by the need for labour. The demand for labour was more or less constant, thus the household size then did not change much, even though individuals entered and left households with regularity (Cherlin, 1983).

The changing trends of household in the United States has attracted the attention of many scholars (see Burch, 1970; Burch and Mathews, 1987; Carliner, 1975; Ermisch and Overton, 1985; Kobrin, 1973, 1976; Richards, White and Tsui, 1987; Santi, 1987, 1988; Sweet, 1984; Teachman, 1982; Watkins Menken, and Bongaarts, 1987; White and Tsui, 1986). Their studies however, have been limited in scope for example focussing on one type of household or one demographic variable like fertility. The results have not been very clear, as demographic factors can have multiple effects on household types for example; the effect of immigration is complicated by a variety of patterns of residence upon arrival in the United States and by changes after arrival as economic and social situations change. The effects of fertility and mortality on household size have been shown to vary overtime as underlying demographic conditions change (Kobrin, 1976). In some cases studies have even been contradictory. Burch (1970) concluded that under all family systems (nuclear, stem, and extended), life expectancy is positively correlated with average household size. On the other hand, Kobrin (1976) maintained that mortality decline increases the proportions of one- and two-person households and therefore contributes to a fall in household size.

Household composition as influenced by demographic factors such as fertility have a direct impact and by socio-economic variables which operate through the demographic and residential choice factors. For example as a society develops, social and economic changes (indirect factors) bring about reductions in fertility (a proximate determinant and the decline in fertility, in turn, lead to a change in the household structure by reducing the number of children. Bongaarts (1983) proposed six proximate demographic determinants of the size of nuclear households: nuptiality, fertility, adoption, mortality, migration and divorce. These variables identify the ways in which nuclear households can change: individuals enter through marriage, birth, adoption, or immigration and they leave through divorce or out-migration.

Burch and Mathews (1987) observed there is a move from large and complex households towards simpler forms which include single-person households, couple only households and single-parent households. The trend can be characterized as a drop in the optimum and viable number from five or six to two or more adults and form a minimum viable household size of three or four to a minimum viable of one adult. Rise in remarriage is thought to increase the complexity and size of a household but this is not the case due to the low remarriage rate among women with children.

Johnson and Roseman (1990) in their analysis of effect of black out-migration on household composition concluded that changes in household composition often accompany migration. Observing the migration behaviour of an individual or the entire household gives an incomplete if not misleading picture of migration behaviour.

Bongaarts (2001) in analyzing changes in household structure for 43 developing countries, found a strong correlation between the average number of children in a household (CH) and adjusted total fertility rates (ATFR). The number of children per household rises from around 1.5 in countries with ATFR near 3 to more than 3 with ATFR of 6 and more births per woman. The number of children per household is only about half the level of the adjusted fertility rate in most countries. This observation is because "fertility as measured by the ATFR is a lifecycle measure whereas children per household is a current status indicator. Very few women have all their children living with them. At any point in time many younger women have not yet completed their childbearing, and the number of children in their household will therefore be smaller than the number of surviving children these women will eventually have. In addition some or all of the children of older women have become adults, thus also contributing to lowering the value of children per household relative to ATFR" (Bongaarts 2001).

The relationship mentioned above is also affected by the propensity of adults to live together as measured by the average number of adults per household (AH). (Bongaarts, 2001). Trends in the number of children per household therefore depend not only on the trend in the adjusted total fertility rate but also in the number of adults per household.

Age at marriage and the number of adult sons and daughters per household influences the household structure. In the findings of Bongaarts (2001) the singulate mean age at marriage of women (SMAM) and the average of adult daughters per household influences the structure of households, though the same does not apply for males. The probable explanation given for this is that whereas the female's departure from home coincides more closely with marriage, for the males they leave home well before they marry and others even stay in their parental homes after marriage.

In most households observed by Bongaarts (2001) the head co-resides with his or her spouse. The main reasons given for absence of spouse of the head is marriage disruption as a result of divorce, separation, abandonment and death especially for women. The proportion of heads not living with a spouse is used as an indicator of marital disruption.

Population distribution in households is almost evenly divided between children and adults. Bongaarts (2001) noted that the number of children in the average household is below the country-level fertility rate an example of Sub-Saharan Africa, the average number of children per household (2.8) is about half of the total fertility rate. The typical adult composition in a household are the head, spouse of the head and sons/or daughters of the head. This is however the case in nuclear households, but not in non-nuclear households which lead to household complexity. Household complexity refers to the degree to which there are non-nuclear members present in a household. The extensions in households can occur vertically (involving more than two generations), horizontally (addition of siblings and their families) or by addition of non relatives (Lloyd, 1999).

The tendency towards a complex household increases if the head lacks a spouse (single parent households). Such households try to improve their ability to perform normal household functions by inviting non-nuclear relatives to co-reside in their households (Burch, 1979).

In less developed countries extended households form a minority of all households even in rural areas. They are more common where the older generation have control over economic wealth such as land, livestock and other physical assets, with the younger generation being dependent on them (Lloyd, 1999).

Burch (1976) suggests two classifications for the measures of household and family demography. The first measure uses information on relationships among persons in the household, based on an explicit census or survey item on relationship to household head. The second class of measures, in the absence of a direct question on relationship, uses other, more routine information that inferring relationship or a proxy for relationship. From the first grouping, such measures as ratios showing the frequency of various kinds of relatives or non-relatives per household can be obtained. The measures have been used to infer several aspects of household structures, to compute headship rates, to develop typologies of families and households. Other measures such as number of marital units per household among others can be calculated.

