
**THE STUDY ON THE EFFECT OF CHILD LABOUR ON THE LEARNER'S ACADEMIC
PERFORMANCE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

A CASE STUDY OF ADYEL DIVISION IN LIRA CITY

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ABSTRACT

The study was to investigate the effect of child labour on the learning academic performance of secondary school students in Adyel Division in Lira City. The of the study was based on the results from 350 respondents who presented accurate data to the researcher out of the 415 respondents. The researcher used random sampling techniques to collect data and quantitative measures were used to analyze and interpret data. The objectives of the study included to assess the relationship between child labour and academic performance in secondary school students in Adyel Division, to investigate the determinants of child labour among secondary school students in Adyel Division in Lira City District, to identify the different child labour activities among secondary school students in Lira City. The findings of the study, the correlation coefficient (0.706) shown a strong positive relationship between child labour and academic performance. This was statistically significant at 95% confidence interval since the P-value 0.00 was less than 0.05 and therefore, we rejected the null hypothesis and conclude that there was a significant relationship between child labour and academic performance. The government should provide activities and programs geared to improve accessibility of girls to quality relevant education. For instance, the government should fully take care of the needs of girls in while in schools by provision of personal effects. This will in turn enhance occupational mobility which will bring about economic empowerment.

Key words: child labour, learner's, academic performance and secondary schools
Background to the Study

Child labour is a long-time international vice that denies children from attending school at their tender ages, instead they work for their own or family's survival. Child labour has always been associated with high levels of poverty and family circumstances. There were about 215 million children working full time (ILO 2004). These children do not go to school and have little or no time to play without proper nutrition or care (Zulaikah & Rebecca, 2023). Of the estimated 215 child labors around the globe, approximately 114 million (53 percent) are in Asia and the pacific, 14 million (7 percent) live in Latin America and 65 million (30 percent) live in sub-Saharan Africa, (Robin, carol, Jenifer). This study addressed two variables namely child labour and academic performance. The theoretical model above was explained by a modified conceptual where child labour was driven by ignorant parents, high poverty levels and retrogressive cultures (Vincent & Peter, 2023). The breakthrough of the vicious cycle of child labour was through education observance of human and enforcement of labor laws to ensure that a child goes to school. Its quality of education in schools that there was productive labour for the family and the nation as a whole. The productive workforce enhanced education, enforced labour laws and observed human rights. All these enhanced the level of income and reduced the poverty levels and this guaranteed quality of education.

The study was conducted in Adyel Division Lira City. This study was entitled to examine the effects of child labour on the academic performance in Adyel Division Lira City. The findings of the study were derived from the study objectives. Throughout the study, the researcher carried out data collection and this enabled him analyze the responses of the respondents in order to come out with conclusions for the study in the research report.

Problem Statement

Child labour is on the rise owing to the emergence of high poverty levels especially in Adyel Division Lira City (Evans, 2019). Child labour is often closely associated to low-

income, increased urbanization and other economic factors. There is however limited attention on the psychological factors that influence child labour participation (Ntirandekura & Christopher, 2022). This is critical because it provides opportunities for intervention through psychological counseling or other school-based support systems. This study attempted to investigate these factors and their effect on academic performance of students in Adyel Division Lira City. This Lira City was ideal because of high levels of poverty which undermined students' school participation. According to a recent National survey on poverty incidences, in Adyel Division in Lira City poverty levels are much higher than National average for Uganda. In a country where 70% of the population earns less than five dollars per day, these levels are bound to significantly influence school participation among pupils. High incidences of poverty intensify rather than ameliorate this problem. The current study attempts to examine the effect of child labour on the Academic performance of secondary school students in Adyel Division in Lira City.

Specific Objectives

- 1. To assess the relationship between child labour and Adyel Division in Lira City.*
- 2. To investigate the determinants of child labour in Adyel Division in Lira City.*
- 3. To examine the ways of preventing child labour in Adyel Division Lira City.*

Research Questions

- 1. What is the relationship between child labour and academic performance of secondary school students in Adyel Division in Lira City?*
- 2. What are the different determinants of child labour among secondary school students in Adyel in Division Lira City?*
- 3. What are the different ways of preventing child labour among secondary school students in Adyel Division in Lira City?*

Methodology

Research design

This study included the descriptive survey design which was good at describing characteristics of variables in a situation. According to Best and Khan (2019), descriptive survey design was concerned with conditions or relationships that existed, opinions that were held, processes that went on, effects that were evident, or trends that were developed. (Kerlinger, 2009). The descriptive survey design enabled collection of data without manipulating the research variables.

Sources of information**Primary data**

The researcher used primary sources of data through the use of Questionnaires. This source of data was used because it made data analysis easy through compilation of the different responses from the respondents. This source of data collection also gave the respondents enough time to respond.

