By MERCY MIRANGU

A married couple without children is considered incomplete in many African societies. A woman giving birth is taken as a sign of success for a man who is considered responsible. In some cases, marriage and procreation are seen as a way of ensuring that the family's name continues.

A woman who has no children is often seen as a failure, as she fails to fulfill her primary role of bearing children. This can lead to social stigma and discrimination. In some cases, a woman may be rejected by her husband if she is unable to conceive and bear children.

Legal and cultural norms in many African societies prioritize the number of children a woman bears, with a small number of children often seen as a failure. This can lead to pressure on women to have more children, even if it is not feasible or desirable for them.

In many African societies, children are named after relatives, giving continuity to the family. In some cases, it is expected that children will take their name from their parents.

It is important to note that while there is a cultural and societal expectation for all families to have children, the decision to have children should be a personal one, taking into account the individual's circumstances and desires.