

SCRIPT FOR DOCUDRAMA

BIIG SIDKULUG

1 EXT. SCHOOL ROAD – MORNING. 1

Asinim and friends walking towards home from school.

Asinim

Goodbye friends, we shall meet tomorrow.

Friend 1

*Alright, but don't forget to bring money
to buy the book Ooo.*

Asinim

Okay, I will. Thank you.

They all depart.

2 EXT. ABODIB'S COMPOUND – AFTERNOON 1

Asinim is returning from school. She greets her parents who are working outside the house as she walks in.

Asinim

Good afternoon daddy

Good afternoon mama

Parents

Response

Asinim

Dada, we are asked to buy books in school

Abodib

What's the cost of each book

Asinim

Ghs 30.00

Abodib

Ghs 30.00? Okay, I have heard you

Asinim

Thank you. Do your best

Abodib

Alright, I have heard you, I will do my best

Asinim walks into the house.

3 EXT. ABODIB'S COMPOUND – MORNING 2

[Abambood asks Asinim why she hasn't gone to school today]

Abambood

Asinim, is school on break today?

Asinim

*Mummy! school is in session but if even I go I won't get books to read.
(Looks sad)*

Abambood

Hmmmm! what can we do? If that's the case, then get up and go and fetch the firewood over there while I also convey these pots to the market. Then we'll go and sell them; so that we can make some money for you to go to school tomorrow.

Asinim

Ok. I will do as advised.

Abambood

Left to me alone, I will advise that you learn to 'weave' (a trade/skill).

Asinim

What about my education, mom?

Abambood

*You know that there is no money, we are all suffering.
Maybe learning a trade will be better.*

Asinim takes a long stick with basin and walks off.

4 EXT. FOREST – MORNING. 4

[Asinim and a small girl walk in a forest looking for firewood. She chances on her friends who are going to school.]

Friends

Good morning Asinim
You have not been coming to school these days, why?

Asinim

Good morning friends.
Yes ooo.....

[A man greets from behind and they all turned.]

Man

[Greets and beckons Asinim to come over to him]

Girls

[Respond in chorus]

Man

Young girl, come here.

[Asinim walks closer to the man whilst her friends wait.]

Man

You are now a pretty girl! (With smile)
Don't you go to school any longer?

Asinim

[Looking shy]
Yes... my parents said there is no money.

Man

Aaawww! Very bad!
I would take care of you.

I would marry you and find you something better to do.

Asinim

[Looking terrified]

I am too young to marry. I'm afraid!

Man

Now, we don't refer to people your age as young girls!

(delete on screen: Now there is.....girls ooo)

Asinim

No, I am too young to marry

Man

If that is the case don't worry, take this money and buy something for yourself.

[Friends calls Asinim]

Friends

Asinim, we are going

[Asinim raises hand and stops them from going.]

Man

I will come to your house to see your parents.

Take this... [Hands over money to her.]

[Asinim returns to friends and tells them what the man has told her.]

Asinim

Sorry for keeping you waiting

Can you imagine this? The man said he wants to marry me...

Friends

Have you agreed?

Asinim

(CONT'D)

...no, I refused but he insisted. HmMMMM!

No I told him I am too young to marry (delete)

Remember, Assinpuak got married two weeks ago and she is enjoying her marriage. Are you **younger** than her?

Friends

Look, just agree and marry.

*If I were you, I would have accepted him immediately.
Marriage is enjoyable. (INSERT)*

They run off to school while Asinim lifts a long stick on top of a tree.

5 NEXT SCENE. WEAVING CENTRE – MORNING. 4

Asinim is seen working at a weaving shop as friends walk to school.

Friend 1

Look at Asinim!

Friend 2(Lamisi)

Asinim!!...

[Asinim hides her face]

Friend 1

I'm told she has stopped schooling because her parents cannot take care of her.

Lamisi

Really?

Let's go then.

[Both students exit as a man approaches Asinim].

Man

Good morning and how are you all?

Weavers

Good morning

Man

(Looks at Asinim for a moment)

Young girl, are you not Abodib's daughter?

Asinim

Yes, please.

Man

Great. Tell him I shall visit him tomorrow.

[Man departs]

6 EXT. ABODID'S COMPOUND – MORNING. 5

[Abodib works outside his house as a man arrives and greets]

Akudug

[greet]

Abodib

Welcome, Akudug.

Akudug

Can I have a little of your time?

Let me join you in the shade so we can exchange pleasantries.

Akudug

Alright.

Abodib

Let's sit here, Akudug

[They both sit down and shake hands as they greet again]

Akudug

I suppose you know me. Don't you recognize me?

Abodib

Oh I know you! Are you not Akudug?

Akudug

.....landlord, now there is money! And it is not good that I don't have a wife. I need a wife!

Abodib

That is true

Akudug

That is what I have just remembered but my father is late. You know I am the eldest son

Abodib

That's it

Akudug

That's why I am here and if you know any other good thing, you can let me know.

Abodib

Ooh okay, you are welcome once again [hand shake].

It is an established agreement.

Akudug

You are right.

Abodib

You have to go home to enable me discuss this with the family and give you feedback.

Akudug

As an elder in the house, you could just go ahead and ask of what the whole thing is about. *If you are patient to ask me what the whole conversation is about then I can go on. You will know my mission and go home to consult. You know that the conversation is not like getting an insurance or a Ghana card such that I can go and come back tomorrow.*

Delete from screen from ABAA, YOU WONT..... a small boy

Akudug

Hey! Hold on and let me receive a call

[Aside: hello! Bawumia] Ghana president is calling [Aside:how are you]oh sorry, I have forgotten he doesn't speak Kusaal. You know I work with influential people.

Akudug bragging with Abodig ...DELETE

The girl, I want to marry her.....

