

***UNEMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH AMONG THE YOUTH IN KISORO  
DISTRICT: A CASE STUDY OF KISORO MUNICIPALITY***

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**ABSTRACT**

*The major objective of this study lied in finding out whether there was a relationship between Unemployment and Economic Growth among the youth in Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro District. Other objectives included: To find out the level of Unemployment among the youth in Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro District and to find out the level of Economic Growth in Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro District. The study employed a qualitative and quantitative research design and simple random probability sampling and purposive sampling techniques were used to obtain a sample size 80 respondents of from Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro District using solvin's formula. Data was analyzed by use of Microsoft excel and presented in form of graphs, frequency distribution tables and pie chart. SPSS Software was used to analyze data in the study.*

*The researcher found out that there is a strong positive relationship between Unemployment and Economic Growth at  $r = 0.705$ , this implies that the level of Unemployment greatly affects the level of Economic Growth of any area. This is because when people are not employed, they remain poor hence failing to meet their personal basic needs, this in turn makes them not to involve in activities that leads to the growth and development of their society which eventually retards/hinders economic growth of the area.*

*The researcher also concluded from the findings that the level of unemployment is high due to high*

*rates of gambling and illiteracy among the youth in the Kisoro Municipality.*

*Key words: **unemployment and economic growth***

### ***Background of the study***

*According to Balam (2006), the term unemployment refers to a situation where a person actively searches for employment but is unable to find work. Also, Dernberg & McDougal (1976), Unemployment is a term referring to individuals who are employable and actively seeking a job but are unable to find a job. Unemployment refers to the number of people who are available and looking for work but who are unable to find jobs (Hemming R., 1991). Unemployment is the condition of one who is capable of working, actively seeking work but unable to find any work (Echebiri, 2005). Unemployment is when a person who's actively seeking employment can't find work, but its effects go beyond any one individual looking for a job (Todaro M, 1992).*

*According to FAO (1995), Economic growth is an increase in the amount of goods and services produced per head of the population over a period of time. Also, Igbokwe, E.M. (2012), noted that Economic growth is measured as an increase of people's real income. Economic growth is defined as an increase in an economy's production capacity or potential GDP (Abraham, 2010). Economic growth is an increase in the production of economic goods and services, compared from one period of time to another. Economic growth is the process by which a nation's wealth increases over time Raji, A. (2006).*

*Youth employment is increasingly becoming a hot topic for the developing world where over one billion of the global population is aged between 15 and 24 (United Nations, 2019). The issue is*

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*particularly acute in sub-Saharan Africa where 60% of the population is <25 years. Concerning other countries, Uganda's demographic performance is interestingly ignorable. Currently, with 78% under the age of 30, Uganda has one of the youngest populations in the world. Certainly, the upside is the development potential in terms of youth contribution to economic growth. Unfortunately, the persistent and increasing youth unemployment in the country appears to have weakened this potential. For example, the unemployment rate for the youth aged 18–30 that stood at 4.5% in 2013 and 4.9% in 2015 has since more than doubled to 13.3% in 2016/17 compared to the decline in the national unemployment rate to 9.2% in 2016/17 from 11.1% in 2012/13 (Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS), 2017).*

*Indonesia's economic growth averaged 5.8% over the last decade. However, GDP growth has decelerated gradually since peaking at 6.5% in 2011 to 5.1% in 2014, its slowest since 2009. The more recent economic slowdown was partly policy driven, as the government acted to restrain domestic demand to rein in the current account deficit and inflation. The slowdown was sharper than anticipated as exports continued to shrink due to prolonged weak commodity prices. Private consumption continued to be a stable source of growth supported by Indonesia's growing middle income class. The contribution of public spending was modest as the government's fiscal space was eroded by untargeted subsidy spending. Investment picked up strongly and returned to the pre-Asian financial crisis level of 33% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2012, but its contribution weakened over 2013–2014 as growth prospects softened.*

***Statement of the problem***

*The problem lied in finding out whether there was a relationship between Unemployment and*

*Economic Growth among the youth in Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro District.*

***Specific objectives***

*To find out the level of Unemployment among the youth in Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro*

*District.*

*To find out the level of Economic Growth in Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro District.*

*To find out the relationship between Unemployment and Economic Growth among the youth in Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro District.*

***Research questions***

*What is the level of Unemployment among the youth in Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro District?*

*What is the level of Economic Growth in Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro District?*

*What is the relationship between Unemployment and Economic Growth among the youth in*

*Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro District?*

### ***Methodology***

#### ***Research design***

*Kumar (2005) defines a research design as a plan, structure, and strategy of investigation to obtain answers to research questions or problems.*

*The researcher employed a mixed approach of both qualitative and quantitative research designs to ensure valid data collection from the field in which data were expressed and interpreted both descriptively and numerically for in depth coverage of the study objectives. The researcher used these research designs to obtain, analyze, present and describe answers to some research questions in order to collect a more in-depth data from the field.*

