
**YOUTH LIVELIHOOD PROGRAMME (YLP) AND POVERTY REDUCTION AMONG
YOUTHS IN SHEEMA DISTRICT: A CASE STUDY OF
SHEEMA DISTRICT, WESTERN UGANDA.**

1 Magyezi Keneth, 2 Dr Arinaitwe Julius, 3 Ojok Alex

1, 2, 3 Metropolitan International University

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP) and Poverty Reduction among youths in Sheema District, Western Uganda. It was guided by the following objectives; to assess the Level of Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP) in Sheema District, to examine the indicators of poverty reduction among the Youths in Sheema District and to determine whether there is a relationship between youth livelihood programme (YLP) and poverty reduction among the Youths in Sheema District. The descriptive survey design was also adopted since it encourages the use of cross-sectional approach that is useful in obtaining an overall picture as it stands at the time of the study. This study utilized Krejcie & Morgan (1970) sample size table to come up with an adequate sample 272 size and the sample size table allows the researcher to determine the sample size for a given population with 95% certainty. The study employed questionnaire survey and interviewing methods of data collection. The researcher analyzed data using responses which were edited and coded in accordance with the responses given after collection. The analyzed results were tabulated appropriately frequency distribution tables and sample percentages to illustrate the responses to the questionnaires. The study findings revealed that Youth livelihood programme have access to advisory workshops and training, Youth Livelihood Programme trainings are adequate to all group members, groups are involved in income generating projects in sectors like Agriculture trade, service industry, vocational skills, agroindustry (value addition), creative industry, agroforestry and ICT. The findings also revealed that increased income as another indicator of poverty reduction among the youth. The researcher also concludes

Youths beneficiaries need to be taught much on capital investment decisions by the Government. This should involves identifying such projects or assets to invest in and generate returns from them.

Key words: *Youth Livelihood Programme, Poverty reduction, Youth*

Background of the study

The Youth Livelihood Program [YLP] is a Ugandan government program targeting poor and unemployed youth aged 18 to 30 to provide youth services (Kyohairwe, S. & Karyeija, G. 2014). According to Owen Barder (2009), "poverty reduction" means the permanent reduction of the number of poor people in the world through economic growth; this leads to poor quality employment selection and poor design and execution, resulting in poor service. Poverty reduction is often used as a short-term measure to stimulate economic growth and thereby lift as many people out of poverty as possible (Shamim et al., 2017).

ibid, 2023).

Helping young people to contribute to the development of the country (Mwesigwa & Mubangizi, 2019). The program is run by the Ministry of Gender, Employment and Social Development with an estimated budget of £265 billion over the first five years (Gemma and Ibrahim, 2015). The overall aim of YLP is to encourage young people to use their economic potential and to increase self-employment and income levels (Moses et al., 2023).

YLP will be conceptualized as: skills development, livelihood support and home support. Poverty reduction is achieved mainly through general economic growth. Before the advent of modern farming techniques and where technologies such as nitrogen fertilizers, pesticides, and irrigation systems are not available today, there was food shortages (Jew et al., 2020). Poverty reduction also includes improving the lives of the poor (Vincent & Peter, 2023).

Assistance in medicine and research is especially important to ensure a better life, such as the Green Revolution and the eradication of minor diseases (Edrine, 2015).

Literature review

Poverty reduction indicators

Tukundane (2015) noted that the Ugandan government acknowledges the involvement of young people in early life and employment issues (Tukundane, 2015). Ineffective youth outreach and advertising, misunderstandings, inadequate selection of beneficiaries, conflict of skills and job needs, negative thoughts of youth, etc. The Youth Health Program (YLP) aims to provide effective strategies and interventions to help young people participate in national development and improve their quality of life.

The program focuses on three issues: skills development, lifestyle support and home support (Pletscher, 2015).

