
**FISHING ACTIVITIES ON CHILD SCHOOL DROP OUT IN UGANDA. A CASE STUDY OF MASESE
LANDING SITE, JINJA CITY****1 Katushabe Maria, 2 Sekiswa Peter, 3 Omendo Vincent****1, 2, 3 Metropolitan International University****ABSTRACT**

The purpose of the study was to investigate effect of fishing on Child School dropout at Masese Landing site in Jinja District. The study was based on the results from 186 respondents who presented accurate data to the researcher out of the sample size of 216 respondents. The study was guided by the objectives such as to identify effects of fishing on school dropout at Masese Landing site in Jinja City, to understand forms of fishing activities that affect school dropout at Masese Landing Site in Jinja City, to suggest measures to stop school dropout at Masese Landing site in Jinja Site. The findings of the study revealed that majority of the respondents informed the researcher that time management was the main issue as to why students who go fishing drop out of school, some respondents also informed the researcher that actual fishing was the main fishing activity done by students and finally the findings of the study also suggested providing financial Aid to the students was the main factor that would reduce school dropout in schools. According to the findings, 50% of the respondents presented results to the researcher showing that majority of the primary school children who drop out of school involved in actual fishing in Lake Victoria followed by 25% of the respondents who presented results to the researcher indicating that some children got involved in salting fresh fish to make it ready for market. 15% of the respondents informed the researcher that some children would get involved in sorting fish to be sold in the markets and finally 10% of the respondents informed the researcher that transporting fish to the nearest markets was another fishing activity that would make children to drop out from school. There was also a need to provide financial Aid to all the students who were not stable financially in order to make them to continue with their studies

Background of the Study

Fishing was a traditional economic activity for many communities especially those who lived along the shore's lines of water bodies (Ashiraf et al., 2023). In Uganda fishing activities are conducted all across major water bodies such as Lake Victoria, Lake Kyoga, lake Wamala and Lake Albert. Throughout the country, fishing attracts a number of actors, those who are engaged directly, while others are in the indirect activities.

Globally Over 70 per cent of the world's children are involved in fisheries (ILO,2002) In Europe, both in the European Union and Eastern Europe involvement of children in fisheries is signally under-researched and reported issue, the popular view is that child labour in formal and informal sector including fisheries has been rooted out of our Western societies. Far from disappearing, the worst forms of child labour in fisheries unfortunately still persists

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(Zulaikah & Rebecca, 2023). In Northern Europe especially in the United Kingdom there are some kinds of paid jobs in fisheries where school children are involved. According to child labour website (Not Dated) 70.5% of boys and 29.5% of girls from the fishing communities in the central regions of Ghana are involved in fishing related activities (Aisha et al., 2023). About 42% of boys are engaged in actual fishing, draining water from the canoe, paddling the canoe and about 11% of girls are engaged in fishing-related activities such as smoking, buying and selling fish products. The involvement of school children in fishing related activities have tremendously affected the education of children in the central regions of Ghana. This is evidenced by low participation rates in primary schools amongst the fishing communities in Ghana (Derrick et al., 2023). 45% of school going children from fishing communities in central regions of Ghana have dropped out of formal school and about 33% of children had any formal education (Anthony et al., 2023). Only 14.8% of boys and 6.6% of girls aged between 5- 9 years have either dropped out at the primary level or are still attending primary school (Mark et al., 2023). 21% of children aged between 10- 15 years have dropped out of school and a considerable percent of about 5.1% of children in the same age group have not had any formal, N.D). Mensah and Koranteng (2006) notes that the practice of involving school going children in fishing related activities is rather prominent among communities in the great Accra and central region in Ghana more so in the communities where there are no schools located close to the beaches (Godfrey et al., 2023). Walakira and Byamugisha (2007) study on Child

labour in the Fisheries Sub-sector in Uganda focused on major water bodies of Lake Victoria, Kyoga, Edward and George. The study found that about 94% of all children living in fishing villages in Uganda are involved in fishing related activities, 87% of these children are children aged 5-11 years and 98% are children aged 15 –17 years (Mercy et al., 2023). In all age categories, the proportion of laboring children is incredibly high although as expected, highest among the older children aged 15-17 to the tune of 98%. 87% of younger children aged 5-11 years are also involved in fishing related activities. There is a slight variation by gender, there are more boys (95%) than girls (88%) who are involved in fishing related activities in the fishing communities in Uganda (Ronald et al., 2023). With respect to age, variations can be seen in the types of work children undertake particularly in the lower age group of 5-11 years.