Population and Sampling technique

According to Wikipedia (2021) population refers to all the inhabitants of a particular place. The target population of the study was on the residents in Adyel Division in Lira City. The target population is comprising of over 500 respondents in total including 400 students, 50 Teachers and 50 Parents. This target population will enable the researcher to gather concrete information for the study.

Respondents	Target Population
<i>Students</i>	<i>400</i>
<i>Teachers</i>	<i>50</i>
<i>Parents</i>	<i>50</i>
Total	500

Sampling***Sample size***

A sample is a smaller pressure of subjects obtained from the accessible population (Mugenda and Mugenda 2013). The study will employ Mugenda and Mugenda (2013) who recommended sample size of at least 60% of the target population. The researcher will use the above formula to determine the sample size for the 500 respondents.

<i>Respondents</i>	<i>Target Population</i>	<i>Sample Size</i>
<i>Students</i>	<i>400</i>	<i>350</i>
<i>Teachers</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>Parents</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>500</i>	<i>415</i>

Sampling Procedure

Sampling was the process of selecting a number of individuals for a study in such a way that the individuals selected represented the large pressure from which they were selected Mugenda and Mugenda, (2013). The researcher used random sampling technique to select the sample size from individuals. A sampling frame was designed by the researcher and distributed to the target population. This enabled every member of the accessible population to have equal chance of participating in the study.

Data collection instruments

The researcher used questionnaires as a means of collecting data from the respondents because the questionnaire helped the respondents to give out well thought out answers to the questions that were being asked and a questionnaire also

gave the respondents to respond to questions in their free time when they were not in a hurry.

Data Collection procedure

The Researcher received an introductory letter from the faculty of Education and Humanities which was presented to the respondents at the study area. The researcher went ahead to seek appointment letters from the respondents in order to design questionnaires to avoid having excess or less. The researcher then reached to the respondents on the agreed times to carry out data collection.

Data Analysis

The study design was adopted by the single method and therefore quantitative data collection techniques. The deductive- approach was used in data analysis using SPSS (Nelson et al., 2022). Under this method, hypothesis was generated from the study objectives which was expressed in operational terms and tested. Computer software such as Microsoft excel spread sheet was used to analyze the data, table and charts were generated to explain the quantitative data. Tables and charts were also used to display the result of the study to ensure maximum clarity and objectivity.

RESULTS

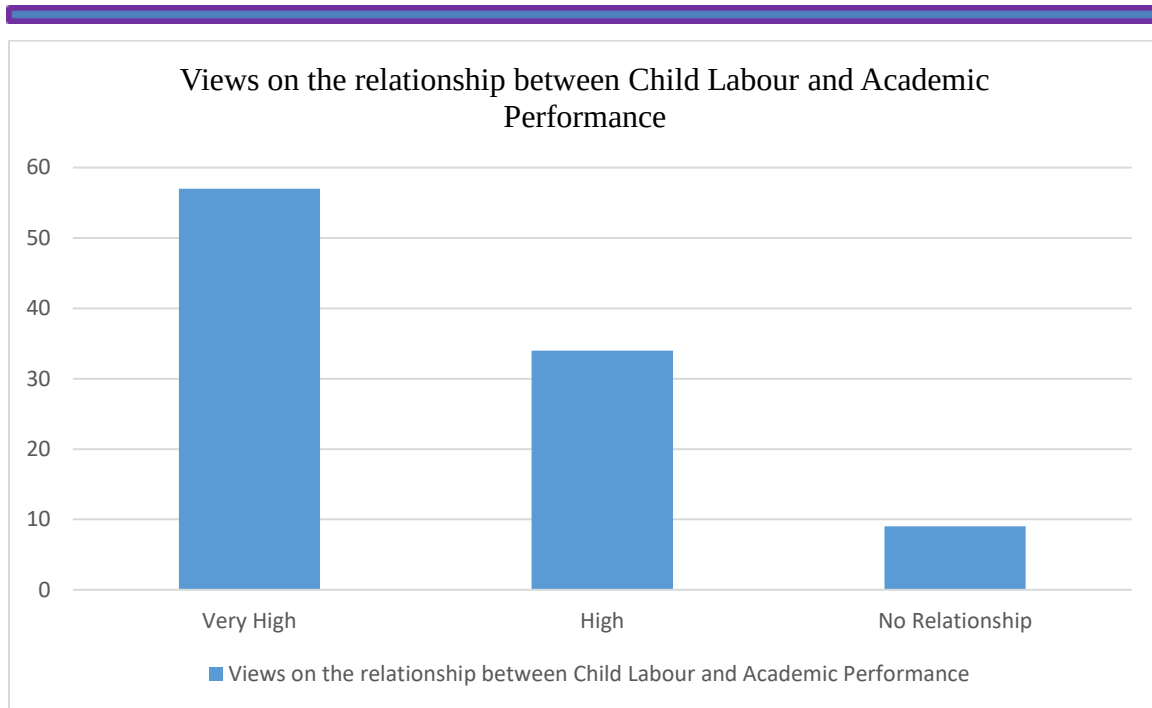
The relationship between child labour and academic performance

Table 3: Relationship between Child Labour and Academic Performance

RESPONDENTS VIEWS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
<i>Very high</i>	200	57
<i>High</i>	120	34
<i>No relationship</i>	40	9
TOTAL	350	100

Source: Research data 2021

Figure 1: Relationship between Child Academic Performance



Source: Research data 2021

Both the table and the figure above indicate that 57% of the respondents informed the researcher that the relationship between child labour and academic performance was very high followed by 34% of the respondents and finally 9% of the respondents presented results to the researcher showing that there is no relationship between child labour and academic performance.