#### ***Study population***

*This is the aggregation of elements from which sample is actually selected (Babbie, 2004). The target population for the study comprised of 100 residents of Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro District. This was correlated with Slovenes formula of sample size determination to obtain a sample population/sample size of 80 respondents for this study. The sample size of the respondents was divided as follows; 40 respondents were farmers, 38 respondents were traders who are mainly the*

*youth, LC1 Chairperson and a district planning officer.*

### ***Sampling procedures***

*Sampling procedure refers to choosing part of a population to use to test hypotheses about the entire population (Jowin, 2003). The procedures included simple random sampling and purposive sampling and were used to select respondents in the study.*

#### ***3.4.1 Sample size***

*A sample is a small subset of the total population (George & Mallery, 2003).*

*The study sample comprised of 80 respondents out of 100 of the total population where 40 respondents were farmers, 38 respondents were traders who are mainly the youth, LC1*

*Chairperson and a district planning officer.*

### ***Sampling techniques***

*Ahuja Ram (2010), defines sampling as the act or process of selecting a suitable sample of the population for the purpose of determining parameters of characteristics of the whole population, and these can be either probability or non- probability sampling techniques.*

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*Ahuja Ram (2010), defines sampling as the act or process of selecting a suitable sample of the population for the purpose of determining parameters of characteristics of the whole population, and these can be either probability or non- probability sampling techniques.*

### ***Simple random sampling***

*Simple random sampling is whereby the individuals in the total population have equal and independent chances of being selected as a member of a sample (Orodho, 2004).*

*The respondents in this study included farmers, traders, LC1 Chairperson and district planning officer. The LC1 Chairperson and a district planning officer were used as key respondents in the study. Simple random sampling was used to select respondents in the group of farmers and community members. A total of 40 farmers and 38 traders participated in the study and their selection involved simple random sampling and specific attention was paid to inclusion of both male and female respondents in the study area.*

### ***Purposive sampling***

*Purposive or judgmental sampling is a strategy in which particular settings persons or events are selected deliberately in order to provide important information that cannot be obtained from other choices (Maxwell, 1996).*

*Purposive sampling technique was used to select units into the sample which includes LC1*

*Chairperson and a district planning officer. This technique is based on characteristics of a*

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*population and the objective of the study. The researcher used this technique because it is very useful in situations when you need to reach a targeted sample quickly and where sampling for proportionality is not the main concern.*

*Purposive sampling is less costly, more readily accessible, more convenient and select only those individuals that are relevant to research design. Besides this, there is no way to ensure that the sample is truly representative of the population, and more emphasis is placed on the ability of the researcher to assess the elements of the population.*

#### ***Data collection methods and instruments***

##### ***Questionnaire***

*A questionnaire is a data collection tool which consists of a number of questions printed or typed in a defined order on a form or set of forms which are used by the researcher in collection of data from the field (Goode & Hatt, 2003). The researcher used the questionnaire as the major primary data collection in this study. The researcher prepared 38 questionnaires for traders, 40 for farmers, other for the key informants which includes the LC1 Chairperson and district planning officer to supplement the interview with the key informants and documentary review. All were written in English language because is the medium of instruction in most institutions. Under this questionnaire, it consisted of closed ended questions and additional remarks space. The entire questionnaires were instructed since they followed the pattern of set objectives and subsequent research questions. The respondents were assured of their confidentiality of the information provided to the researcher that used for academic purposely only.*

### ***Interviewing method***

*In this method, informed members were selected to inform the researcher about specific issues regarding the study. The instrument employed a key informative guide which includes questions on the specific objectives of the study. This helped in capturing of qualitative information needed in this study.*

### ***Data analysis***

*The researcher analyzed and interpreted quantitative data by using statistical package for social science (SPSS) program to compute the percentages, frequency and tabulation of responses and both use of quantitative and qualitative types of data. Data was edited to identify and eliminate errors made by respondents. Coding was then be done to translate question responses into specific categories. Descriptive statistics such as frequency distribution and percentages were used to analyze the data. Qualitative data was analyzed using content analysis in which all the responses were categorized according to their thematic areas and analyzed according to their contents. Presentation was done on tables, figures and charts. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS)*

*software was used to aid in the analysis of data.*

## **RESULTS**

### ***Response rate***

### ***Questionnaire return rate***

*All the 80 questionnaires were given out, 60 were returned, thus representing 75% response. The study was considered good because according to Peil (1995), questionnaire return rate above 50% is considered good for a study.*

### ***Personal information of respondents***

*Information regarding to the personal background of the respondents included their age, gender, marital status, occupation, and education level*

### ***Age of the respondents***

*Information regarding the age of the respondents was added to questionnaires during the piloting process. The following information regarding the ages of the respondents was analyzed using SPSS Software and presented in form of grouped data as shown in the table 1*

**AGE OF RESPONDENTS**

| Frequency |       | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-----------|-------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid     | 0-10  | 3       | 5.0           | 5.0                |
|           | 10-20 | 1       | 1.7           | 6.7                |
|           | 20-30 | 7       | 11.7          | 18.3               |
|           | 30-40 | 28      | 46.7          | 65.0               |
|           | 40-50 | 12      | 20.0          | 85.0               |
|           | 50+   | 9       | 15.0          | 100.0              |
|           | Total | 60      | 100.0         |                    |