Problem Statement

Throughout Uganda, there was a disparity between early school enrollment and completion. Every other year, the gap seemed to widen (Mark et al., 2023). With many learners getting outside the school, stakeholders are over burden with this, because it undermines the individual parental aspirations, community and the nation at large (Christopher, Komunda, et al., 2022). In Jinja city, there was a phenomenal rise in the number of school dropouts, with many joining the fishing industry. This matter, on its part, like many others did not attract the attention of stakeholders as it would. Given the fact, that indirectly fishing is one of the lucrative ventures,

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one wonders, how they would strike a balance between keeping children in school and making the most out of the fishing (Ntirandekura & Christopher, 2022). In the ministry of Gender labour and Social Development sector performance report {2018} Fishing was highlighted as one of the top avenues for child labour next to mining and vendoring in urban setting. However, the report was not conclusive to suggest in practical terms how to deal with this challenge. In other studies, report findings highlight that school dropout by far is one of the constraints to realization of National Development Plan and vision 2040 (Sub-county et al., 2023). In the ministry of Finance Planning and Economic Development 2019/2020, this matter was listed as the big obstacle

to the achievement of the planning Uganda (Christopher, Moses, et al., 2022). While, Jinja district annual report 2018 Indicated that the dropout rate, stood at 50%. With the incidence of the challenge reported most around the landing site. The proposed study was a timely response that seemed to identify the matching effects if fishing first as an economic activity, as a way of life and means of livelihood and as one of the growing industries in the agricultural sector on the school dropouts in the primary section (Collins et al., 2023). With particular focus on the direct relationship between supply of cheap reliable labour by the minors to the fishing activities and the resultant effected of this on the entire education subsector at primary level.

Specific objectives

- To identify effects of fishing on school dropout at Masese Landing site in Jinja City?
- To understand forms of fishing activities that affect school dropout at Masese Landing Site in Jinja City
- To suggest measures to stop school dropout at Masese Landing site in Jinja Site.

Methodology

Research design

The study adopted a cross sectional survey design for this research. It involved collecting data through self-administered questionnaires or interviews and was particularly useful in describing the characteristics of a large population. Another justification for using a cross-sectional survey design was that it was not costly to perform and did not require a lot of time. Cross sectional survey design was helpful to collect data from large samples like in the market place for this study.

Study Population and sampling

The target population for this study was on primary school learners, fisher men, beach management personnel, head teachers, parents/guardians and police officers. According to the Jinja city commercial officers' records, data about

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traders at Masese landing site, indicates a total of more 300 personnel frequent the market place on a daily basis. While the records at the city community development officer presents estimates of child labour at the market place to be over 200 children at peak. The research adopted the simple random sampling method in selecting respondents. The reason for adopting a simple random sampling method is that it helps in eliminating sampling bias

Table 1: Sample size

Category	Number of respondents	Sample selection
City community development officer	01	01
Child laborers	200	80
Beach management committee	12	05
Masese police station	30	10
Market vendors	300	120
Total sample	543	216

Source, researcher 2021

Data collection instruments/tools

A questionnaire was the main instrument of data collection to gather data, observation and documentary review. Data from the field was then collected using a questionnaire, this was an open-ended structured questionnaire that was administered on child laborers at the market place. With the assistance of the people who will help out with interpretation to the respondents. While data from key respondents and interview schedule was designed to obtain data for this category.

Table 2: Proposed data tools for the study

No	Category	Sample size	Sample selection	Instrument
1	Jinja city	01	01	Interview
2	Masese police	30	05	interview
3	Beach Management	12	05	Interview
4	Market vendors	300	20	Questionnaire

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5	Child laborers	200	20	Questionnaire
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Source, researcher 2021

Further the study also supplemented the field findings with documentary reviews, where, official records for Jinja city and any relevant literature on the subject matter was verified to ascertain the credibility of field findings.

Data collection and presentation

Descriptive statistics included frequencies and percentages were used to present the results in a tabular format, however data extracted from formal sources and official documents was presented and acknowledged accordingly.