Various methods have been used to measure complexity. Frequency measures that show the different relationships to the head as proposed by Burch (1967) have been used to measure household complexity. Members are classified as: Nuclear family consisting of head, spouse and their children; stem family additions which include parents of grandchildren of head; other family that includes any other relatives of the head and finally other nonfamily which comprises of any individuals not related to the head.

Ram and Wong in their multivariate analysis of household extension in an Indian village, the covariates woman age, landholding, per adult income, and the presence of children age 5 or younger had a statistically significant effect on household extension. They concluded that extended households are still common household type rural settings in India. Individuals enter into and exit from an extended household according to their needs and requirements throughout life (Ram and Wong, 1994).

Devos and Palloni in their review of microsimulation, macrosimulation and analytic models for the analysis of kinship and household formation observed that migration is not included in the simulation models. Modelling migration however presents problems because of its sensitivity to socioeconomic factors; an individuals migration usually implies the contraction of a household and expansion (or birth) of another necessitating the simultaneous definition of an entrance and

an exit and finally in some cases the risk of migration of certain individuals are often equivalent to those of others for example migration of the household head may involve migration of the entire household especially if it's a nuclear household (Devos and Palloni, 1989).

In United Nations (1973b) headship rates are closely associated with marital status, being highest for married males, lowest for single adults, with the widowed and divorced persons falling in between. Differentials in marital status headship rates might be due to differences in household complexity (Burch 1979). Kobrin (1976) suggests that headship rates in the United States for older widowed or divorced may be lower if they had more adult children with whom they might live. Differences among marital status categories were due largely to differences in the number and ages of children. Burch, Halli and Madan et al (1987) in their attempt to solve the problem of lack of ideal data for the study of households, suggested the use of census data to get measures of household composition and headship. Standardization and decomposition can be applied to aggregate census data on number of households and on the population classified by age, sex, and marital status.

2.2. Household Formation

New household units in any area are formed either by the in-migration of persons or households from outside the area, or by members of larger households moving from the households to set up their own. This they may do as a result of marriage or on their own. Distinction is made between three levels of operation of the three processes: geographical migration, fission and fusion and demographic change i.e. changes in the population of the family in the area for example child bearing, divorce etc.

As age at marriage has risen, the transition to adulthood has been transformed by two previous uncommon experience; non-family living and cohabitation. Young adults now spend substantial time living away from their families before marriage, living alone has thus become a common phenomena in the west (Axinn and Barber, 1997).

Ermisch and Overton (1985) came up with the 'minimal housing units' (MHUs), method for the study of household formation. The MHU as defined is the smallest divisible familial element

within households. It may be comprise single individuals and various parent child combinations. They are decision making units that group together, for purposes of description and analysis, individuals according to their intensity of sharing resources and time. The MHUs make choices on the optimal household graph based on some combination of component of goods associated with a certain household type and composition. Included in the list of component goods is need for privacy, companionship, domestic service and consumption economies of scale. The value assigned to each of this will vary among different cultures. The MHU's decide the nature of household they want. In a study of using data from General Household Survey of British households, they concluded that single-parent families are more likely to form separate households as income rises rather than join a co-residence. This is because rising incomes allows greater privacy.

Caulfield cited in Ermisch and Overton (1985), developed models based on Census Enumeration District (ED) data he analysed the data using regression analysis to study household formation. Average household size a descriptive measure for summarizing trends in household size is used in projections; future number of households is obtained simply by multiplying its value by the household size of the population in private households. Average household size has two serious drawbacks; first it confuses the effects of demographic structure of the population (number of children per family) with effects of the variable, choice of individuals or families to share a dwelling. It is insensitive to small changes in the independent variable of the regression model.

2.3. Dissolution

In their study of the impact of adult mortality on household dissolution in Kwazulu Natal, Victoria, Nuala et al (2004) used Cox regression models to assess the risk of household dissolution following an adult death. They controlled for multiple risk factors including causes of death, household composition and household assets. Their findings revealed households where one or more adult members died in the follow up period they were four times more likely to dissolve. There were no significant differential risks associated with cause of death, age or sex of the deceased.

The rate of marital dissolution is on the increase. Many marriages that in the earlier years would have been dissolved by death are now dissolved by divorce. Divorce and death are however not the only reason for spouse separation. Separate living arrangements necessitated by either work, imprisonment among other reasons.

The choice of living arrangements by the elderly is an important factor in household dissolution. Death of a spouse is the most important life event precipitating alternative living arrangements. The elderly may dissolve their household and move into another or be institutionalized. The male elderly are more likely to live with others than their female counterparts (Supan, 1989).

2.4. Summary

Households have undergone changes in how they are formed, dissolved, their size and composition. Various studies have given social, economic and demographic factors to be responsible for this change. Households are moving from the complex households to simple nuclear units, such as single-parent, adult only among others, the size of households is also reducing both in developed and developing countries. Though the changes differ between the developed and the developing countries they are closely related to the countries stage in the demographic transition.

Despite various studies having addressed the changing households, there are still lots of areas that have not been covered. The demographic determinants are usually looked at in relation to particular household types, or singly. Studies are yet to capture the role of migration in the changing household.

