

**POVERTY AND EARLY CHILD PREGNANCIES IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.A CASE STUDY OF
KYOTERA DISTRICT KIRUMBA SUB-COUNTY**

Ssekiziyivu Jim Ivan¹, Babirye Shamirah²

1, 2 Metropolitan International University

Abstract

The study aimed at poverty and early child pregnancies in rural communities with a case study of kyotera district kirumba sub-county and it was guided by the following objectives; To determine the demographic characteristics of respondents in kirumba sub-county, to explore the causes of poverty in families kirumba sub—County Kyotera District, to examine the extent to which poverty leads to early child pregnancies in kirumba sub -County Kyotera district and to explore strategies that can reduce poverty and early child pregnancies in kirumba sub -County Kyotera district. A case study design on both qualitative and quantitative aspects were used. This method was Preferred because it is an ideal method that eases the collection of information from the respondents at both individual and group levels. The researcher used both use both a descriptive and explanatory design. A population refers to individually or elements that the researcher interface with. For the purpose of this study the target population includes the residents of two villages located near the Kirumba sub county this is estimated to the tune of 80 people. The study findings on whether there is poverty prevalence at house hold level in kirumba sub-County, kyotera district. The findings revealed that 63.3% of the respondents agreed with the responses, 23.3% disagreed and 13.4% were not sure. The findings implied that poverty highly affected the maternal health conditions of women in kirumba sub-county. There is need for the girl child to be given more opportunity for higher levels of education since most women were seen illiterate which created problems in their families. There is need to strengthen and support poverty eradication programs so as to reduce the level of poverty among families.

Key words: poverty, early child pregnancies and rural communities

Background to the study

According to Robert H. Layer et al. (2002) poverty is a condition where income is insufficient to provide such basic necessities as food, shelter (Godfrey et al., 2023), medical care and clothing. According to the Oxfam report on poverty (1995), in every society the poor live shorter and less healthy lives than those who are better off (Richard, 2022). Insecurity and vulnerability behind this grim reality have many causes that hinder the provision of health care, education (Anthony et al., 2023). More than two-thirds of young people had sex during their teenage years. Save the Children found that 13 million babies are born to women under the age of 20 worldwide each year, more than 90% of them in developing countries (Suzan & Kazaara, 2023). Complications of pregnancy and childbirth are the main cause of mortality for women aged 15 to 19 in these areas (Jac & Kazaara, 2023). The highest rate of teenage pregnancy in the world is in sub-Saharan Africa, where women tend to marry at an early age. With 25 percent of adolescent girls becoming pregnant before the age of 19, Uganda has one of the highest rates of adolescent pregnancy in sub-Saharan Africa (Vincent & Peter, 2023). The country's high teen pregnancy rate has two distinct implications. First, the risk of

maternal death is higher in adolescents than in older women. The Ugandan Government Demographic and Health Survey shows that there is higher morbidity and mortality among pregnant teenagers and their children (John et al., 2023). According to the report Protecting the Next Generation in Uganda: New Evidence on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs, published by the Guttmacher Institute in 2008, only 34% of girls and 22% of boys between the ages of 12 and 14 received sex education at school (Brighton and coll., 2023). All this is attributed to poverty and economic strife, which cause inadequacies in providing for the requirements of adolescents. The Ugandan government has taken measures to address teenage pregnancy (John et al., 2023). These policies set clear goals and are aimed at protecting young girls from unplanned pregnancy. Kirumba sub-district located in kyotera district of central Uganda, an area that has been infested with war in previous years, will be researched to determine the magnitude of poverty and its contribution to teenage pregnancy as a point of action by the necessary stakeholders. in fighting and reducing the vices of poverty and premature child pregnancies (Christopher & Micheal, 2022).

Statement of the problem

It should be noted that poverty has negative effects on children. In the 1990s, the poor became even poorer, as evidenced by the famine that struck in 1997, causing death, malnutrition and family suffering (Faridah et al., 2023). Poverty is the order of the day on the African continent. Most people are poor and live in rural areas (Jac & Kazaara, 2023). Most states have not addressed this problem, which has culminated in several other problems such as illiteracy, disease, malnutrition, infant and maternal mortality, especially early child pregnancies. The gap between the rich and the poor is still too wide (Joventa et al., 2023). This has therefore escalated the problems of the poor, for example, the number of teenage pregnancies is increasing due to early graduation from high school and failure to provide adequate care for teenagers in families, child deaths during. However, information on the forms, causes, effects and extent of the effects of poverty affects children in all walks of life and therefore the researcher intends to conduct this research in kirumba sub-county (Tumusabe Ezera et al., 2022).

