
**PROSTITUTION AND SPREAD OF HIV/AIDS AMONG YOUNG WOMEN; A CASE STUDY OF
WANDEGEYA PARISH KAMPALA****1 Katisi Daphine, 2 Kalikola Jacob****1, 2 Metropolitan International University****ABSTRACT**

The objective of this research paper is to provide background information drawn from the international literature on sexual exploitation and prostitution and its impact on the high spread of HIV/AIDS in Wandegya Kampala Uganda. The study concentrates on the debate on why prostitution has led to many HIV cases and by the end of the study provided the survey regarded in any case as the prostitution indulge in Wandegya and how given the statistics there is high spread of aids in Kampala areas provided Wandegya as a case study area in Kampala. From the findings, more than a ninety percent (93%) of the participants in the research said that the media played an important role in school girl's pregnancy. This high percentage of respondents that agreed confirm the findings of various researchers, namely, that film, internet websites, some periodicals and television programmes containing sexual activities without having the necessary level of physical and emotional and psychological maturation. Parents should counsel their daughters once they reach adolescent stage and equip them with necessary materials such as sanitary towels, books and little pocket money for lunch to protect them from the lures of businessmen and also teaching them on how to overcome teenage pregnancies.

Key words: **prostitution, spread of HIV/aids and young women**

Background of the study

Prostitution is often described as the oldest profession by definition it describes sexual intercourse in exchange for re-numeration (Handarkho, 2020). it is mainly driven by peer pressure, homelessness, drug addiction, and poverty just to mention a few of the driving forces. in Uganda like most African countries (Zulaikah & Rebecca, 2023), prostitution although not legal, it is still common among the poverty parishes in Kampala. a lot of Ugandan women are turning into prostitution most especially in Wandegya a Kampala parish in due to poverty and unemployment in their home country. prostitution is socially stigmatized with prostitutes being more stigmatized than their male customer's prostitution is strongly associated with drug/alcohol misuse. some individuals turn into prostitution to fund their drug/alcohol addiction behaviour (Godfrey et al., 2023), which often leads to entrapment of women who prostitute in this sex-for drugs lifestyle and others resort to drug/alcohol misuse to effectively sale their bodies without remorse. clearly, drug/alcohol misuse can increase prostitution with less safe sex, which in turn leads to increase in sexually transmitted infections (including HIV) (Christopher & Micheal, 2022). Prostitution associated

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Corresponding: Author: research.miu.ac.ug/publications

with drug/alcohol misuse is among the main factors in the spread of HIV in the most parts of Africa. similarly, in Wandegeya 75% of the prostitutes reported injecting drugs and 23% said they never used nonsterile injecting equipment which all pose a serious risk of HIV infection. among drug misusing prostitutes in Kampala who had been previously tested for HIV 13% were HIV positive (Oromo et al., 2023), yet 68% of the prostitutes said they had not consistently used condoms during the previous three months. HIV prevalence among female sex workers (prostitutes) varies widely but in some countries, it is more than 20 times higher than the HIV prevalence of the general population. A number of mathematical models have been developed to understand the role of social and behavioral processes in HIV transmission (Rashid et al., 2023). The later developed a cross Makerere school of public health publishing corporation international research notices volume 2014, article id 651025, 10 pages' international scholarly research notices impact model to explore intentional transmission of HIV by nondisclosure of status in various risky situations.

Problem statement.