Studies have examined the changing size and composition of households. Average size of households, headship, ratio of adults to children, number of married persons in the households are among the variables that have been analyzed.

Household formation depends mainly on decision of families or individuals to share a dwelling or not, which is dependent on socio-economic as well as demographic factors. Studies in household and family are not as many as there are in fertility, mortality and migration. This state

has been attributed to lack of ideal data, an impediment that various scholars has tried to address through simulation and modelling of census data.

Households are dissolved by death, divorce and age. The elderly choose to dissolve their houses and seek alternative living arrangements. The death of the head of a household in many cases results in the dissolution of a household. Couples choose alternative living arrangements following the dissolution of a marriage or following the breaking up of a cohabitation arrangement.

CHAPTER THREE

DATA AND METHODOLOGY

3.0. Data Source

Data for this analysis is from the Rusinga DSS collected between 2001 and 2007 covering the entire Island. The survey covered the three demographic processes' i.e. fertility, mortality and migration. The questionnaires administered were on migration, deaths, births and households. The household questionnaire had covered three main areas, i.e. household members and household features; formation and dissolution. The survey produced the demographic and socio-economic information of the household members. For each listed person, information was provided on gender, age, education, relationship to households and other socio-economic characteristics. For every household housing characteristics such as roofing and flooring materials, number of dwelling units etc and household durables e.g. radio, television, refrigerator, bicycle etc were also listed. The survey covered 5943 households.

The main advantage of this data set is that is a cross-sectional data collected over a period of time. Longitudinal data is more suitable for this study because it is taken over a longer period thus it is able to capture various phases in the developmental cycle of a single household organization including household structure, transitions and demographic characteristics among others.

These data captured in the Rusinga DSS allows for the description of the composition of households as it brings to light the kin relationships that exist with the head of the household. The data has provision for the demographic characteristics (age, sex, and marital status) of the individual household members.

Following the lack of measures for income (used as indicators of household economic status) in the survey data, two categories of survey items are used to create a proxy for household living conditions (a) the physical quality of houses (materials used for walls, roof and floors; the main source of lighting and the number of habitable rooms). (b) reports on ownership of various

goods, means of personal transport (cars, boat, bicycle,) and ownership of household durables (television, radio, refrigerator).

3.1 Data Analysis

This section describes the methods of data analysis utilized in this study. The study uses descriptive frequencies. Descriptive statistics will be used to determine the mean household size, the smallest and the largest household sizes and the distribution of households in the Island. Cross tabs will give the typology, proportions of new and dissolved households, explore the characteristics of the households formed and dissolved and to explore factors responsible for the formation and dissolution of households in the area.

CHAPTER FOUR

HOUSEHOD STRUCTURE, FORMATION AND DISSOLUTION IN RUSINGA ISLAND

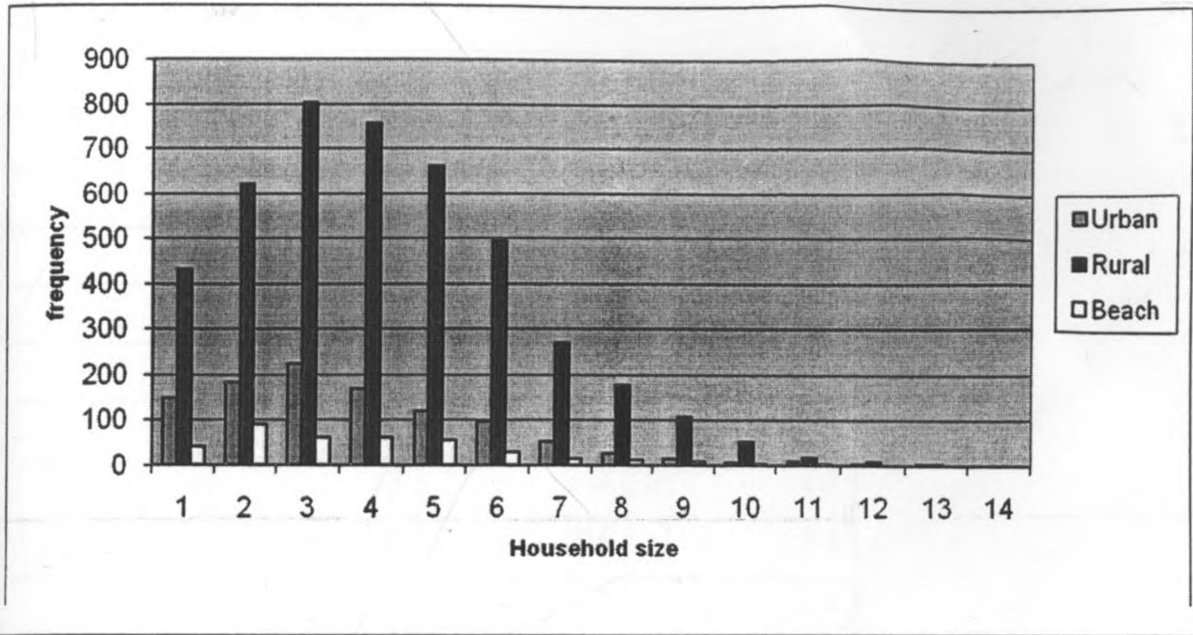
4.0 Introduction

This chapter will highlight the findings of the study that covered 5,943 households which is the total number of households in the entire Island. The total number of households will differ depending on which characteristic of households is being surveyed. The difference in the totals is attributed to missing cases attributed to no answers to the referenced item.