Objectives of the study

- To determine the demographic characteristics of respondents in kirumba sub-county
- To explore the causes of poverty in families kirumba sub—county Kyotera District
- To examine the extent to which poverty leads to early child pregnancies in kirumba sub -County Kyotera district.
- To explore strategies that can reduce poverty and early child pregnancies in kirumba sub -County Kyotera district.

Methodology

A case study design on both qualitative and quantitative aspects were used. This method was Preferred because it is an ideal method that eases the collection of information from the respondents at both individual and group levels. The researcher used both use both a descriptive and explanatory design. A population refers to individually or elements that the researcher interface with. For the purpose of this study the target population includes the residents of two villages located near the Kirumba sub county this is estimated to the tune of 80 people. This are the potential respondents that helped in providing data. The estimated number of respondents to the tune of 60 were chosen for the purpose of this study. The researcher used random sampling method so as to ease the process of information and data collection because the area seemed to be wide. The researcher personally administered the questions to the respondents and collect them after a set interval of time. The questions comprised of open- ended and closed- ended questions that require respondents to answer all questions to the best of their knowledge and the information was obtained from both male and female above 20 years of age were within the sample Population. Data analysis was done in accordance with the principles of data management using SPSS (Nelson et al., 2022).

Received: 15.11.2023

Accepted: 19.11.2023

Published on: 30.11.2023

RESULTS

Table 1: Showing whether there is poverty prevalence at house hold level in kirumba Sub County

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	38	63.3
No	14	23.3
Not sure	8	13.4
Total	60	100

Source: Primary Data, September, 2022

The study findings on whether there is poverty prevalence at house hold level in kirumba sub-County, kyotera district. The findings reveal that 63.3% of the respondents agreed with the responses, 23.3% disagreed and 13.4% were not sure. The findings imply that poverty highly affect the maternal health conditions of women in kirumba sub-county.

Table 2: Showing the level of Household poverty in kirumba sub-county, kyotera district

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
High	30	50.0
Low	20	33.3
Very Low	10	16.7
Total	60	100

Source: Primary Data, September, 2022

Table 2 presents that 30(50%) of the respondents agreed that to the level of Household poverty in Kirumba sub-county, kyotera district, 20 (33.3%) agree that the house hold poverty is high 10 (16.7%) of the respondents were for no extent. This implies that whereas other factors influence maternal health conditions other factors are into play to explain the same (Christopher & Micheal, 2022).

Causes of house hold poverty in kirumba sub-county.

Received: 15.11.2023

Accepted: 19.11.2023

Published on: 30.11.2023

Table 3: Showing responses on the causes of house hold poverty in kirumba sub-county

Causes of household poverty	Percentage	Frequency
Lack of a strong market economy	6	10
Lack of technical and human skills	11	18.3
Limited income generating opportunities	13	21.6
AIDS scourge	10	6
Cultural traditions and practices	7	1
Land shortages	9	15
Over population	8	13.3
Total	60	
100		

Source: Primary data, September, 2022

The study findings on the causes of house hold poverty in kirumba sub-county, kyotera district. The Findings were that many respondents agree that there are several causes of household poverty in Kirumba sub-county. The findings were that lack of a strong market economy had 16.7% of the Respondents; Lack of technical and human skills had 18.3% of the respondents, Limited income Generating opportunities had 21.6% of the respondents, AIDS scourge had 10% of the respondents, Cultural traditions and practices had 11.7% of the respondents, Land shortages had 15% of the respondents and over population had 13.3% of the respondents. The findings imply that poverty accounts to poor maternal health conditions of women in kirumba sub-county.

Extents to which poverty leads to early child pregnancies in kirumba sub-County kyotera District.

Table 4: Showing responses on whether poverty contributes to the early child pregnancies in Kirumba sub-county

Received: 15.11.2023

Accepted: 19.11.2023

Published on: 30.11.2023

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	40	66.7
No	12	20.0
Not sure	8	13.3
Total	60	100

Source: Primary data, September, 2022

The study findings on whether poverty affects the maternal health conditions in kirumba sub

County were that 66.7% of the respondents were in agreement, 20% of the respondents disagreed,

13.3% of the respondents were not sure. This implies that poverty highly account for poor Conditions of women's maternal health.

