
ASSESSING THE INFLUENCE OF CHILD NEGLECT ON CHILD SCHOOL DROPOUT IN UGANDA: A CASE STUDY OF NAMUGOONA, KAMPALA CAPITAL AUTHORITY

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ABSTRACT

This Study Was Carried Out to examine the Influence of Child Neglect on Child School Dropout in Uganda in Namugooona, Kampala Capital Authority. To assess the relationship between Child Neglect and Child School Dropout in Uganda. To identify the effects of child neglect on children's behaviors in Namugooona, Kampala Capital Authority. To identify the remedies to Child neglect in Namugooona Kampala Capital Authority. A total of 80 respondents and the study applied both qualitative and quantitative research designs where interviews, questionnaires and observation methods of data collection were used. Data was collected from both primary and secondary sources. Data were processed and analyzed using formal tables, pie charts, graphs, narrative text. It also included the data presentation, analysis and interpretation as well as summery of findings, recommendation and conclusion. From the findings, the items were generally accepted as the score for each item was above the decision rule whereby respondents who strongly agreed as 50%, 25% greed, 25% disagree and 25% strongly disagreed. The negative behavioral indicators of child abuse and neglect included; unusual aggression or anger, flinch when touched, stealing or begging, poor self-esteem and various delinquent behaviors. Parents and guardians should ensure that the basic needs such as adequate food, clothing and shelter are provided for their wards. Also, they should ensure that their wards do not engage in menial jobs that was denied access to adequate learning.

Key words: child neglect, child school dropout, parents and guardians

Background of the Study

Education is a tool for social, psychological and economic development by creating positive values and attitudes for proper development. Brown, Johnson. (2014). Child neglect, abuse and its consequences (such as child abuse) can hinder this development. (Brown, Johnson.

(2014), the statement “child is the father of man” accepts that the quality of today's children determines the quality of tomorrow's people (Mercy et al., 2023). This study was conducted by researchers who highlighted the large number of school-age children walking on the street during school hours. Koch, J. (2006).

They swallow, wash cars, beg for food, etc. These behaviors deprive children of their right to education (Pauline, 2023). In Uganda, children cry for freedom; freedom from oppression and oppression; freedom to go to school; freedom to make decisions that affect their lives; their rights as human beings they want.

They do not deserve to be abused or abused (Kotch, J. (2006)) because they are unaware of the dangers they will face and their future development will be abused, and neglect can have a significant impact on all aspects of a child or adolescent. development including physical, mental, cognitive, behavioral and social development Volunteering leads to better education and quality of life (Victoria et al., 2023).

Problem Statement

Education creates the aspirations of students, teachers, and schools to achieve their educational goals; however, the degree to which students realize this desire while studying varies from person to person. Child neglect has been observed to increase in Uganda today, mainly due to economic pressures from the global economy and conflict/civil incompatibility. How is education so low, children drop out of school due to neglect/abuse (Christopher et al., 2022). However, the government, through its institutions and authorities, has tried to solve this problem by implementing different policies and laws to protect children, for example (Sub- County et al.

, 2023), the Children's Rights Act and the 1995 Ugandan Constitution. According to a Human Rights Watch (2018) report, despite government and civil society efforts to tackle child neglect within the family, the rate of neglect and abuse in Ugandan families remains high, prompting researchers to investigate the issue. Incidence of Child Neglect and Child Abandonment in Namugooona, Rubaga District, Kampala Capital Authority (Victor et al., 2023).

Objectives of the study

1. To assess the relationship between Child Neglect and Child School Dropout in Uganda
2. To identify the effects of child neglect on children's behaviors in Namugooona, Kampala Capital Authority.
3. To identify the remedies to Child neglect in Namugooona Kampala Capital Authority.

Research Questions

1. What is the relationship between Child Neglect on Child School Dropout in Uganda?
2. What are the causes of child neglect on children's behaviors in Namugooona, Kampala Capital Authority?
3. Does child neglect affect the academic performance of a child in Namugooona, Kampala Capital Authority?

Methodology

Research Design

The study employed the descriptive design, since child neglect and Child School Dropout can be described easily, in the collection of data, the research design is preferred because it enabled the researcher systematically collect and present data

to give a clear picture regarding child neglect over Child School Dropout. Quantitative data was be used because they involved carrying out interviews and conducting group discussions. Under quantitative method, questionnaires were used to establish the parties affected and how they are affected. The design of the study enabled the researcher to examine influence of child neglect and Child School Dropout: A case study of Namugoona Rubaga Division, Kampala Capital Authority.

Population of the Study

Burgess (2001:4) defines a population as simply all the members of a group of interest. The study was conducted within Namugoona Rubaga Division, Kampala Capital Authority therefore, the study population was comprised of 100 respondents, the students, community members NGOs and local leaders.

