
**CHILD LABOUR AND LEARNER'S ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS
A CASE STUDY OF NANSANA MUNICIPALITY**

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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 Nansana Municipality. 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 Nansana Municipality, to investigate the determinants of child labour among secondary school students in Nansana Municipality in Wakiso District, to identify the different child labour activities among secondary school students in Nansana Municipality. 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, 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 finally the findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondents presented results to the researcher showing that majority of the under age children work in factories most especially in urban places followed by some other respondents who however informed the researcher that some children would get involved in harvesting most especially in rural communicates.

Key words: child labour and learner's academic performance

Background of 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 (Zulaikah & Rebecca, 2023). These children do not go to school and have little or no time to play without proper nutrition or care. 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). The Ugandan constitution does not prohibit child work; instead, it defines the types of work to be under taken by children such as help in household chores and forms provided the work is performed outside school hours, and it doesn't interfere with their schooling, physical and moral development. This study will address two variables namely child labour and academic performance (Micheal et al., 2023). The theoretical model above can be explained by a modified conceptual where child labour is driven by ignorant parents, high poverty levels and retrogressive cultures. The breakthrough of the vicious cycle of child labour is through education observance of human and enforcement of labor laws to ensure that a child goes to school. The study was conducted in Nansana Municipality. This study was entitled to examine the effects of child labour on the academic performance in Nansana Municipality. 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 Nansana Municipality in Wakiso District (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. This is critical because it provides opportunities for intervention through psychological counseling or other school-based support systems (Zulaikah & Rebecca, 2023). This study attempted to investigate these factors and their effect on academic performance of students in Nansana Municipality in Wakiso District. This municipality was ideal because of high levels of poverty which undermines students' school participation (Faridah et al., 2023). According to a recent National survey on poverty incidences, in Nansana Municipality 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 (Vincent & Peter, 2023). 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 Nansana Municipality.

Specific Objectives

- 1. To assess the relationship between child labour and academic performance in secondary school students in Nansana Municipality.*
- 2. To investigate the determinants of child labour among secondary school students in Nansana Municipality in Wakiso District.*
- 3. To identify the different child labour activities among secondary school students in Nansana Municipality.*

Research Questions

- 1. What is the relationship between child labour and academic performance of secondary school students in Nansana Municipality?*
- 2. What are the different determinants of child labour among secondary school students in Nansana Municipality in Wakiso District?*
- 3. What are the different child labour activities among secondary school students in Nansana Municipality?*

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 is concerned with conditions or relationships that exists, opinions that are held, processes that are going on, effects that are evident, or trends that are developed. (Kerlinger, 1969). The descriptive survey design will enable collection of data without manipulating the research variables.

Target population

The target population of the study was on the students of different secondary schools in Nansana Municipality Wakiso, Teachers and Parents. The target population was comprising of over 500 respondents in total including 400 students, 50 Teachers and 50 Parents.

Table 1: Target Population

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 employed Mugenda and Mugenda (2013) who recommended sample size of at least 60% of the target population. The researcher used the above formula to determine the sample size for the 500 respondents.

Table 2: Sample Size

<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 is the process of selecting a number of individuals for a study in such a way that the individuals selected represent 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 was 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 are not in a hurry.

Data Analysis

The study design adopted the single method and therefore quantitative data collection techniques. The deductive- approach was used in data analysis. Under this method, hypothesis was generated from the study objectives which were expressed in operational terms and tested. Computer software such as SPSS was used to analyze the data, table and charts were generated to explain the quantitative data (Nelson

et al., 2022). Tables and charts were also used to display the result of the study to ensure maximum clarity and objectivity. Furthermore, analyzed descriptive information from the field group discussion which obtained further confirmation of the findings made.

RESULTS

Response Rate

The response rate of the respondents is explained in the table below:

<i>Respondent Groups</i>	<i>Target Population</i>	<i>Sample Size</i>	<i>Retrieved Questionnaires</i>
Students	400	350	300
Parents	50	30	20
Teachers	55	35	30
TOTAL	500	415	350

Table 3: Groups of respondents and number of questionnaires retrieved

Source: Research data 2021

The table above clearly indicated that the researcher retrieved data from 300 students out of the sample size of 350 students and the researcher at the same time retrieved data from 20 Parents out of the sample size of 50 and finally the researcher retrieved data from 30 teachers out of the sample size of 50. This made a total of 350 respondents who presented to the researcher accurate data that was used basing on the objectives of the study.

Demographic Profile of the respondents

Gender Composition of respondents

Table 4: Table showing gender Composition of respondents

GENDER	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
MALE	220	63
FEMALE	130	37
TOTAL	350	100

Source: Research data 2021

The table above shows the gender composition of respondents and it indicated that 63% of the respondents were females and 37% of the respondents were males.

Age of respondents

Table 5: Table showing age of respondents

AGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
15 - 35	320	91
36 - 50	15	4
51 - 60	10	3
61+	5	2
TOTAL	350	100

Source: Research data 2021

The table above shows the age of respondents and it indicated that 91% of the respondents ranged from 15 to 35, 4% of the respondents ranged from 36 to 50, 3% of the respondents ranged from 51 to 60 and finally 2% of the respondents were above 60 years old.

Education level of respondents***Table 6: Education Level of respondents***

EDUCATION LEVEL	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
DEGREE	30	8
DIPLOMA	15	4
SECONDARY LEVEL	300	86
PRIMARY	5	2
TOTAL	350	100

Source: Research data 2021

The table above shows the education level of respondents. It indicates that 10% of the respondents have degrees, 4% have diplomas, 86% have secondary level and finally 2% are of primary level.