Table 4: The relationship between child labour and academic performance

		child labour	academic performance
child labour	Pearson Correlation	1	.706**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	444	444
academic performance	Pearson Correlation	.706**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	444	444

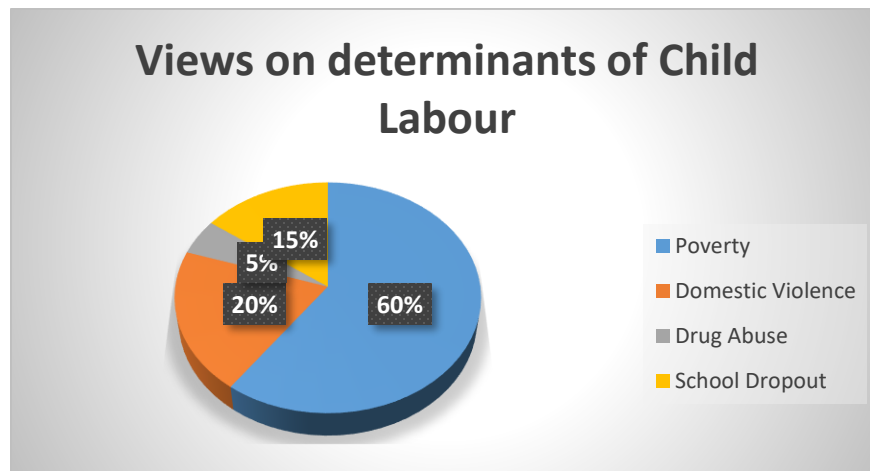
****.** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source; Primary Data, 2022

The correlation coefficient (0.706) shows a strong positive relationship between child labour and academic performance. 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 a significant relationship between child labour and academic performance

The determinants of child labour among secondary school students

Figure 2: Determinants of Child labour among Secondary Schools



Source: Research data 2021

According to the figure above, 60% of the respondents informed the researcher that poverty was the main determinant of child labour followed by 20% of the respondents who however informed the researcher that domestic violence was another determinant of child labour. School dropout (15%) was another determinant of Child labour and finally 5% of the respondents informed the researcher that Drug abuse was also another determinant of child labour according to the respondents.

Identify the different child labour activities

Table 5: Different Child Labour activities

CHILD LABOUR ACTIVITIES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
<i>Fishing</i>	55	16
<i>Harvesting</i>	70	20
<i>Working in Factories</i>	100	29
<i>Hawking on streets</i>	65	18
<i>Construction</i>	60	17
TOTAL	350	100

Source: Research data 2021

According to the findings of the study, 16% of the respondents informed the researcher that the main child labour activity was fishing mostly to those who live on water bodies followed by 20% of the respondents who informed the researcher that engaging in harvesting was another child labour activity that was mostly common during the harvesting season, majority of the respondents totaling to 29% informed the researcher that many of the children who are underage work in factories, 18% of the respondents however presented results to the researcher indicating that hawking on the streets by most of the children most especially in towns on the orders of their parents or guardians and finally the findings of the study also presented results showing that 17% of the respondents informed the researcher that many of the children most especially in urban areas engaged in construction services to earn a living.

Conclusions

According to the findings of the study, the researcher concluded that majority of the respondents informed the researcher that the relationship between child labour and academic performance was very high followed by other respondents who presented results to the researcher showing that there was no relationship between child labour and academic performance in secondary schools. In conclusion the findings of the study also presented results indicating that majority of the respondents informed the researcher that poverty was the main determinant of child labour and other respondents informed the researcher that domestic violence was another determinant of child labour in communities and finally other respondents cited out drug abuse as one of the determinants of child labour.

Recommendations

First, the government should provide activities and programs geared to improve accessibility of girls to quality relevant education. For instance, the government should fully take care of the needs of girls in while in schools by provision of personal effects. This will in turn enhance occupational mobility which will bring about economic empowerment.

Secondly, the research findings have shown that boys are more likely to participate in child - labour related activities than girls. In view of this finding, it is recommended that the government should enforce the existing child labour laws while improving on them to help protect children. This will also help in clearly define the meaning of child - labour so as children are not over-protected.

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