Sample Size

From the proposed study, the actual total number of the 80 respondents was interviewed. They were as 55 Students, 10 Community members, 10 NGO representatives, and 5 local leaders

Sample Technique

Simple random sampling technique was used to select the population under study. Key information was purposively sampled because they have information and knowledge in the area of the study.

Sample Procedure

The researcher was first defined the population, listed the elements of the population, determined an appropriate sampling methodology, decided an adequate sample size and selected a representative sample of 80 respondents. Simple random sampling shall also be used to select the sample basically intending to minimize bias so as to attain the purpose of the study and to save time.

Data Collection Methods

Instruments in order to achieve the objective of this study, the researcher shall use the following methods of data collection to get information on influence of child neglect and Child School Dropout in the area of the study. The method generated enough information so as to make conclusions. (1) The questionnaires were administered to local leaders, government officials and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) members so as to get more sensitive information about the issue of child neglect.

Data Processing

After the data collection, qualitative data shall be obtained from the interview and then be coded. Quantitative data shall also be coded and tabulated on a scale and was entered in the computer using Statistical Package for Social Scientist (SPSS) (Nelson et al., 2022). Data analysis involved arranging, sorting and organizing data and later attach meaning to create a sensible meaning that reflects the findings Patton (1987). This study involved quantitative data and it was analyzed in its form.

RESULTS**Table 1: Response Rate for Field Survey**

Questionnaire	Copies	Percentage (%)
<i>Administered</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>100.0</i>
<i>Returned</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>100.00</i>
<i>Returned and used</i>	<i>80</i>	<i>100.00</i>

Source; Field Survey, 2022.

4.2 Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretations

Data collected for this study are presented and analyze according to respondent's personal data and research questions/hypotheses.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents according to Age of respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
5-15	16	20.0
15-26	27	33.75
26-36	20	25.0
36-46	10	12.5
46-56	5	6.25
56+	2	1.25
Total	80	100

Source; Field Survey, 2022

The table presents the distribution of respondents according to their ages. The table shows that 16 of respondents who constitute 20.0% were between the Ages of 5-15 age, 27 respondents who constitute 33.75% were between the ages of 15-36 Age, while 20 Respondents and who constitute 25.0% were between the ages of 36-46, 10 respondents constitute 12.5% where between 36-46 Age of respondents, 5 respondents and who constitutes 6.25% where between 46-56 Age and 2 respondents who constitutes 1.25% where between 56+ of Age. This shows that the sample was adequately represented by respondents of different Age brackets thus, and basing on the table 2 above it implies that 27 of 33.75% where the majority because the research involved many students thus the youth who are the best victim of child neglect in schools and homes.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents according to Sex of respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
<i>Male</i>	37	46.25
<i>Female</i>	43	53.75
Total	80	100

Source; Field Survey, 2022

The table represents the distribution of respondents according to their sex. The table shows that 80 respondents where both male and female whereby 37 were male who constitute 46.25% while 43 respondents who constitute 53.75% were female. This shows that the sample covers all gender categories and is capable of showing if there are any discrepancies in opinion base on gender. According to the table 3 above it was found that female where most dominated respondent as well as concerned in child neglect matters compared to male who constituted 46.25% as indicated above.

Table 4: Distribution of Respondents according to Child neglect Status of Pupils

Child Abuse Status of Pupil		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	<i>I am currently being abused</i>	35	43.75	43.75	43.75
	<i>I was once abused</i>	24	30	30	30
	<i>I have never been abused</i>	21	26.25	26.25	100.0
	Total	80	100.0	100.0	

Source; Field Survey, 2022

The table represents the distribution of respondents according to their child abuse status. The table shows that 80 pupils who constitute 43.75% are currently being abused, 80 pupils who constitute 30% were once abused while 80 pupils who constitute 26.25% have never being abused. This shows that the sample covers pupils from different social conditions and is capable to if there exist discrepancies in opinion base on child abuse status.

Table 5: Distribution of Respondents according to Years of Teaching Experience of Teachers

Years of Teaching Experience of Teacher		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	1-5 Yrs	32	40.00	40.00	40.00
	6-10 yrs	30	37.5	37.5	37.5
	11 Yrs & above	18	22.5	22.5	100.0
	Total	80	100.0	100.0	

Source; Field Survey, 2022

The table presents the distribution of respondents according to their years of teaching experiences. The table shows that 32 teachers who constitute 40.00% have teaching experience of 1-5 years, 30 teachers who constitute 37.5% have teaching experience of 6-10 years, while 18 teachers who constitute 22.00% teaching experience of 11 years and above. This shows that the sample was adequately represented by teachers who have enough teaching experience and have interact with pupils for over time to understand their feelings thus, can attend adequately to the items of the questionnaire as regards the subject matter.