Abodib

Akudug you are right. I know that it is all about the girl. I am unable to address this issue all alone. Akudug, I am aware of it, but 'you don't sit on thorns to remove thorns' (proverb)

Okey, I did now but..... DELETE

Abodib

...as I was saying, you have to go home for me to consult the elders and whatever the conclusion is, I will get back to you. The girl is at the moment learning a vocation. But whatever the outcome is, I will give you the feedback.

Akudug

No, it is not like that, you are aware that I control the whole of this community. As it stands now, you know that I have made a lot of money. You understand! I, Alhaji Kulyonga, you've heard the name but you don't know the face. I am the one! I want to take the girl and change her life completely, I am not joking.

Abodib

[Nods throughout]. I agree

Akudug

I only want to beg you. You know the agreement between you and my late dad. Today, I am the one who is supposed to marry the girl and take care of her to become a great person like me in future.

Abodib

[Nods throughout]. I agree

Akudug

I only want you to help me marry her and change her life for you to see.

[Abodib calls wife as man leaves whilst his son appears and joins in the conversation.]

Abodib

[turns to his wife and son]

I was here this morning when Akudug came that he wants to marry Asinim.

Abambood

And what do you say, my husband?

My husband, what did tell him DELETE

Abodib

I told him to return next week for feedback.

Abambood

(To Abodib)

For me, I will say let us allow him to marry her.

You and I have nothing and cannot support her education, neither are we sure she can complete her vocation.

Is not a bad idae..... if she marry DELETE

Son

Mummy, why do you say that? Asinim is just a little girl!

You and I are fully aware that child marriage is not to be encouraged. This is very bad!

She cannot manage a home or handle a pregnancy!

Mother, why are you..... to marriage DELETE

Son

Dad...! Marriage is for the matured!

I don't agree to this! She is a school girl and has not gone anywhere yet.

Father, you know..... this marriage...DELETE

Abambood

My son, you are right. That is my fear too but what can we do?

She should marry.

I thought that but I don'tsay DELETE

Abodib

It is normal in our culture that when an in-law performs your father's funeral well, he may be given an additional young girl to marry and that was what happened, and Asinim was given out.

Let me tell you..... your funeral well DELETE

[A community man greets them and gives his advise]

Community man

Greetings.

I just heard your discussion and wish to give out a piece of advice.

Abodib

Okay, you are welcome!

Community man

Please listen to me, Mr Abodib. You've arranged your daughter's marriage but is she old enough to be married? She is only 13 years old! Are you aware of the complications that accompany child marriage? Don't you know that child-marriage is illegal in Ghana? Abodib, don't you know that a girl can't be married if she is under 18 years of age? Girls less than 18 are not ready to be wives and mothers. Their health can be jeopardized by having children too young. What is more, it is illegal and a punishable offense.

If you are giving your child..... to marry... DELETE

Son

Tell them, uncle! I tried to talk to them, and they shut me up.

Abodib

Thank you, my good friend! You may be right, but it is not our fault. She has already been betrothed. It is normal in our tradition to do that.

Community man

Man explains further by reiteration previous comments.

[Man departs.]

7 NEXT SCENE. NDEWIN'S COMPOUND – DAY 6

Ndewin tells wife about daughter's education.

Ndewin

Wife, we have good news. Our daughter has been employed and has started work.

Wife

*Wow! This is really good news.
That is the benefit of having a good mother. (With smile)*

Ndewin

Look, when.... fees, things were not easy.

*A good father, not good mother
(Laughing)
She would be visiting us soon.*

Wife

*God, thank you oooh
[With hands lifted up]*

8 NEXT SCENE. ASINIM NEW PLACE 8

[Asinim got married years back and has since had several pregnancy related complications]

9 EXT. NDEWIN'S COMPOUND – MORNING. 9

Friend comes to welcome Lamisi.

Lamisi

*Long time, you are welcome.
How is the family? And our friend, Asinim?*

Friend

*Yeah, long time indeed. I'm good.
Asinim... Hmmmm.....*

Lamisi

Why? Is there a problem?

Friend

*Asinim got married at age 14 oooh.
And anytime she got pregnant she suffered and is still
suffering, battling with complications.*

Lamisi

*Really? Very bad to hear this.
We advised her but she never listened.*

Friend

*Her parents couldn't take care of her education; they could
not even help her acquire a vocation.
Where are you now?*

Lamisi

*Bad!
I'm now a medical doctor at Garu hospital.
I want to start putting up a building for my parents. Can
you share her number with me?
*I am now a doctor at Garuher number. ...DELETE**

*Let me take the number
Give me ...DELETE*

Friend

Wow! I'm proud of you.

Exit

10 NEXT SCENE. ABODIB'S COMPOUND – MORNING 10

[Asinim, looking very poor, her family, Lamisi and a friend meet.]

Abodib

You are welcome. How may I help you?

Lamisi

*I'm Lamisi, Ndewin's daughter and a friend to Asinim.
I am now a doctor at Garu hospital. I heard my friend,
Asinim, has health complications and as a doctor, I want
to see how best I can assist her out of that.
*My name is Lamisi..... Garu hospital...DELETE**

All

Ooh wow!

Son

Dad and mom, now you see why I didn't want you to give Asinim out for marriage? You are happy to know Lamisi is a medical doctor!

Now that you hear.....me down.....DELETE

[Son turns and talks to Doctor Lamisi.]

Son

(CONT'D)

*Doctor, thank you for coming to her rescue.
If you had not come, she would, perhaps, have died.*

Welcome doctor....sister.....DELETE

Community man

This is why it is important to ensure that your children have good education or at least to see them acquire a vocation.

Child marriage, among the Kusaas, must cease from now on!

By Awinimi

THE END.

**THE END.
By Awinimi.**