

**IMPACT OF SUGAR CANE GROWING TO SCHOOL DROP OUT IN BUSOGA REGION: A
CASE OF IWEMBA SUBCOUNTY, BUGIRI DISTRICT.**

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ABSTRACT

The ministry of education and sports (MoES) has registered dropout's year to year basing on the number of pupil/students enrolled at different levels hence this study highlighted on the impact of sugarcane growing on school dropout in Iwemba Subcounty, Bugiri District. Therefore, this was generally aimed at understanding the impact of sugarcane growing as could be the basis of knowing the real impact on schools. This study examined the causes of school abandonment, the reasons why people join the sugarcane industry, and finally, the steps that may be taken to stop the sin. A sampling data design was adopted, and it involved choosing a purposeful sample of 39 people—30 homes and 9 head teachers—for the data. Additionally, additional information came from primary as well as secondary sources, so data collecting also included the use of questionnaires, interviews, and other methods. Lastly, a theme-based approach was used to examine the quantitative information collected in the field. The survey discovered that nearly all of the participants were around the ages of 30 and 40, suggesting that they had children, and that in their comments, they claimed that sugar cane farming in the sub county was more prevalent. The study also found that an of our study, "Iwemba Sub County," is primarily attributable to the prevalence of sugar cane expanding, with 90.7% of the population engaged in sugarcane-related operations in the area, including cutting, loading, and transferring (74%), digging (20%), and operating (5%), all of which are associated with the dropout rate in the area. The study also suggested that multiple improvements be made.

Key words: sugar cane growing and school drop out

Background of the study

Under a Public Private Partnership (PPP), the Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES) offers bursaries to some private schools and grants to (some) government-aided schools. Under a separate scheme known as Universal Post-O-Level Education and Training (UPOLET), a handful of scholarships and financial aid were also awarded at the upper secondary level in 2012 (Sub-county et al., 2023). Additionally, MOES promotes universal Early Childhood Development (ECD), but does not finance it (Kalikula, 2023). According to UWEZO (2017), the industry has a good sector policy environment for equity and inclusion that addresses gender equity, special needs, marginalized populations, and geographic location. Primary school enrollment increased from 3.1 million in 1996 to 7.6 million in 2003 as a result of the implementation of UPE and government engagement, particularly the leadership of politicians. According to recent data from the 2014 census, about 8 million children attended elementary school in 2014. Since the last census in 2002, when about 6.2 million students were enrolled in primary school (UBOS, 2017, MOES 2018), enrollment has significantly increased (Mark et al., 2023). Although enrollment in primary schools has been successful, there are currently questions about the internal effectiveness of the primary education system, such as its capacity to keep students enrolled until they complete the primary school system. Primary Six (34.9%) and Primary Five (22.1%) have the highest rates of student abandonment (NSDS, 2016). United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (2012) has also seen this. Barriers to a primary education for all were mentioned in the news conference. In contrast, Uganda's administration has recently promoted farmers' investments in commercial agricultural firms as part of its efforts to reduce inequality and create wealth (Kazaara & Christopher, 2023).

Problem Statement

Since the founding of the Bugiri Sugar Factory in the Bugiri District, the introduction and widespread use of sugar cane farming, particularly on a commercial scale, has had a variety of positive and negative effects, particularly on the societies surrounding or

actively participating in the operation. Despite the commercial advantages associated with sugar cane farming, this activity is also strongly linked to disadvantages like school dropout, which has continuously and still damaged the educational future of most kids because they are driven to succeed. In comparison to Kenya, Tanzania, and Rwanda, Uganda has the highest rate of school dropouts in east Africa, based to a 2010 assessment by the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Consequently, it was essential that the government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and other interested parties develop measures targeted at lessening the negative effects of sugar cane farming in accordance with educational attainment with any population. In light of this, the investigator takes delight in examining how the growth of sugar cane in the Bugiri District has affected school dropout rates.

Specific objectives

1. To understand the different ways on how sugar cane growing influences school dropout.
2. To investigate the drivers to school dropout as per sugar cane growing with a case study of Iwemba Sub County, Bugiri District.
3. Figuring out measures to curb the trending incidences of school dropout amongst pupils and students in our study

Research Questions

1. How sugarcane growing does influence school dropout and was involve economically, socially, socio-economic etc.
2. What could be the different impacts of sugarcane growing on the on-school dropout?
3. Could there be some measures to/aimed at reducing school dropout amongst pupils and student in the area of study?