Marital Status of respondents (Teachers and Parents)***Table 7: Marital Status of respondents***

MARITAL STATUS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
MARRIED	25	50
DIVORCED	10	20
SINGLE	15	30
TOTAL	50	100

Source: Research data 2021

The table above clearly indicates that 50% of the respondents were married, 20% of the respondents were divorced and finally 30% of the respondents were still single since they were all students.

Working experience (Teachers)

Table 8: Working Experience

YEARS OF WORKING	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
01 - 05	20	67
06 - 10	7	23
11 - 15	3	10
TOTAL	30	100

Source: Research data 2021

The table above shows the working experience of the respondents and it presented that 67% of the respondents have a working experience of 01 to 05 years followed by 23% of the respondents who have worked for 06 to 10 years and finally 10% of the respondents had a working experience of 11 - 15 years.

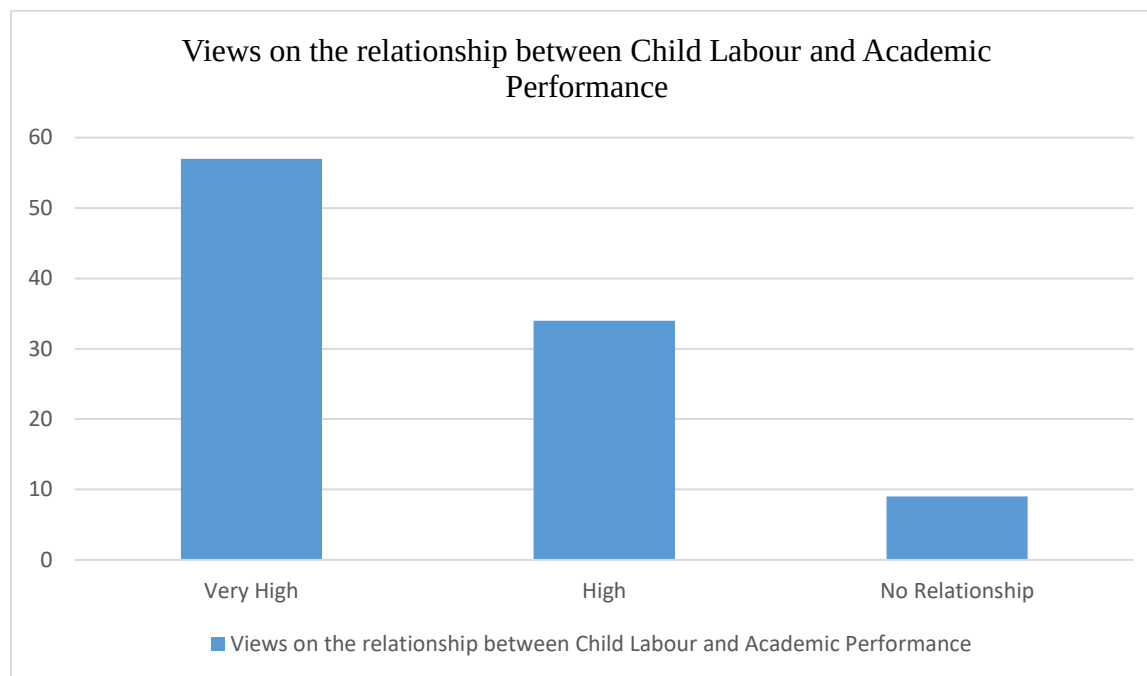
The relationship between child labour and academic performance

Table 9: Relationship between Child Labour and Academic Performance

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

Source: Research data 2021

Figure 1: Relationship between Child Academic Performance

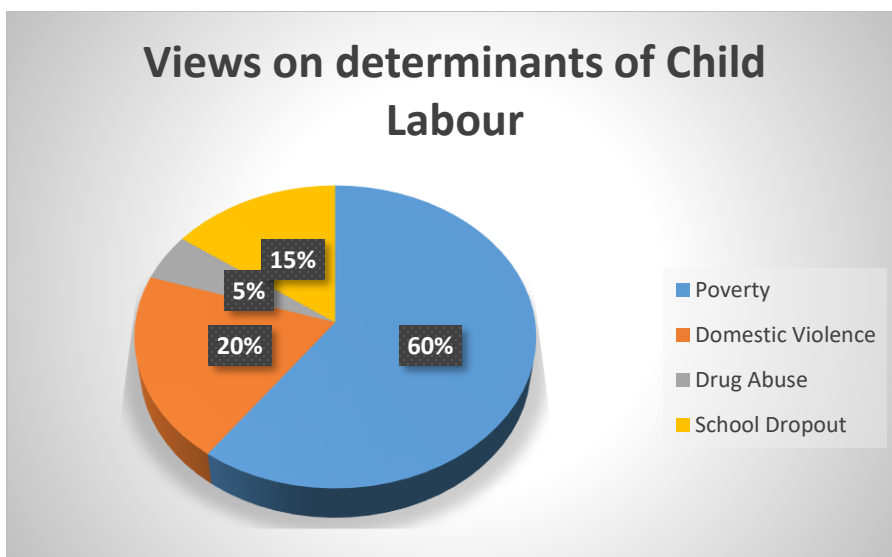


Source: Research data 2021

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.

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 10: Different Child Labour activities

CHILD LABOUR ACTIVITIES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Fishing	55	16
Harvesting	70	20
Working in Factories	100	29

<i>Hawking on streets</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Construction</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>350</i>	<i>100</i>

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.

Recommendations

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.

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