The Penal Code Act 1995 Cap 120 In view of Article 40 (2) "Every person in Uganda has the right to practice his or her profession and to carry on any lawful occupation, trade or business". This implies that whatever profession is being carried out should be lawful but prostitution is illegal in Uganda (Alex & Kazaara, 2023), according to the Penal Act 1995 which provides that, "Any person who practices or engages in prostitution commits an offence and is liable to imprisonment for seven years" but despite this provision, it has been left to prevail and yet even those responsible for enforcing the law unlawfully use the prostitutes for bribe as a way of pardoning them from penalty, this has however increased level of prostitution because law enforcers have failed to fulfill their duties. Prostitution as a career as well as a vice has been on the spread in most parts of the Uganda provided by the law its illegally practiced but highly minimized by the legal system of Uganda, provided with all its vices according to UBOS (Vincent & Peter, 2023). 2010 it clear indicates that 62% of the practitioners of this act mostly live in urban based areas as well parking lot centers of trucks on high way routes provided the 48% of the 62 know very well the negative impacts of this activity and thus HIV/AIDS. While there is no published, comprehensive statistic on the prevalence of which vessel HIV is spread, its estimated that may occur at a rate of 29% or higher among women who sell themselves in exchange for money (Kazaara, Charles, et al., 2023). This does not include other ways of which HIV is spread that occurs in households with physical and/or sexual contacts like rape etc. Currently, the definition of prostitution according to the WHO 2006. and the UNEP publication is referred to as the act of selling sexual pleasure I.e., blowjob, oral sex, anal, voyeurism, among other in exchange with money (Zowena et al., 2023). This act has indulged many Kampala surbab areas like Wandegeya, Nakulabye, Makerere kyivulu, Makindye under the disguise of looking for a livelihood in the area provided the lock down and curfew where some 12% of the women population in Kampala who were operating in burs at night, selling chips on road sides, and cooking food in

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toninyilas (Musaibah et al., 2023). This has pressed the situation to jump into disaster where majority have been left with no choice except to go into prostitution. Still, according to UBOS, HIV is on the increase in Wandegaya parish. 5% of this increase is reported to be more in university students who were residing in the hostels around Makerere university who decided to remain in effect with the presidential televised speech on the 17 June of 2021 hence according to the report from the ministry of health headed Jane Ruth Acheng this has caused a question to answer on the high spread of HIV/AIDS.

Specific objectives

1. With this in mind, the specific objectives of the present study are to
2. To find out what are the possible causes of prostitution in Wandegaya parish
3. To find out what is the relation between prostitution and the high spread of HIV/aids
4. To find out the possible solution to reduce prostitution in Wandegaya parish.

Research questions

1. What are causes of prostitution in Wandegaya parish Kampala?
2. What are the effects brought by prostitution on the high spread of HIV/AIDS in Wandegaya parish Kampala?
3. What is relationship between prostitution and HIV/AIDS spread in Wandegaya parish Kampala district?

Methodology

Research design

The study adopted both quantitative and qualitative research approaches the quantitative approach was adopted because the proposed study drew statistical inferences. This qualitative approach supplemented the quantitative approach by providing detailed information from statements from interviews for in depth analysis (Fassinga and Morrow 2013). Specifically, the study adopted a cross sectional survey design. The information collected was based on what was going on at a particular point in regard to early marriage and girl child education. This design was particular selected because it took place at single point in time, allowing analysis of number variables at once and helped in looking at the preference of the research problem in the study population (Borden and Abbot, 2011).

Target Population

The research study targeted the students of surrounding institution, prostitutes, those working in bars, restaurants, guest houses around teachers and institutions and village leaders totaling to 50 respondents.

Sample size and selection

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Sample size refers to the number of items to be selected from the universe to constitute sample. Technically the size of the sample depends on the type of research design being used, desired level of confidence in the result, the amount of accuracy wanted and the characteristics of the population of interest thus it is important to note that there is no single based way that can be used to determine sample size (Singh 2006) 30 students was interviewed from secondary schools, 40 married couples, 20 teachers and 10 village administrators making up a total of 100 respondents.

Sampling techniques

The study used stratified random sampling method for selecting respondents. This approach is preferred because it involves dividing the population into homogeneous sub groups and the taking a simple random sample in each group. The procedure of drawing a stratified random sample included all village respondents as unique identified according to the data given from administration system.

Data collection method

Data was collected by use of questionnaire and interview surveyed.

Questionnaire survey

The study was largely a quantitative survey involving a large number of prostitutes working in lodges and guest houses bars, restaurants and people of the parish of Wandegaya parish Kampala. as respondent's thus the data collection method adopted was a survey which involved the use of self-administered questionnaires (SAQs). The method enables the researcher to cover the respondents quickly and at a reasonable cost (Bordens and Abbot 2011).

Validity of data collection instrument

The study established content related validity through consultations with the researcher's supervisors and peers. The test of content validity was established through inter judge with two research consultants. Each judge rated the items on a two-point rating scale of relevant (R) and irrelevant (IR). The computation of CVI content validity index was drawn by summing up judge ratings on either sides of the scale and dividing by two to get the average. The instruments were considered valid at CVI above 0.70.