The overall aim is to empower Ugandan youth to realize their economic potential and increase self-employment and income levels. It has three programs: skills development, lifestyle support, and home support. Leadership and business creativity fall under the scope of skills development. Suggested investment options include Fashion and Design, Clay Modeling/Pottery, Sewing and Embroidery, Video Audio Editing, Leather Goods and Computers and Hardware. The program provides ongoing funding through which young people can invest in key industries, including the culture and construction industries (UNESCO, 2015).

The Youth Welfare Program (YLP) supports youth-initiated skills development projects and rewarding projects in transition to first loan (Noah, 2021). YLP is administered by the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MGLSD) and is administered by local and lower levels of government. The assessment is guided by the theory of change and adopts a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods.

A reduction in poverty can be seen when two conditions are met: economic growth must be sustained (income must increase) and economic growth business must be neutral in the distribution of income (reduce income inequality) (Kuznets, 2019). In general, poverty cannot be reduced without economic growth.

In fact, the persistent poverty of a significant portion of the population can undermine economic growth prospects. In addition, the initial distribution of income (and wealth) can affect the prospects for growth and severe poverty reduction.

Evidence shows that inequality in income distribution is not good for economic growth or poverty reduction (Iniguez-Montiel, 2014). Experience shows that if a country develops a model of empowerment and investment to increase income through better health and education, the poor benefit from more current consumption and future income.

Poverty Reduction

Sustainability of economic growth is also important, and government policies regarding price, trade and public spending often do not help reduce poverty (Yelwa, 2015).

On the other hand, with low land ownership, the development of agriculture and the use of labor-intensive skills almost always help reduce poverty (Collins et al., 2023). Finally, shocks and economic changes that lead to economic downturns can increase poverty. According to

Karnani (2017), global poverty is an urgent problem for the world. The starting point for solving this challenge is simple and obvious, the main problem of the poor is their low income.

As the example above shows, the best way to solve poverty is to increase the income of the poor by providing good employment (Oromo et al., 2023). It is necessary to think of the poor as producers and to buy from them.

Poverty is reduced when food is available because people living in poverty cannot provide enough food for themselves and their families (Keith-Jennings, 2019). This makes them weak and unable to earn the money to lift them out of poverty and starvation.

This is not just an everyday problem: When children are stunted, it can affect their future income, causing them to live in poverty and poverty. Hunger (Zulaikah & Rebecca, 2023). Malnutrition is when individuals and families do not have enough and healthy food, often because they cannot afford healthy food or live in areas where there are no markets. Food poverty is a problem affecting Northern Ireland.

Adequate housing: One of the indicators of poverty eradication is the availability of adequate housing, because homelessness and poverty are inextricably linked (Martin, 2015). Most poor people cannot afford housing, food, childcare, health and education.

Difficult choices must be made when limited resources can meet certain needs. Most of the housing that absorbs some of the income should be abandoned.

According to Corcoran (2001) the poverty rate of people growing up in poor and non-poor families is about 24% at the age of 25-27 and 4% according to (Murendo et al., 2018).

A previous attempt to calculate the economic costs of poverty can also be found in a report by Faridah et al., 2023. In addition to income loss, we also focus on the impact of child poverty on adult crime and ill health. These are not only the costs of poverty, but they are also the largest and easiest to appraise. The cost of other costs associated with poverty, such as low intelligence (measured by test scores) and low education, should be more closely accounted for by income.

Relationship between youth livelihoods and poverty reduction

Benjamin, R. (2007) Researched the youth and poverty process in sub-Saharan Africa: Poverty, development and livelihood (Zulaikah & Rebecca, 2023). In 1999, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced that developing countries must complete the Poverty Reduction Program (PRSP) as a prerequisite for access to earned money. This development policy is used by more than two-thirds of sub-Saharan African countries and is important in meeting the needs of young people. Ib.

(2018) conducted a study of group dynamics and their impact on plans to reduce youth unemployment in Uganda - policy options for the Youth Livelihoods Program (YLP) based on Uganda's impact with high youth unemployment and underemployment; improve the effectiveness of existing interventions. A significant part of the government's response to youth unemployment is youth financial support, particularly through the Youth Livelihoods Program (YLP) (Nelson and Christopher, 2022).