Validity and reliability

Validity and reliability in research were the degree of stability exhibited when measuring repeated and identical conditions. Reliability meant that responses to the questionnaire were consistent (Ampofo, 2019). Data from the field was grouped, categorized and analyzed on a thematic basis. Inferences and categories of data with similar responses were sorted and grouped accordingly.

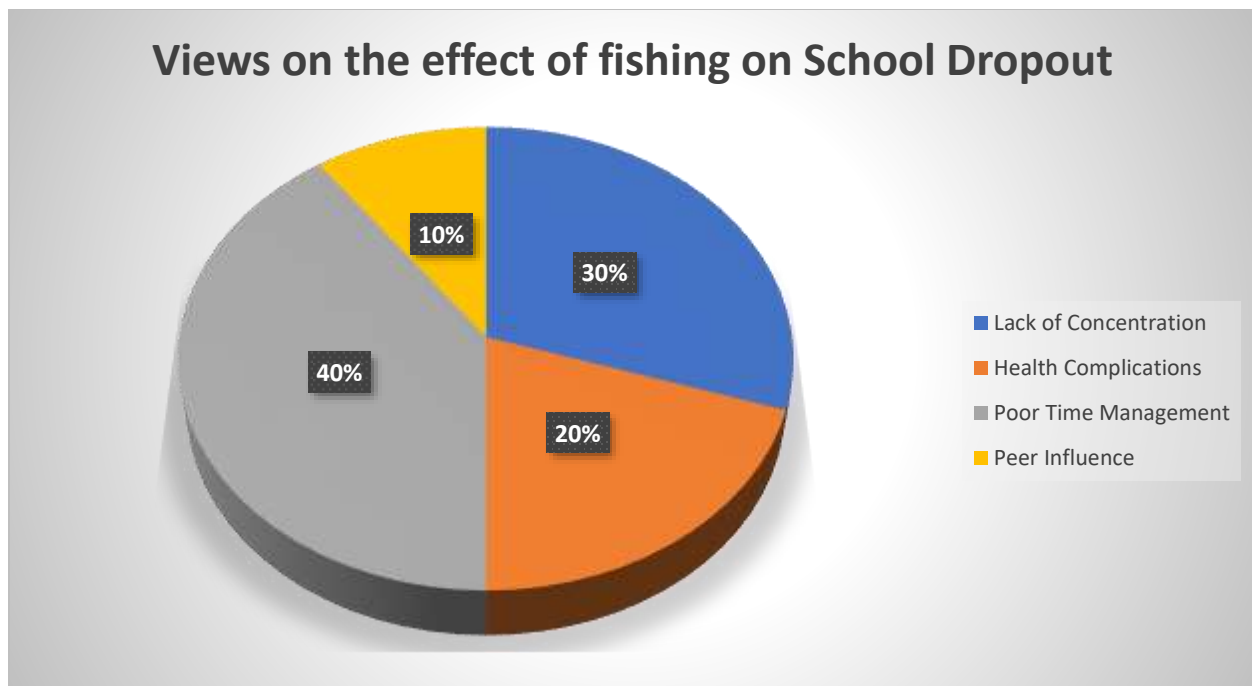
Data Analysis Techniques

Simple and accurate data analysis methods were adopted for this study, where Quantitative data, descriptive statistics was used to analyze data, these covered percentages, graphs and pie charts using SPSS (Nelson et al., 2022).