Data analysis

Qualitative data

Patterns and collections were within and between categories of data collected. Data is to be presented in form of notes, word -for –word transcripts, single words, belief phrases and full paragraphs (Powell and Rennaer, 2003). Data is interpreted by content analysis composing of explanations and substantiating them using the respondents' open responses. While analyzing qualitative data, conclusions are to be made on how different variables were related.

Quantitative data

Quantitative data was analyzed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS 16.0) (Nelson et al., 2022). The data analysis was done in different levels; namely invariant, bivariant and multi variant. At invariant level, the data analysis based on percentages from the frequency table and descriptive statistics particularly the mean. At bivariant level, the dependent variable, early marriage was correlated with girl child education.

RESULTS

Table 1: Respondents reasons for into prostitution

Reason Frequency Percent

	Frequency	Percentage
Un Employment	12	24.0%
Poverty	3	6.0%
Peer Influence	35	70.0 %
Total	50	100.0%

The table 1 indicates that 35 (70%) peer influence leads girls into prostitution while 12 (24%) cited unemployment as the main cause of prostitution, and finally 3 (6%) of the respondents cited poverty as the cause of prostitution.

Table 2: Effects of prostitution

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	Frequency	Percentage
One end getting STIs	6	12%
It can result in family break ups	6	12%
It can lead to high spread of HIV/ AIDS	25	50%
It degrades the social status	6	12%
Lowers the female status	6	12%
Addictive in a long time.	1	2%
Total	50	100.0%

The researcher also sought to investigate if there were any positive effects of early marriage. The respondents were asked to indicate whether they agreed or not if there were any positive effects. The findings are summarized in Table 2.

Table 3: Responses on whether they use condoms or not during the act of prostitution

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	15	35%
No	35	65%
Total	50	100.0

The research indicates that majority of the prostitutes in Wandegya don't use condoms under the guise that the customers may most of the times not interested and yet they have paid in huge sums of money of which one can survive on it for some good time hence they end up not using condoms

Knowledge on the awareness of self HIV/AIDS status among prostitutes

The study sought to understand whether the sex workers are aware of their health status whether positive or negative while carrying out their business venture. in Table 4.

Table 4:

	Frequency	Percentage
Am aware	5	10%
Am not aware	12	24%
I don't want to know	33	76%
Total	50	100. %

From the above results it can be pointed out that the majority 76% of the respondents don't want to know and they are not aware of their health status hence they are even afraid of even carrying out the test. This leaves a huge gap on the high spread of HIV/aids in Wandegya as summarized in Table 4.

Knowledge about sexuality

Most of the respondents (65%) in the research sample agreed that because they lack knowledge about sexuality they end up getting HIV/AIDS pregnant. According to Bezuidenhout (2004) sexuality issues are the topics least discussed by members of a family. Schoolgirls in the adolescent stage who experience physiological and emotional changes, often find it difficult to discuss these experiences with their mothers or older sisters. In need of information, they turn to their peers for guidance or seek information from books, magazine articles, the internet and the like. However, not all the information obtained from these sources is correct which may be a reason for unwanted pregnancies. The main problem identified concerning knowledge about sexuality in the study conducted by Makola (2005) was sexuality education in schools. It was found that sexuality education was not compulsory during the training of educators which resulted in many educators not having the appropriate skills to effectively teach such a sensitive subject. It was also established that some educators are not comfortable or embarrassed to teach sexuality subjects. Nearly a third (30%) of the respondents disagreed with the statement which means that they do not view ignorance as one of the reasons for pregnancy amongst schoolgirls. This might be an indication that the schoolgirls have acquired proper sexual knowledge from parents, health workers, teachers, priests or the mass media but had other reasons for falling pregnant (Kanku & Mash, 2010)).

Peer pressure

Ninety percent (80%) of the respondents that partook in the research believed that peer pressure plays a significant role in roll into prostitution. According to Kaplan (2004) during the adolescent years peer groups seem to control areas such as dress style, music taste, recreation activities, and dating customs and sexual practices. Channing-Peace and Saville (2006) confirms that peer group pressure can be very strong as well as the desire to conform to be accepted. Ayer (2000) maintains that the peer group influence can be direct when peers exert pressure on the schoolgirls' sexual activities or indirect when the teenagers need to imitate certain forms of behaviour for example that portrayed by the media.