YLP supports young people in groups of 10 to 15 with incomes to develop skills and engage in income-generating activities as part of group formation, which is important in the YLP base. However, this study revealed that most young people applying for YLP formed groups because they only needed a grant from the government, but withdrew immediately after receiving the money (Allan et al., 2023).

Therefore, these groups cannot survive to achieve their goals. This policy brief recognizes that teamwork is critical to the success of youth financial services. However, for the group budget model to be effective, actual group members must consider the group formation process, member interests, group cohesion, and group enrollment.

Harry J. et al. (2007) explored the subsequent effects of "the economic costs of poverty in the United States" on the development of poor children.

In this article, we review rigorous research that estimates the average relationship between children growing up in poverty and their income, crime, and consumption. We also examine the estimated economic costs of crime and ill health per capita. We then compiled the total average cost of a child in poverty for all children living in the United States.

Estimates of the total cost of child poverty to the US economy. Our results show value for America

Child poverty-related income amounts to approximately US\$500 billion per year, equivalent to around 4% of GDP (Frank et al., 2023).

Antai, A. et al. (2014) researched the National Poverty Eradication Program and Poverty Reduction program in Nigeria. This study examines the impact of the National Poverty Eradication Program on poverty reduction in Cross River State (Godfrey et al., 2017).

ibid, 2023). Two main themes were developed to conduct this study and primary data were obtained from 361 participants of state government's cash transfer policies.

Methodology

A descriptive research method was used in this study as it assists researchers in determining how the phenomenon occurs and whether there is a relationship between the Youth Livelihood Program (YLP) and poverty reduction. A descriptive questionnaire is also recommended, as it encourages the use of a cross-sectional approach during the study, which helps to get a complete picture. This study collected data from the field using both quantitative and qualitative methods; this method is a quantitative method that includes the use of questionnaires and qualitative models that include the use of interviews.

Using the Krejcie & Morgan (1970) sample size, a sufficient number of 272 samples were obtained for this study. Size tables allow researchers to determine sample size for those given with 95% accuracy.

Gather information from young people using surveys. The method of the survey enables researchers to collect the data of the respondents in a short time, and at the same time eliminates the fear that the respondents can easily collect their own data. The interview program was designed and used to obtain qualitative information from local leaders.

These people are interviewed because they have more information about the research problem. Interviews help find more information not captured by the survey.

Discussion

The findings suggest that youth lifestyles can be incorporated into training sessions and workshops. The findings are supported by Tukundane (2015), who reported that the Ugandan government recognized that youth participation in early life and employment (eg Skills Uganda, Youth Enterprise Scheme, Youth Venture Capital Fund) faced many challenges.

The survey shows that skilled workers such as CDOs and local leaders are participating in training. They argue that this is the responsibility of CDOs and other local leaders such as LCI, LCII, LCIII presidents and city leaders, as the Ministry of Justice and Development has told CDOs and local leaders to educate young people on what government should do. prepares young Engineering users for training (Mark et al., 2023). These findings are supported by Noah (2021), who states that YLP is administered by the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MGLSD) and is used by local and regional governments.

The assessment is guided by the theory of change and adopts a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. The results of the Mission 2 study show that income growth is another indicator of poverty reduction among youth in the Hima region. Young people can increase their income when they have a job. The findings are consistent with Iniguez-Montiel (2014), who argues that there is substantial evidence that inequality in income distribution is not good for economic growth or does not reduce poverty. Experience shows that if a country develops a model of empowerment and investment to increase income through better health and education, the poor benefit from more current consumption and future income.

The results of the study show that Youth Livelihood Program groups are engaged in income generating activities in agriculture, services, vocational skills, commercial agro-industry (value-added), creative industries, agroforestry and ICT. The findings are similar to those of the Youth Livelihoods Program (YLP) (Noah, 2021), which stated that it provides support to young people in the form of transfer credits to start building skills and employment income.