4.1 Distribution of Households within Rusinga Island

Residences in the area are divided into island, beach and urban of the 5,943, 1,031 are in urban, while 4,421 and 371 households are in the rural and beach respectively. From the table 4.1 (see appendix), 76% of the total households are in the rural, 18% in the urban and 6% in the rural. Smaller households are the most common type of households in the beach with the 2-member household being the majority, while in the urban and rural the 3-member household is the most common. The larger households are more frequent in the rural than in the urban and beach. 112 questionnaires had no response to this question. Figure 1 below shows the distribution of households in the Island.

Figure 1: Household distribution in Rusinga Island



4.2. Household Structure

4.2.1 Size and composition

The average household size is 4.1 with a maximum of 14 members and minimum of 1 member. Majority of the households are 3 member households, constituting 18.6% of the total households. Households with between 1 and 6 members constitute the majority of households in the Island. The large households are very few, households with more than 9 members account for less than 4%. Of the 5,943 questionnaires, 56 had errors on this item.

Table 4.2: Household Size

Size	Frequency	Percent
1	626	10.5
2	898	15.1
3	1106	18.6
4	990	16.7
5	836	14.1
6	621	10.4
7	337	5.7
8	216	3.6
9	132	2.2
10	61	1
11	29	0.5
12	11	0.2
13	5	0.1
14	1	0
Total	5887	99.1
Missing	56	0.9
Total	5943	100

Source Rusinga DSS

Children of the household head comprise a majority of the persons living in a household, followed by spouse and grandchildren. Polygamous households are few; only 25 women live in polygamous households. Fostering is minimal only 204 of persons in the households are adopted children. Few households are two or more families, as only 23 households contain a parent in-law and 17 have a parent of the household head. 432 persons are members of households headed by their siblings. Only 106 persons are members of households that do not belong to their relatives.

There are more females 52.1% than males 47.8% in the households. Majority of the spouses of the household heads are females though among the children of the household heads majority are males 53.4%. Daughter-in laws are more likely to reside in their parents- in-law's households as compared to son in-laws 85.6% and 14.4% respectively. Among the parents the mothers are more likely to reside with their children than the fathers. Only 40 of the 5,943 households reported to house a parent or a parent in-law. 230 had errors.

Table 4.3 Relationship to Household Head

Relation	Sex of house hold members				TOTAL
	Male		Female		
	Frequency	Percent	Frequency	Percent	
Household head	3944	66.4	1999	33.6	5943
Spouse	95	2.4	3838	97.6	3933
Son/daughter	6436	53.4	5624	46.6	12060
Son/daughter in-law	56	14.4	334	85.6	390
Grandchild	667	52.3	609	47.7	1276
Parent	5	29.4	12	70.6	17
Parent in-law	8	34.8	15	65.2	23
Brother/Sister	234	54.2	198	45.8	432
Co-wife	0	0	25	100	25
Other relative	317	46.4	366	53.6	683
Adopted/foster child	105	51.5	99	48.5	204
Others	62	58.5	44	41.5	106
Missing					230
TOTAL	11929		13163		25322

Source Ruiriga DSS

4.2.2. Household Characteristics

Majority of the household heads are males about 66%, with 16 child-headed households. The never married household heads are 270 while more than 50% of household heads are in monogamous unions, followed by 21% in polygamous marriages. Less than 20% of the households are headed by a separated or widowed person. 7 questionnaires had no response to this item.

Table 4.4: Marital Status of the Household Head

Marital Status	Frequency	Percent
Less 12 years	16	0.3
Never Married	270	4.5
Married Mono	3114	52.4
Married Poly	1557	26.2
Divorced	22	0.4
Widowed	915	15.4
Separated	42	0.7
Missing	7	
TOTAL	5943	

Source Rusinga DSS

Majority of the household heads have primary education, 3817 which is over 50% of the household heads, followed by secondary education. The least category of household heads have post secondary education representing 3.6%.

Table 4.5: Education Status of Household Head

Level of Education	Number	Percent
None	611	10.3
Primary	3800	63.9
Secondary	1317	22.2
post secondary	215	3.6
Total	5943	100

Source Rusinga DSS

More than 50% of the households were headed by an employed person, while 11% household heads were neither employed nor self employed. This item had 49 questionnaires missing a response.

Table 4.6: Economic Activity of Household Head

Economic activity	Frequency	Percent
Worked for pay	3773	63.5
Working on family holding	1310	22
No work	680	11.4
Other	131	2.2
Missing	49	
TOTAL	5943	

Source Kusinga DSS

Majority of the households belong to the middle economic status 82.9%, while the least is the highest economic status 0.7%. The 2, 3, 4 and 5 member households form the bulk of middle class households and also of the lower class. The 2 and 5 member households form the bulk of the highest class households. The largest household size in the upper class is the 9 member though majority of the upper class households are small in size. The middle class has the largest share of large household sizes. The frequency pattern of the lowest class is almost similar to that of the higher class. 196 questionnaires had missing response.