Independence

More than sixty percent (64%) of the respondents in the research sample disagreed that in order to become independent the schoolgirl becomes pregnant. This result is contrary to most research that found that by falling pregnant the adolescent schoolgirl perceives herself as an adult and thus independent concerning physical and sexual aspects (Bolton, 2003). These respondents might see a pregnant schoolgirl as still dependent as she still needs financial support to complete her education and care for the baby as well as someone to look after the baby during

school time. Jewkes (2007) sees the pregnant schoolgirl as becoming more dependent because she lacks adequate education to secure continues to rely on relatives in caring for the baby (Akankwasa et al., 2022).

The twenty one percent (21%) of the respondents that agreed with the statement possibly share the view of most researchers, namely, that the adolescent schoolgirl strives for independence in making her own decisions about her behaviour and actions and wants to judge for herself about her sexual activities (Cunningham & Boulton, 2007). By falling pregnant the teenage schoolgirl perceives herself as independent concerning physical and sexual aspects and that she has attained adult status (Ntirandekura & Christopher, 2022).

Media

More than a ninety percent (93%) of the participants in the research said that the media plays an important role in schoolgirl's pregnancy. This high percentage of respondents that agreed confirm the findings of various researchers, namely, that film, internet websites, some periodicals and television programmes containing sexual activities without having the necessary level of physical and emotional and psychological maturation (Kazaara, Kazaara, et al., 2023). Bezuidenhout (2004) claims that "together peer pressure and the influence of mass media are powerful triggers in encouraging teenagers to indulge in illicit sexual activities" (Davids et al., 2023). Rickel (2001) says the media contributes to sexual acts amongst teenagers because of all the explicit sexual acts they view on television and movies (Kazaara, Kazaara, et al., 2023). As a result of this exposure teenagers engage in sexual activities as it looks easy, funny and glamorous without thinking about the consequences (Mercy et al., 2023).

Early menarche

79% of the respondents who are prostitutes are recruited into the population through birth at a constant rate Λ and that no person is born being a prostitute. Individuals in different human subgroups suffer from natural death at a constant rate, which is proportional to the number in each class (Joventi et al., 2023). We assume that interaction is homogeneous. Although there are many causes of prostitution, here we dwell on peer pressure and poverty which are the main driving forces of prostitution among Ugandans. The distinction between peer pressure and poverty as factors contributing to prostitution is not clear cut. Individuals who are not prostitutes turn into prostitution due to poverty related peer pressure at rate to move into the corresponding classes of prostitutes.

Risk-taking behaviour

The data revealed that the majority of respondents (94%) in the research sample indicated that risk-taking behaviour may result in teenage pregnancy. Hafford in Bezuidenhout (2008) explains that alcohol and drugs affect the human body through depressant and general arousal, decrease

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inhibitions and causes young girls becoming promiscuous. Drugs affects the nervous system by numbing the part of the brain that controls a person's behaviour in such a way that behavioral changes lead to risk-taking with respect to sexual encounters. According to Gouws and Kruger (1994) adolescents are natural risk-takers and they like to experiment and test their own limits and those of other people as part of learning to manage their own decisions. However, because their experience is limited their decisions are not always correct and their judgment faulty concerning getting involved in sexual activities (Kazaara & Christopher, 2023).

Conclusion

Poverty and culture are intertwined, and they are the cause of girls into prostitution, availability of contraceptives has also increased on prostitution and in a long time they forget to use them provided their customers who pay in money and they don't want to put on condoms hence this has left a question to answer on the high spread of HIV/aids

Recommendations

Parents should counsel their daughters once they reach adolescent stage and equip them with necessary materials such as sanitary towels, books and little pocket money for lunch to protect them from the lures of businessmen and also teaching them on how to overcome teenage pregnancies.

Information on reproductive health problems such as Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), HIV / AIDS and the health risks of teenage (learner) pregnancy. Advice about the different contraceptive methods that are available and knowledge about the correct use should be taught to young girls, this would help to reduce on high contradiction of HIV/AIDS. Intervention procedures that focus on the risky sexual behaviour of adolescent learners, the situations that lead to them and how to avoid them.

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