Table 5: Showing how poverty affect the early child pregnancies in kirumba sub—county

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Lack of health materials	23	38.3
Improper treatment for teenagers	10	16.7
Poor medical and psychological venture for children	12	20.0
Poor feeding	09	15.0
Poor state of child bringing	06	10.0
Total	60	100

Source: Primary data, September, 2022

The study findings on how poverty affects early child pregnancies in kirumba sub-county. The findings were that Lack of health materials had 38.3% of the respondents agreed, improper treatment for children had 16.7%, poor medical and psychological venture for children 20%, poor feeding had 15% of the respondents and Poor state of

child bringing had 10% of the respondents (Faridah et al., 2023). The findings imply that poverty affects the maternal health conditions of women in Kirumba sub-county.

Table 6: Showing responses on other factors contribute to early child pregnancies in kirumba Sub—county.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Poor health education system	20	33.3
Lack guidance and counseling	15	25.0
Poor local administration	14	23.3
High degree of domestic violence	11	18.3
Total	60	100

Source: Primary data, September, 2021

The study findings on the other factors that contribute to teenage pregnancy in kirumba sub

County, kyotera district, the findings were that poor education systems account for 33.3% of the respondents, lack of counseling and guidance for 25% of the respondents (Oromo et al., 2023), poor local level Administration had 23.3% of the respondents and high degree of domestic violence had 18.3% of the respondents. The findings imply that though poverty account for poor maternal health conditions of women in kirumba sub-county, other factors too contribute to the poor health conditions of women.

Table 7: Strategies that can be adopted to combat poverty for maternal health improvement in Kyotera district

Responses	Frequency	percentage
Yes	23	38.3
No	17	28.3
Not sure	20	33.4
Total	60	100

Source: Primary Data, September, 2021

From the table 7 above on the strategies that have been adopted to combat poverty for maternal health improvement in kyotera district. The findings were that 38.3% of the respondents agreed, 28.3% disagreed while 33.4% were not sure (Mark et al., 2023). The findings imply that there has been a strategy though to a small extent implying that less is being done to combat poverty and maternal health conditions (Ntirandekura, 2022).

Table 8: Responses on what else should be done to combat poverty for reduced early child pregnancies in kirumba sub-County

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Create a framework for economic transformation	15	25
There is need for provision adequate health environment	30	50.0
There is need for political intervention on teenage pregnancy	10	16.7
Ensure effective education policy dissemination and implementation	5	8.3
TOTAL	60	100%

Source: Primary data, September 2022

The study findings on responses on what else should be done to combat poverty for maternal health improvement in kirumba sub-county, kyotera district. The findings were that there is need to create a framework for economic transformation had 25% of the respondents, there is need for provision adequate health environment had 50% of the respondents, there is need for political intervention on early child pregnancies had 16.7% of the respondents and ensures effective education policy dissemination and implementation had 8.3% of the respondents (Jac & Kazaara, 2023). The findings imply that there is need for adoption of further factors to improve the state of women health in Kirumba sub-county.

Conclusion

The study was to conduct an inquiry into poverty and its effects on early child pregnancies in Kirumba sub- county, kyotera district central Uganda. The study was set to establish causes of poverty in families' kirumba sub—County kyotera District, extent to which poverty leads to early child pregnancies in kirumba sub — County kyotera district

Received: 15.11.2023

Accepted: 19.11.2023

Published on: 30.11.2023

and strategies that can reduce poverty and early child pregnancies in kirumba sub — County kyotera district. The findings were that house hold poverty (Richard et al., 2022). The findings were that many respondents agree that there are several causes of household poverty in kirumba sub-county. The findings were that lack of a strong market economy had 16.7% of the respondents; lack of technical and human skills had 18.3% of the respondents, limited income generating opportunities had 21.6% of the respondents, AIDS scourge had 10% of the respondents, cultural traditions and practices had 11 .7% of the respondents, land shortages had 15% of the respondents and over population had 13.3% of the respondents (Richard et al., 2023).