Table 4.7: Household Size and Economic Status

Household size	Economic status						TOTAL
	Highest	Percent	Middle	Percent	Lowest	Percent	
1	6	0.9	627	90.3	61	8.8	694
2	10	0.9	961	87.9	122	11.2	1093
3	5	0.5	883	84.3	159	15.2	1047
4	3	0.3	782	83.9	147	15.8	932
5	10	1.3	609	81.7	126	16.9	745
6	3	0.5	468	84.8	81	14.7	552
7	3	1	267	87	37	12.1	307
8	1	0.5	159	85.9	25	13.5	185
9	1	0.9	101	90.2	10	8.9	112
10	0	0	41	85.4	7	14.6	48
11	0	0	22	95.7	1	4.3	23
12	0	0	8	88.9	1	11.1	9
Missing							196
TOTAL	42	0.7	4928	82.9	777	13.1	5943

Source Kusinga DSS

4.2.3. Household Types

The four main types of households in the Island are nuclear (head, spouse and children), stem (nuclear plus parents and grandchildren), other family (nuclear plus other relatives not including parents/parents-in law and grandchildren) and non family (nuclear and any non related members). The most frequent type of household is the nuclear which was represented by 87.2% of all households surveyed followed by other family household 6.4%. The least frequent is the non family household which represented only 1.2% of the surveyed households. Only six households did not respond to this item.

Table 4.8: Household Type

Type	Frequency	Percent
Nuclear	5182	87.2
Stem	303	5.1
Other family	380	6.4
Other non family	71	1.2
Missing	6	
TOTAL	5943	100

Source Rusinga DSS

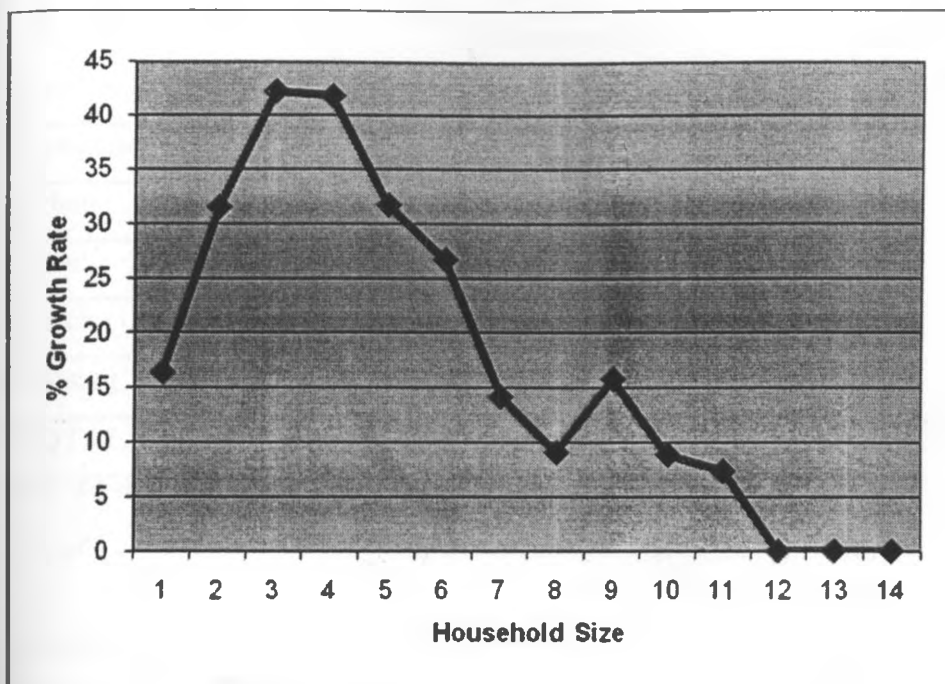
4.3. Household Formation

Of the total number of households 42% were new households formed after the baseline study which enumerated 4128 households. About 4.9 new households are formed annually in Rusinga Island. Of the 1741 new households, more than 80% have between 1 and 6 members. The 4-member household constitutes the largest group of households formed, followed by the four and two in that order. Households with membership of between 2 and 5 form the bulk of the new households formed. The smallest size of the new households is 1 and the largest is 11. In the baseline study the largest household had 14 members. There were 74 missing cases.

Table 4.9: Household Formation

Size	Baseline	New round	% Growth Rate	New round	%Growth Rate	New round	%Growth Rate	TOTAL
1	475	62	13.1	8	1.5	81	14.9	626
2	598	81	13.5	18	2.7	201	28.8	898
3	675	97	14.4	21	2.7	313	39.5	1106
4	630	65	10.3	10	1.4	285	40.4	990
5	597	36	6	8	1.3	195	30.4	836
6	465	25	5.4	1	0.2	130	26.5	621
7	289	6	2.1	1	0.3	41	13.9	337
8	191	7	3.7	0	0	18	9.1	216
9	112	2	1.8	0	0	18	15.8	132
10	54	2	3.7	0	0	5	8.9	61
11	25	2	8	0	0	2	7.4	29
12	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
13	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
14	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Missing cases								74
TOTAL	4128	385	82	67	10.1	1289	235.6	5943

Figure 2: Rate of Household Formation



4.3.1 Factors leading to household formation

In the urban most of the new households are formed as a result of migration mainly from outside the Island. A very small proportion 9 out of 211 is formed through marriage. In the rural migration still accounts for most of the new households, of the 1741 households, 621 are as a result of migration, with 369 of those being migration from within the island. However looking at the factors individually, marriage becomes the leading factor for new households, 411 of the 1335 households were formed as a result of marriage. Migration still accounts for majority of the households in the beach, 77 of the 92 households were formed as a result of migration and almost half of all the new households in the beach were as a result of migration from within the island. Marriage accounts for only 15 of the 92 new households formed. In general migration within the island is the leading cause of new households formed accounting for 28.8%, followed by marriage 25% and lastly migration from outside the island at 22%. 406 questionnaires had missing responses.

