

## **Abstract**

This paper considers the meanings attached to reproductive processes and outcomes and how these are linked to the Kamba notions of illness, health and well-being. It explores the cultural meanings of reproductive failures and successes, and the importance of childbearing for individuals, the family and the wider kin. Drawing on anthropological data produced over a period of ten months' field study, the paper uses specific cases to show the ways in which social, sexual and reproductive misfortunes are perceived, explained, and managed. These, the paper argues, are embedded in the Akamba concepts of disease / illness causation, health and well-being.