Poverty affects teenage pregnancy in kirumba sub-county. The findings were that Lack of health materials had 38.3% of the respondents agreed, improper treatment for children had 16.7%, poor medical and psychological venture for children 20%, poor feeding had 15% of the respondents and Poor state of child bringing had 10% of respondents. The findings were that their strategies adopted to combat poverty for maternal health improvement. The responses were that Health service extension had 2%% of the respondents, establishment of village health teams 20% of the respondents, there has been sensitization on maternal health 26.7% of the respondents, encouraging women hospital birth had 20% of the respondents and the prevalence of antenatal care had 8.3% (Cand et al., 2022).

Recommendations

There is need for the girl child to be given more opportunity for higher levels of education since most women were seen illiterate which created problems in their families. There is need to strengthen and support poverty eradication programs so as to reduce the level of poverty among families.

It is vital to impose population control policies so as to ensure that women produce children that they can easily support. And immunization programs should be put in place so as to do away with communicable diseases that escalated child mortality. There is need to have sensitization programs by qualified medical personnel about balanced diet so as to ensure that women are made aware of the food to feed their children for good health. And also, there is need to put up more hospitals and health centers with qualified personnel. Should be put in place so as to have good birth attendances for the women.

References

Anthony, D., Kazaara, A. G., Kazaara, A. I., Ismail, L., & Prudence, K. (2023). *The Impact of Teachers' Teaching Methods on Students' Performance in English Subject in Secondary Schools In Uganda, A Case Study Of Selected Secondary Schools In Kampala & Wakiso*. 7(3), 290–297.

- Brighton, B., Deus, T., Kazaara, A. G., Nelson, K., Catherine, M., Christopher, F., & Benefansi, I. (2023). *The Effect of Covid-19 Pandemic on the Education System and Institutions in Wakiso District. A Case Study of Gombe Sub County*. 7(2), 30–36.
- Cand, A. R., Ijeoma, P., Blessing, A., Janice, A. B., & James, T. (2022). *Students' Sick-Role Behavior and Course Completion in Public and Private Universities in Uganda*. 6(6), 125–126. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10578-014.Patterson>
- Christopher, F., & Micheal, M. (2022). *The Role of Tourism on Poverty Reduction of People: A Case Study of Magambo Sub County in Rubirizi District*. 6(5), 23–29.
- 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.
- 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.
- Jac, T., & Kazaara, A. I. (2023). *Analyzing the Impact of Health Education on Maternal Mortality Rate in Uganda: A Case Study of Kampala District*. 7(3), 148–153.
- John, K., Rebecca, N., Kazaara, G., & Deus, T. (2023). *Examining The Influence Of Early Pregnancy On School Dropout In Communities A Case Study Of Luwero District*. 7(3), 162–171.
- Joventa, K., Kazaara, A. G., & Kazaara, A. I. (2023). *Assessing the Impact of Early Marriage on Girl Child Education in Uganda a Case Study of Nyankwanzi Sub-County, Kyejono District*. 7(3), 183–190.
- 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.
- Nelson, K., Christopher, F., & Milton, N. (2022). *Teach Yourself Spss and Stata*. 6(7), 84–122.
- Ntirandekura, M. (2022). *Vocational Skill Training and Economic Development among Women in Butanda Sub County, Rubanda District*. 6(6), 73–77.
- 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.

Richard, A. (2022). *Sleep Among Students in Public and Private Universities in*. 6(6), 24–25.

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10578-014.Patterson>

Richard, A., B, A. I., Janice, B., Omolaja, M., & James, T. (2022). *Course completion among the students in Public and Private Universities in Uganda*. 6(7), 47–48.

Richard, A., Deus, T., James, T., Ijeoma, A., & Janice, B. (2023). *The impacts of using music instruments on learning in post- secondary institutions in Uganda*. 7(3), 35–39.

Suzan, W., & Kazaara, A. G. (2023). *The Impact of Western Education on Social Economic Development of Communities in Uganda - A Case Study of Wakiso Town Council Wakiso District*. 7(4), 185–191.

Tumusabe Ezera, Ntirandekura Moses, & Kazaara Gracious Ariyo. (2022). Parenting Styles and Children Behaviour among Adolescents in Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro District, Uganda. *International Journal of Academic Multidisciplinary Research (IJAMR)*, 6(10), 254–275.

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.