Table 4.10: Factors Contributing to Household Formation

Factors	Marriage		Migration from outside the island		Migration within the island		TOTAL
		Percent		Percent		Percent	
Residence							
Urban	9	0.5	120	6.9	82	4.7	211
Rural	411	23.6	252	14.5	369	21.2	1032
Beach	15	0.9	27	1.6	50	2.9	92
Missing							406
TOTAL	435	25	399	22.9	501	28.8	1741

Source Kusinga DSS

4.3.2 Distribution of new households in the Island

New households are mostly found in the rural accounting for 74.8% of all new households formed. The beach has less than 10% of the new households formed as shown in table 4.11 below.

Table 4.11: Distribution of New households in the Island

Residence	Urban	% in urban	Rural	%in rural	Beach	% in beach	Total
Round no.							
1	106	6.1	68	3.9	24	1.4	199
2	16	0.9	46	2.6	0	0.0	62
3	0	0.0	145	8.3	0	0.0	145
4	4	0.2	12	0.7	0	0.0	16
5	0	0.0	2	0.1	0	0.0	2
6	12	0.7	8	0.5	5	0.3	25
8	30	1.7	103	5.9	4	0.2	137
9	84	4.8	738	42.4	63	3.6	885
10	37	2.1	180	10.3	30	1.7	247
Missing							23
Total	289	16.6	1302	74.8	126	7.2	1741

Source Rusinga DSS

4.3.3: Characteristics of new households

Of the new household formed majority of them are headed by a married person who is in a monogamous marriage 938 this represents about 53.9% of the new households. Only 90 have never married, while 343 are in polygamous unions. 0.5% of households are headed by children. The male headed households amongst the new households out number those headed by women.

4.12: New households by the Heads Marital Status

Marital status	Count	Percent
Less12 years	9	0.5
Never married	90	5.2
Married mono	938	53.9
Married poly	353	20.3
Others	178	10.2
Missing	173	

Source Rusinga DSS

Of the new households formed 92% belong to the middle class. Only 16 households are classified as highest economic status, with 109 of the new households being in the lowest economic status.

Table 4.13: Economic Status of New Households

Round no.	Economic status			Total
	Highest	middle	lowest	
1	1	185	10	196
2	2	46	10	58
3	0	126	16	142
4	0	15	0	15
5	0	22	5	27
6	1	26	1	28
8	4	127	13	144
9	4	831	44	879
10	4	225	10	239
Total	16	1603	109	1728

Source Rusinga DSS

4.4. Household Dissolution

444 households were dissolved, which is 7.4% of the households in the island, of these households 104 were in the rural. The rate of dissolution of households in the island is 1.24% per annum. The highest percentage frequency for dissolved households is the 4-member household, followed by the 3-member household. The least represented size of households amongst those dissolved is the 11 and 12-member households. The smaller households represent a larger proportion of dissolved households as compared to the large households of above 6 members. Only 9.1% of the single member household was dissolved.

Table 4.14: Percentage distribution of dissolved households by size

Size	Total percentage
1	9.1%
2	14.4%
3	15.5%
4	18.2%
5	13.7%
6	11.6%
7	6.4%
8	5.2%
9	3.2%
10	1.8%
11	0.2%
12	0.2%
% of Total	100.0%

Source Rusinga DSS

4.4.1 Factors leading to dissolution

Of the 444 households that were dissolved 227 were dissolved due to reasons other than migration and death. 35.6% of the households were dissolved as a result of death of the household head (see table 4.15 below). Table 4.16 below shows that 91% of all households dissolved are nuclear with only 24 being stem and 14 other family household.

Table 4.15: Reason for dissolution

Reason	Frequency	Percent
Migration	158	35.6
Death	58	13.1
Other	227	51.1
Missing cases	1	0.2
TOTAL	444	100

Source Rusinga DSS

Table 4.16: Dissolution by household type

Household type		Frequency	Percent
	Nuclear	406	91.4
	Stem	24	5.4
	Other family	14	3.2
Total		444	100.0

Source Rusinga DSS



4.4.2 Characteristics of the dissolved household

The male headed households had the highest frequency of dissolved households. Households headed by those with primary education represented the highest percentage of dissolved households, followed by households headed by those with secondary education. Those heads with post secondary education presented the least cases of dissolved households (Table 4.19 below). Households whose heads worked for pay presented the most of the dissolved households, followed by those whose head was working on family holdings. The least cases were reported among those whose head was seeking work and the homemakers (see table 4.20 below). Those heads in monogamous unions reported the most cases of dissolved households,

followed by those in polygamous marriages. The households headed by divorcees and those by children presented the least number of cases (see table 4.21 below).