What are the various forms of abuse and neglect experienced by students in secondary school

Table 6: Mean responses of respondents regarding the various forms of abuse and neglect experienced by students in secondary school

No.	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD		DECISION
1.	<i>Inflicting of external and/ or internal injury on the child</i>	40	26	14	0	80	Accepted
2.	<i>Shaming and humiliating the child in school, and other public places</i>	35	26	19	0	80	Accepted
3.	<i>Using derogatory words and/or calling the child hurtful names</i>	33	27	20	0	80	Accepted
4.	<i>Treating the child as unlovable or as a bad child</i>	45	22	13	0	80	Accepted
5.	<i>Provision of inadequate food, clothing and shelter to survive</i>	46	17	17	0	80	Accepted
6.	<i>Denied access to health care</i>	49	39	8		80	Accepted
7.	<i>Denied access to education</i>	50	14	16	0	80	Accepted
9.	<i>Child trafficking and prostitution</i>	34	26	20	0	80	Accepted
10.	<i>Children sexually abused by close relatives</i>	55	16	9	0	80	Accepted

Source: **Primary Data, 2022**

According to the table above indicates that all the items were accepted based on the decision rule. Item 1 to 10 yielded a mean which is above 2.5. From these analyses one can deduce that it is universally accepted that all the items afore-mentioned in table one is forms of abuse and neglect practiced in Mulango. These forms of abuse can be categorized under; physical abuse, emotional abuse, neglect and sexual abuse.

In what ways does child abuse influence negatively the behavior of children?

Table 7: Mean responses of respondents regarding the way's child abuse influences negatively the behavior of children.

No.	ITEMS	SA		A		D		SD	Total	DECISION	
1.	Being afraid or reluctant to go home, or might run away	40	50%	20	25%	20	25%	0	100		Accepted
2.	Showing unusual aggression, rages or tantrums	46	76%	28	35%	24	30%	0	100		Accepted
3.	Stealing or begging in order to solve personal needs	38	48%	46	58%	12	15%		100		Accepted
4.	Withdrawn from family, friends and activities previously enjoyed	32	40	30	38%	18	23%		100		Accepted
5.	Having poor self esteem	34		27		13			100		Accepted

Source: Primary Data, 2022

As shown in table two above, the items were generally accepted as the score for each item was above the decision rule whereby respondents who strongly agreed as 50%, 25% agreed, 25% disagree and 25% strongly disagreed. The negative behavioral indicators of child abuse and neglect include; unusual aggression or anger, flinch when touched, stealing or begging, poor self-esteem and various delinquent behaviors.

How does child abuse affect the academic performance of children involved?

Table 8: Mean responses of respondents regarding how child abuse affects the academic performance of children involved.

No	ITEMS	SA		A		D		SD	Total	DECISION	
1.	Children exposed to abuse are at increased risk of educational underachievement, including lower verbal and math scores	44	50%	28	5%	14	25%	0	100		Accepted
2.	Abused children have higher rates of absenteeism from school than non-abused peers	46	76%	28	35%	24	30%	0	100		Accepted
3.	Abused children are at substantially higher risk than non-abused children of repeating a class	38	48%	46	58%	12	15%		100		Accepted
4.	Abused children are at increased risk of dropping out	32	40	30	38%	18	23%		100		Accepted
5.	of school before secondary school graduation	34		27		13			100		Accepted
	Abused children are more likely to be referred for special education services	35	45.8	23	28.8	22	27.5%		100		Accepted
	Abused children are more likely than	38	47.5	24	30	18	22.5%		100		

	<i>their peers to exhibit poor social skills and classroom behavior problems</i>										Accepted
	<i>A child's risk of poor academic functioning is substantially heightened by multiple victimizations</i>	33	41.3	26	32.3	21	26.3%		100		Accepted

Source: Primary data, 2022

From the above table, all the items are above there were accepted by the respondents that they can influence of the academic performance, child neglect influencing the academic performance in table was revealed that if the above factors are maintained there is a possibility of reducing child neglect among the families and improve education. Thus, accepted, which shows that children exposed to abuse are at increased risk of educational underachievement, including lower verbal and math scores; absenteeism from school; repetition of class; dropping out of school before secondary school graduation; etc. This is a clear indication that child abuse and neglect lead to poor academic performance of abused student.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that the services of guidance counselors should be intensified in the secondary schools in order to help the abused students. Secondly, parents and guardians should ensure that the basic needs such as adequate food, clothing and shelter are provided for their wards. Also, they should ensure that their wards do not engage in menial jobs that was denied access to adequate learning.

Conclusion

The study is intended to establish the perception of students on the effect of child neglect on the academic performance of secondary school students in Mulango. The effects of child abuse and neglect vary depending on the type of abuse and neglect, duration, perpetrator, and child. Children may be impacted academically, behaviorally, emotionally, and/or socially from child abuse and neglect, and the effects of abuse often persist into adulthood. Because of the devastating effects that abuse and neglect can have on children, it is important for educators to recognize abuse and have the courage and motivation to advocate for the child's safety.

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