Methodology

Research Design

A case study-based qualitative research design was used by the researcher. A case study, according to Mugenda & Mugenda (2003), is an extensive examination of a specific person, group, institution, or occurrence. According to Koul (2001), a case study is an effort to thoroughly explore a specific person or unit in order to obtain pertinent knowledge that can aid in the solution of a current problem. In order to provide a thorough explanation of how sugar cane farming contributes to school absenteeism in the Iwemba sub county, a design based on qualitative case studies was employed.

Study Population

According to Amin (2005), the study population is the entire set of the variables that the examination is interested in. According to Wilson (2010), it can alternatively be described as the total set of instances from which study samples are taken. In order to collect accurate and trustworthy data, a study was done on parents, teachers, head teachers, students, and the municipality's education officer.

Sample Size

The researcher was select only 52 respondents from the total population and this was based on the recommendations of Amin (2005) who said that the fewer respondent in the qualitative research produces credible and reliable data than many respondents. This was including teachers, head teachers, parents and district leaders.

No.	Category	Number of respondents
01	House holds	15
02	Students	20
03	Head teachers	05
04	Teachers	10

05	District education officer	01
06	District chairperson	01
	Total	52

Sampling Technique

Due to a lack of time and finances, sampling is the selection of a percentage from the greatest population whose opinions have been extrapolated to represent the opinions of the target group (Wilson 2010). Purposive or judgmental sampling was employed by the investigator. With the purposeful sampling method, respondents are carefully chosen because they are knowledgeable about the study and will provide accurate data. The technique of purposeful sampling was utilized by the investigator because it produced trustworthy data from trustworthy sources (Maxwell 1996).

Data analysis

An automated data analysis tool called SPSS 23.0 will be used to compile, sort, edit for simplicity and accuracy, classify, code, and evaluate the primary source data. This will make the statistical evaluation simple and allow for the computation of the regression and correlational associations among the variables (Nelson et al., 2022). To ascertain the various traits of the individuals who took part in the study, descriptive statistics were also produced.

RESULTS

Sugar Cane Growing and its contribution to school drop outs in Iwemba subcounty

Table 1: Model summary for Coupon discounts and Customer behavior in UBL

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.722	.567	.533	.28449

a. Predictors: (Constant), School drop outs

The R-squared value (0.722) shows that 72.2% of the variations in the dependent variable can be brought about by other factors like school dropouts. The R-squared value (0.722) is greater than the adjusted R-squared value because it takes degrees of freedom into consideration.

Table 2: ANOVA values for School dropout and Sugar cane growing

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	8.607	1	8.607	114.231	.000 ^b
	Residual	8.363	51	.075		
	Total	16.970	52			
a. Dependent Variable: School dropout						
b. Predictors: (Constant), Sugar cane growing						

Source; Primary Data, 2022

The analysis's results, which are displayed in the above table, demonstrate that the regression model accurately predicts the dependent variable. The statistical importance of the regression model is indicated by $F=114.231$ and $P=0.000$, both less than 0.05. More proof for this comes from the difference between the regression's mean square value, which was 8.607 initially, and the remainder's mean square value, which was 0.075.

Table 3: Coefficients of School dropout and Sugar cane growing

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		

1	(Constant)	1.562	.219		7.130	.000
	School dropout	.629	.059	.712	10.688	.000
a. Dependent Variable: Sugar cane growing						

Keeping other factors constant, a 1percent increase in sugar cane growing leads to 0.629 increase in the school dropouts. This is statistically significant at 95% confidence interval since the P-value (0.00) is less than 0.05 and therefore we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is no relationship between sugar cane growing and school dropouts

Table 1: Correlation between School dropout and Sugar cane growing

		School dropout	Sugar cane growing
School dropout	Pearson Correlation	1	.706**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	51	51
Sugar cane growing	Pearson Correlation	.706**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	51	51
**. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).			

The correlation coefficient (0.706) shows a strong high positive relationship between sugar cane growing and school dropouts. This is statistically significant at 95% confidence interval since the P-value (0.00) is less than 0.05 and therefore we reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is no relationship between sugar cane growing and school dropouts.

Conclusion

In summary, the reported and enrolled number of abandonments from the study area, Iwemba sub county, is mostly due to the prevalence of sugar cane growing. Of the 90.7 people working in the area, 74% are involved in sugarcane growing operations, such as cutting, launching, and offloading. Other activities include excavating, which accounts for 20% of the dropouts in the area, and driving, which accounts for 5%.

Recommendation

There should be government intervention through setting up of strict laws and policies, regulation of farmers, parents with their respective children defined inform of pupils and students should be sensitized about the values and importance of education.

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