Table 4.17: Dissolution by sex of household head

Sex	Frequency
Male	79
Female	28
Missing cases	337
TOTAL	444

Source Rusinga DSS

Table 4.18 : Dissolution by Marital Status of the Head

Marital Status	Frequency
Less 12 years	1
Never Married	4
Married mono	57
Married poly	29
Divorced	1
Widowed	12
Missing	340
TOTAL	444

Source Rusinga DSS

Table 4.19 :Dissolution by Education Level of Household Head

Level of Education	Frequency	TOTAL
None	15	15
Primary	58	58
Secondary	26	26
post secondary	5	5
Missing cases	340	340
TOTAL	444	444

Source Rusinga DSS

Table 4.20: Economic Activity of Household**Head**

Economic Activity	Count	TOTAL
Worked for pay or profit	52	52
Worked on family holding	35	35
No work	7	7
Others	11	11
Missing cases	339	339
TOTAL	444	444

Source Rusinga DSS

4.4.3 Economic status of dissolved households

There was only one household of highest economic status that was dissolved, 78 from the lowest and 355 from the middle status were dissolved. 10 households did not have a response to this item.

Table 4.21 Economic status of dissolved households

	Economic status			TOTAL
	Highest	Middle	Lowest	
	1	355	78	434
Missing cases				10
TOTAL	1	355	78	444

Source Rusinga DSS

4.5. Discussion of Results

In Rusinga Island the average household size is 4.1, which is very close to what Bongaarts (2001) reported in his study for the different regions. The small household size is also agreeable with Mc Donald (1992) who like many other family sociologists believe, that households and residential families decrease as a society industrializes and urbanizes. Burch (1972) stated that

the average household size in preindustrial societies is usually between 4 and 6 members both in contemporary developing countries and as well as historically in European societies. According to Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) 2003, and the 1999 Population Census the mean size of a Kenyan household is 4.4 and 4.5 in Nyanza. However the Kenya Integrated Household Budget Survey (KIHBS) 2005/6 reports an increase in the national household mean to 5.1 members and 5.0 for Nyanza. 66% of household heads are males, according to KIHBS 2005/6 in Nyanza province 63.8% households were male headed. According to KDHS 2003 women head 32 percent of Kenyan households and there has been no change since the 1993 KDHS, while the 1999 population census recorded 37% female-headed households. Rusinga just like the rest of Africa and the world is moving from the extended to the nuclear family. Membership in nuclear households was more than 60%. Most households had more than two adult members; this clearly indicates that there is more than the spouse residing in the households. These adult members are mostly adult children of the head, in a few cases parents/parent-in-law and other relatives of the head. This clearly indicates that the unmarried adult children still prefer to share living arrangements with their parents, and the elderly still choose to live in their children's household during old age. There were less than 20 cases of child headed households. The main types of households in the island are nuclear, stem, other family and non-family. The highest concentration is in the nuclear followed by the stem and very few are non-family. This agrees with what has been observed elsewhere in Africa and other developed countries. According to Lloyd (1999), the extended households form a minority of households in less developed countries and in the rural area. He goes on to state that extended households are more common where the older generation have control over economic wealth such as land, livestock and other physical assets forcing the younger generation to be dependent on them. This is clearly not the case with Rusinga where the young generation are independent. The population is youthful thus a great majority of the household heads are not of the older generation and more than 50% reported to be working for pay. Solitary living is not common in the Island with most households having 3, 4 or 5 members.

The rate of household formation is 4.9%. The main factor that causes formation of new households is migration both within and from outside the island. Contrary to expectation most new households have 3, 4 or 5 members meaning newly wed couples opt to share living

arrangement with their parents until the baby is born. Very few new households are headed by divorcees or those separated. Dissolution of union in many cases leads to dissolution of households and formation of new households. Since this is not the case in Rusinga it could mean that the levels of marriage dissolution are very low or the members of the dissolved marriage are absorbed into other households. Most new households are headed by persons with primary education and who are in monogamous unions.

The rate of household dissolution is 1.24% per annum. Just like with formation, the 3,4 and 5 member households top the list of dissolved households. Migration accounts for the single top most reason for dissolution though other factors (except death) combined account for more dissolved households. There were only 13.1% reported cases of dissolved households as a result of death. More than 50% of these households are headed by men with primary education and who are employed. Most of the dissolved households are nuclear households.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The main study objective of this study was to explore the household structure, formation and dissolution of households in Rusinga. Using data from Rusinga DSS the study sought to find the size, composition, characteristics, typologies, proportions and rates of both formation and dissolution of households in addition to exploring the factors responsible for household formation and dissolution.

This chapter gives in summary the findings, conclusions derived from the study and recommends actions based on the findings which are necessary and also recommends further research in certain areas.

5.2 Summary of findings

This study shows that the average household size in Rusinga is 4.1 and the size varies between 1 and 14. The trend is from larger households to smaller households. In the initial survey (in 2001) the largest household had 14 members; amongst the new households formed the largest is a 12 member household. Majority of the households are male headed and nuclear. The child headed households represent less than 1% of the households in the Island. 52.4% of household heads are in monogamous unions compared to 63.5% at National level reported in KIHBS 2005/06. Households headed by the divorced, separated and widowed constitute 16% of the total households; KIHBS 2005/06 reports this group at the National level account for 19%. In Nyanza this group constitute 25% with the majority being widowed 23.6% and the divorcees 0.2% (KIHBS 2005/06) compared to 0.4% in Rusinga. More than half of the households are in the rural and the least number of households are in the beach. More than 50% of the households belong to the middle economic status.