Conclusions

The researcher also concludes Youths beneficiaries need to be taught much on capital investment decisions by the Government. This should involves identifying such

projects or assets to invest in and generate returns from them. Besides, these decisions significantly affect the profitability and stability of the project.

The researcher also concludes that Money should be given to the youths in full amount according to their budgets because many youths have struggled a lot with this poultry project because they are not given enough money.

The researcher concludes that new policy regarding youth livelihood program funds should be formulated for example funds under this program should be put at parish level to avoid delays in giving the money to the youths for their programmes that reduce poverty reduction. In addition, the government should decentralize the funds under youth livelihood program up to parish level.

References

- Allan, K., Charles, N., Moses, N., Kazaara, A. G., & Nelson, K. (2023). *The Effect of Operation Wealth Creation on Youth Farmers Development: A Case Study of Labongo Layamo Sub County, Kitgum District*. 7(2), 50-63.
- Collins, A., Kazaara, A. G., & Kazaara, A. I. (2023). *Agricultural Loans and Farmer's Livelihood in Uganda a Case Study of Nyakayojo Sub County in Mbarara District*. 7(3), 40-46.
- Faridah, K., Jacob, K., Barigye, G. B., Kazaara, A. G., & Nelson, K. (2023). *The Role of the Non-Government Organizations in Poverty Alleviation in Uganda: A Case Study of Bugiri Municipality Local Government*. 7(2), 99-111.
- Frank, M., Nelson, K., Kazaara, A. G., Deus, T., Christopher, F., & Catherine, M. (2023). *The Macroeconomic Determinants of Economic Growth in Uganda a Case Study of Wakiso District*. 7(2), 147-159.
- Godfrey, S., Matovu, K., & Ismail, L. (2023). *Effect Of Youth Unemployment and Crime Rates in Uganda, A Case Study of Mityana District*. 7(3), 325-334.
- Moses, T., Geophrey, M., Kazaara, A. G., Deus, T., & Ruth, N. (2023). *Impacts of Rice Growing to the Socio-Economic Transformation of Communities, a Case Study of Mazimasa Sub County Butaleja District*. 7(3), 220-226.

-
- Murendo, C., Wollni, M., De Brauw, A., & Mugabi, N. (2018). *Social Network Effects on Mobile Money Adoption in Uganda*. *Journal of Development Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00220388.2017.1296569>
- Nelson, K., & Christopher, F. (2022). *Determinants of Youth Unemployment in Uganda a Case Study of Kampala District*. 6(6), 34-44.
- Oliver, E., Peter, S., Kazaara, A. G., Nelson, K., Nicholas, K., & Deus, T. (2023). *The Effect of Unemployment Relates to Crime Among the People in Kirombe North B Village, Lira City. A Case Study Kirombe North B Village*. 7(2), 111-122.
- Oromo, O. D., Julius, A., & Nelson, K. (2023). *Effect of Covid-19 Lockdown on Household Income in Uganda A Case Study of Kitoro Parish, Entebbe Municipality*. 7(4), 107-117.
- Shamim, N., Rebecca, N., Kazaara, A. G., Deus, T., & Nicholas, K. (2023). *The Effect of Defilement on The Girl Child Education in Uganda. A Case Study of Bufumbira Sub County Kalangala District*. 7(3), 232-239.
- Vincent, S., & Peter, M. (2023). *Examining The Relationship Between Poverty and Early Marriages Among School Going Girls - A Case Study Of Kimanya Sub County*. 7(4), 170-175.
- Zulaikah, W., & Rebecca, N. (2023). *The Study on the Effect of Child Labour on the Learners Academic Performance in Secondary Schools. A Case Study of Nansana Municipality*. 7(3), 160-167.
- Mark, N., Kazaara, A. G., Deus, T., Julius, A., Nelson, K., Catherine, M., Christopher, F., Benefansi, I., & Alex, K. (2023). *Anaylsis of Students ' Enrollment and Graduation Rates in Gulu University in Uganda . A Case Study of Gulu University*. 7(2), 167-177.