



Consider this...

Tamrea – Married, pregnant, and abandoned at age 12

I was given to a husband at 12. I wasn't happy to get married at that age, but my father said there was nobody to look after me since my mum wasn't around. I wasn't happy. I was crying. I wasn't able to get used to what marriage was.

The family of the boy came to my house and asked if he could marry me. He was physically big. I didn't know how old he was.

When I became pregnant my husband left me. When I had my baby I didn't go to a health centre, I gave birth at home. I went to health centre when I was pregnant, but I wasn't able to go back. Labour took me six days.

When I think back I have mixed feelings. I feel sad, but after all that suffering, I saw my baby and felt happy. I feel so much anger. When I hear someone is getting married I give counselling. I don't want anyone to go through what I have. If a girl goes to school she can have a better life. My friends go to school and I feel really bad.

Questions:

1. In what ways has Tamrea's early marriage shaped her future and the future of her baby?
2. Why do you think Tamrea says "if a girl goes to school she can have a better life?"

References

The Save the Children Fund (2016). *Every last girl: free to live, free to learn, free from harm*. p. 4. London, U.K. Save the Children.