New household units in any area are formed either by the in-migration of persons or households from outside the area, or by members of larger households moving from the households to set up

their own. This they may do as a result of marriage or on their own. In this study migration tops the list of causes of household formation. The single person households represent about 5% of the new households formed and less than 4.5% of all households. This can only mean that solitary living is not common in the Island. The rate of marital dissolution is on the increase. Divorce and death are however not the only reason for spouse separation. Separate living arrangements necessitated by either work, imprisonment among other reasons, however this are not common in the area, as the study has established that daughter's in-law reside in their parents-in-law's households in the absence of the spouse. In the Island migration tops the list of factors responsible for dissolved households. The migrations are either within or outside the island.

The choice of living arrangements by the elderly is an important factor in household dissolution. Death of a spouse is the most important life event precipitating alternative living arrangements. The elderly may dissolve their household and move into another. In this study it was established that the female elderly are more likely to live in their off-springs households than their male counterparts.

5.3 Recommendations for programmes of action

This study has established the trend of household formation, structure and dissolution in Rusinga Island. This information is important in development planning. It provides an indication of future resources required towards provision of goods and services to the population by the government for example planning for education, medical services, resettlement and land allocation.

Information on dissolution is important for those undertaking research on fertility. The children of dissolved households are likely to be left out in a census especially those female headed households that are dissolved due to death of the household head. This is because only women are asked to give the number of children they have ever born.

Information on children's living arrangement is important for programs targeting orphans. The living arrangement of children will enable the government and other stakeholders to determine the rate of orphan-hood and plan for appropriate programs to target this vulnerable group, which

is necessary for socio-economic development.

The proportion of adults and children in a household is an important indicator of the age dependency ratio. This information is important for the government and other stakeholders when planning for economic development and supply of labour.

Information on household formation, the rate of growth is important when planning for settlement programs, land allocation and utilization, supply and consumption of energy, water and other natural resources. For the demographers new households signify a redistribution or growth in population. The mean household size is a crude indicator of the level of fertility. These can thus be used to plan for population programs.

5.4 Recommendations for further research

My study was not conclusive on formation and dissolution of households due to gaps in the data. I recommend the data be further research in this area; to achieve this there should be put in place a questionnaire for dissolution that should be able to get all the relevant information including date of dissolution, factors responsible for dissolution, composition of the household at the time of dissolution among others. The household questionnaire is adequate to study formation, however the method of data capturing needs to be revised, to ensure that no information is lost. Currently the information is captured using a program created using fox pro then converted to SPSS for analysis. In the process of conversion vital information is lost leading to gaps in data. I recommend that the programming be revisited to ensure that information captured can be easily transferred to SPSS for analysis. The program should also be able to link together the different questionnaires administered i.e. migration, birth, death and household. If this questionnaires are linked to get it will enrich the study of formation and dissolution as the researcher will be able to follow the effect of a migration, birth or death to find out how it affects the household structure, formation or dissolution for example the effect of an adult death on the living arrangements of those left behind. Due to the above mentioned limitations of the data, I recommend that an audit of the current data base management is necessary and very important to be able to come up with the best package for capturing and analysing the data.

To ensure quality of data collected re-training of the field workers should be done during each round and also those involved in data entry need to be re-trained every now and then to ensure

is necessary for socio-economic development.

The proportion of adults and children in a household is an important indicator of the age dependency ratio. This information is important for the government and other stakeholders when planning for economic development and supply of labour.

Information on household formation, the rate of growth is important when planning for settlement programs, land allocation and utilization, supply and consumption of energy, water and other natural resources. For the demographers new households signify a redistribution or growth in population. The mean household size is a crude indicator of the level of fertility. These can thus be used to plan for population programs.

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To ensure quality of data collected re-training of the field workers should be done during each round and also those involved in data entry need to be re-trained every now and then to ensure

they are familiar with the questionnaire. The plus is that the questionnaires filled in the field are available if need arises during data cleaning. This controls will reduce errors during both data collection and data entry.

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APPENDIX 1:

Table 4.1: Distribution of households in Rusinga

Residence		Urban	Rural	Beach	Total
Household Size					
1	Count	147	433	39	619
	% within residence	14.1	9.8	10.5	10.6
2	Count	181	621	88	890
	% within residence	17.4	14	23.7	15.3
3	Count	223	803	61	1087
	% within residence	21.5	18.2	16.4	18.6
4	Count	166	755	60	981
	% within residence	16	17.1	16.2	16.8
5	Count	118	659	54	831
	% within residence	11.4	14.9	14.6	14.3
6	Count	96	493	28	617
	% within residence	9.2	11.2	7.5	10.6
7	Count	50	271	15	336
	% within residence	4.8	6.1	4	5.8
8	Count	26	178	11	215
	% within residence	2.5	4	3	3.7
9	Count	13	109	8	130
	% within residence	1.3	2.5	2.2	2.2
10	Count	6	53	2	61
	% within residence	0.6	1.2	0.5	1
11	Count	8	18	3	29
	% within residence	0.8	0.4	0.8	0.5
12	Count	2	9	0	11
	% within residence	0.2	0.2	0	0.2
13	Count	2	3	0	5
	% within residence	0.2	0	0	0
14	Count	0	1	0	1
	% within residence	0	0	0	0
Missing Cases					112
Total		1039	4421	371	5943

Source Rusinga DSS