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PERCEPTIONS ON TEACHERS IN COMMUTER MARRIAGES

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**Abstract**

This study is informed by findings of the Master's dissertation. The aim of the study was to investigate the effects of commuter marriages on teachers in Serenje District in Zambia. Both quantitative and qualitative approaches were used. A descriptive survey design was utilised and a total sample of fifty (50) comprising forty (40) teachers in commuter marriages and ten (10) administrators was used. Questionnaires and interview guides were used for data collection and Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) and thematics were used to analyse data. The research results showed that commuter marriages had effects on performance at work, relationship with work mates, career development, economic life of the family, emotionally disturbed children, children's moral values and children's academic performance. It was further established that couples experienced increase in spouse independence and decreased frequency of arguments, negative thoughts, suspicions, infidelity, mistrust and misunderstanding that led to couple conflict, emotional and psychological problems, separation and divorce. This study recommended the government to relook at the deployment policy of 2010 on married teachers so that after serving for two years the teachers in commuter marriages should be legible to be transferred back to where their families are in order to strengthen marital bonds.

**Keywords:** *teacher, commuter marriage family*

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