RESULTS

Effects of fishing on School dropout

Figure 1: Effects of fishing on School Drop out

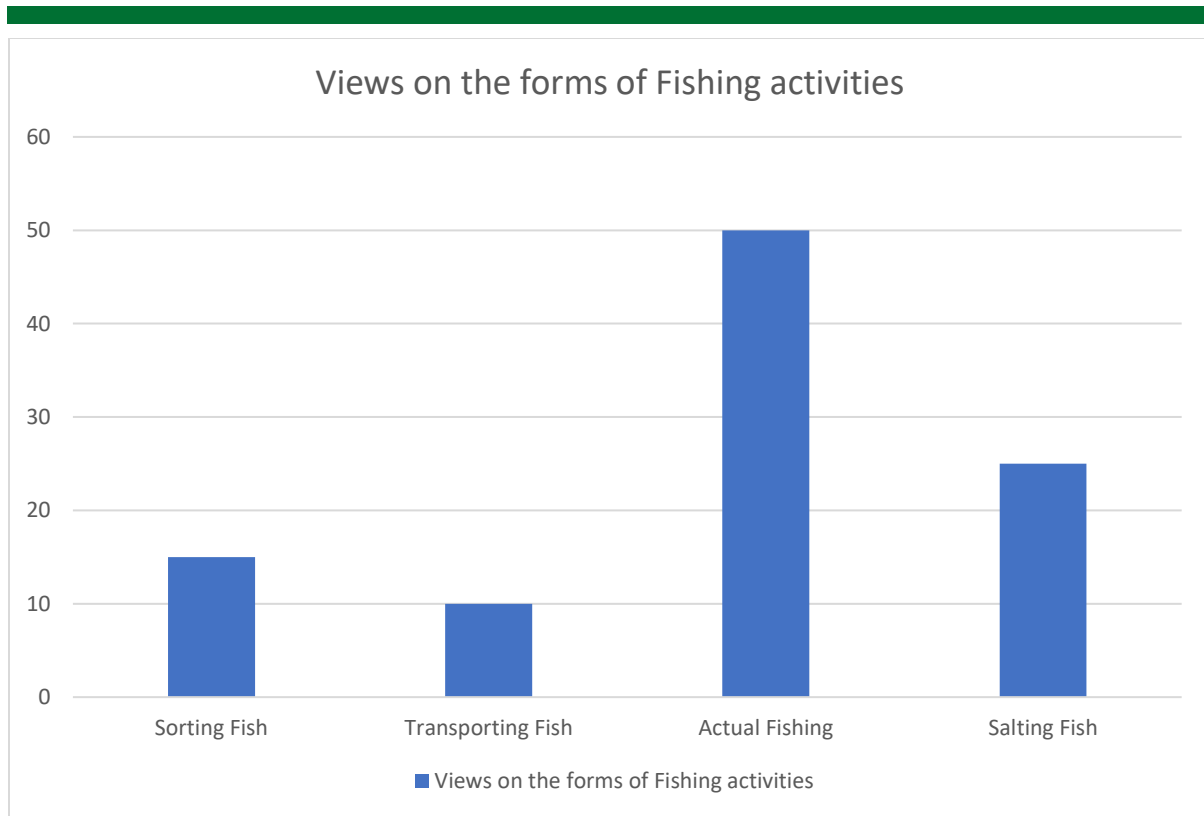


Source: Field Data (2021)

According to the figure above, the findings of the study revealed that 40% of the respondents informed the researcher that Poor time management was the major effect that would lead students who engaged in fishing to drop out of school due to failure to manage school time followed by 30% of the respondents who presented results to the researcher showing that lack of concentration was another issue that respondents presented, however some respondents urged that some students would dropout from school due to health complications they got on the landing site hence it made them dropout of school and finally Peer influence by some of their friends which made them to drop out of School.

Different forms of fishing activities

Figure 2: Different forms of fishing activities

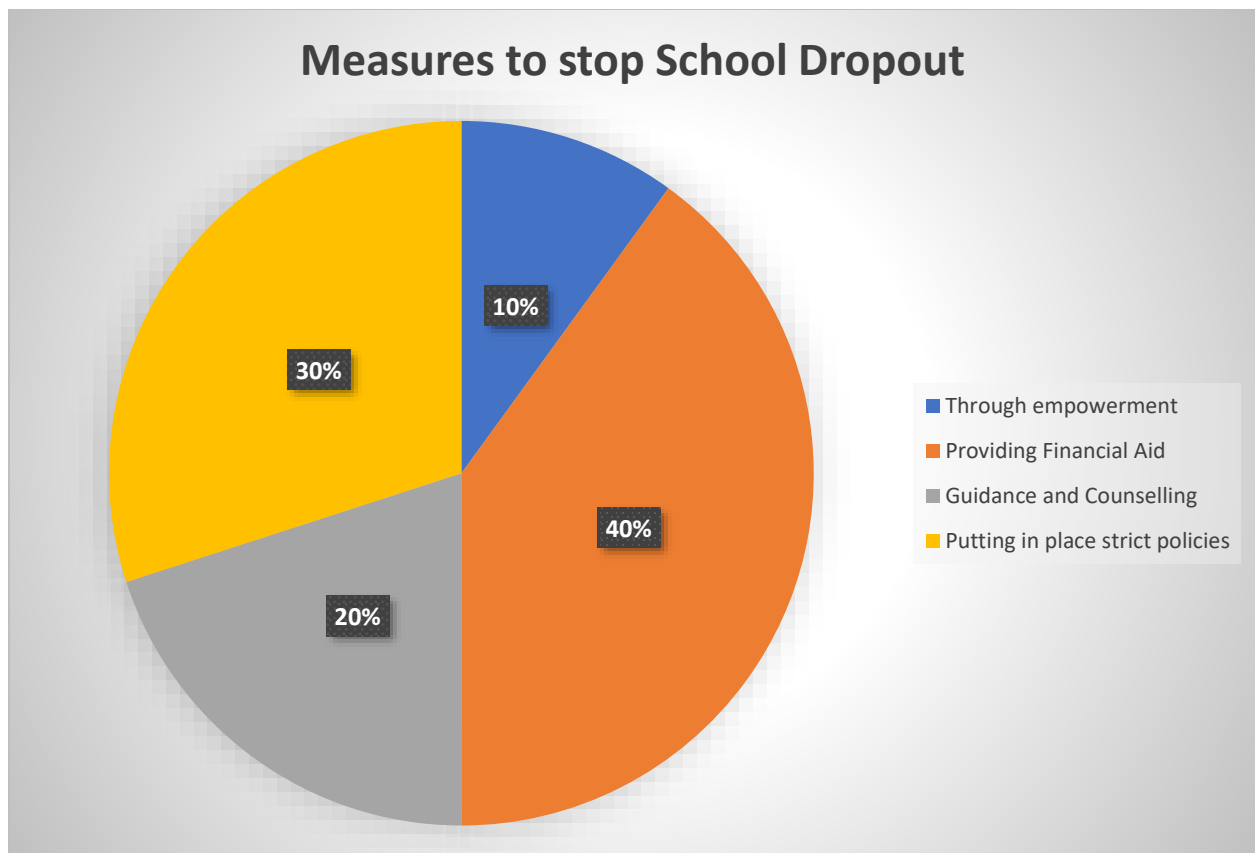


Source: Field Data (2021)

According to the figure above, 50% of the respondents presented results to the researcher showing that majority of the primary school children who drop out of school involved in actual fishing in Lake Victoria followed by 25% of the respondents who presented results to the researcher indicating that some children got involved in salting fresh fish to make it ready for market. 15% of the respondents informed the researcher that some children would get involved in sorting fish to be sold in the markets and finally 10% of the respondents informed the researcher that transporting fish to the nearest markets was another fishing activity that would make children to drop out from school.

Measures to stop School Drop out

Figure 3: Measures to stop School Drop out



Source: Field Data (2021)

According to the findings of the study, 40% of the respondents presented results to the researcher indicating that through providing financial aid to the Children who resided at the landing site would help to solve the problem of school dropout followed by 30% of the respondents who suggested that through the government putting in place strict policies against school dropout would also help to curb school dropouts. Some respondents however informed the researcher that through giving guidance and counselling to the students would also make them not to resort to school dropout and finally 10% of the respondents' presented results to the researcher indicating that through empowerment, school going children would not drop out from school.

Conclusions

According to the findings of the study, majority of the respondents presented results to the researcher showing that poor time management was the major issue that caused students who live on landing sites to drop out of school.

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Some other respondents indicated that lack of concentration was another issue and finally some respondents informed the researcher that health complications to some of the students.

The findings of the study also presented results showing that majority of the respondents presented results to the researcher indicating that they involved in actual fishing followed by some other respondents who suggested that some children would get involved in applying salt on the fresh fish. Some respondents presented results indicating that sorting fish at the site was another fishing activity and finally a number of respondents informed the researcher that transporting fish to the nearby markets was another fishing activity that was conducted at Masese Landing site.

Recommendations

There was a need to implement strict laws at the different landing sites in Uganda against the under-age children who engage in fishing activities other than going to school.

There was also a need to warn all the parents who would allow children to go work at the fishing sites in Uganda.

There was also a need to provide financial Aid to all the students who were not stable financially in order to make them to continue with their studies.

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