*Therefore, from the mean (4.2000) it was deduced that most of the respondents who participated in*

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*the study were from a mature group i.e., were within the age range of 30-40 years with 46.7% and this was because such people within that age group of 30-40 years have can perform activities that contribute positively to the economic growth of the society. From this, it was then deduced that the validity and reliability of the obtained information were due to the mature minds which were studied. Also, from the table 4.2.1, the researcher found out that 1.7% of the respondents in Kisoro Municipality were aged between 10-20 years, 5.0% of the respondents were aged between 0-10 years and 20.0% were aged between 40-50 years and 15.0% were aged 50 years and above. The variance was 1.417, the mode is 4.00 and Std. Deviation was 1.19036. The median is 4.0000.*

### **Gender of Respondents**

*The study investigated the gender of the respondents and the findings were as shown in the table 2*

| <b>GENDER OF RESPONDENTS</b> |               |                |                      |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Frequency</i>             |               | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Valid Percent</i> | <i>Cumulative Percent</i> |
| <i>Valid</i>                 | <i>FEMALE</i> | 2338.3         | 38.3                 | 38.3                      |
|                              | <i>MALE</i>   | 3761.7         | 61.7                 | 100.0                     |
|                              | <i>Total</i>  | 60100.0        | 100.0                |                           |

*From table 4.2.2, it was found out that, majority of the respondents were males with 61.7% compared to females with 38.3%.*

### ***Occupation of the respondents***

*Information regarding the occupation of the respondents in Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro District was collected and presented in table 3.*

#### **OCCUPATION OF RESPONDENTS**

|       |            | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------|------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid | FARMER     | 37        | 61.7    | 61.7          | 61.7               |
|       | TAX DRIVER | 9         | 15.0    | 15.0          | 76.7               |
|       | MOTORIST   | 7         | 11.7    | 11.7          | 88.3               |
|       | TRADER     | 7         | 11.7    | 11.7          | 100.0              |
|       | Total      | 60        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

*From table 3, it was found out that 11.7% of the respondents were trades, 61.7% were farmers,*

*11.7% were Motorists and only 15.0% of the respondents were Tax drivers.*

### ***Marital status***

*Information regarding the marital status of the respondents in Kisoro Municipality was collected and presented in table 4*

***Table 4: Marital status of respondents***

#### **MARITAL STATUS OF RESPONDENTS**

| Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|

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|       |          |    |       |       |       |
|-------|----------|----|-------|-------|-------|
| Valid | SINGLE   | 20 | 33.3  | 33.3  | 33.3  |
|       | MARRIED  | 36 | 60.0  | 60.0  | 93.3  |
|       | DIVORCED | 4  | 6.7   | 6.7   | 100.0 |
|       | Total    | 60 | 100.0 | 100.0 |       |

*From table 4, it was found out that, majority of the respondents were married with 60.0%,*

*33.3% of the respondents were single and only 6.7% had divorced.*

***Educational level of the respondents***

*Information regarding the academic background of respondents in Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro*

*District was obtained and tabulated as shown in table 5*

**Table 5: Educational background of the respondents**

**EDUCATION LEVEL OF RESPONDENTS**

|                         | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------|---------------|--------------------|
| Valid PRIMARY AND BELOW | 25        | 41.7    | 41.7          | 41.7               |
| O LEVEL                 | 6         | 10.0    | 10.0          | 51.7               |
| A LEVEL                 | 12        | 20.0    | 20.0          | 71.7               |
| CERTIFICATE             | 14        | 23.3    | 23.3          | 95.0               |
| NONE                    | 3         | 5.0     | 5.0           | 100.0              |
| Total                   | 60        | 100.0   | 100.0         |                    |

From table 5, it was found out in an analysis of interviews and questionnaire that majority of the respondents 41.7% had completed their primary education and below, but never continued with their studies, 10.0% of the respondents in Kisoro municipality had completed Ordinary level of education, 20.0% had completed their Advanced level of education, 23.3% had finished certificate and only 5.0% had never went to school in their lives. From the statistics, it's indicating that the Education of Kisoro municipality, Kisoro District is lacking and needing.

**The level of Unemployment among the youth in Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro District**

This Section describes the independent variable (Unemployment). The independent variable was addressed in Section B of the questionnaire for respondents.

**Table 6: The Level of Unemployment**

**Descriptive Statistics**

|                                  | <i>N</i> | <i>Range</i> | <i>Minimum</i> | <i>Maximum</i> | <i>Mean</i> | <i>Std. Deviation</i> |
|----------------------------------|----------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| <b>LEVEL OF<br/>UNEMPLOYMENT</b> | 60       | 3.00         | 1.00           | 4.00           | 7.4333      | .81025                |
| <i>Valid N</i>                   |          |              |                |                |             |                       |

*The mean percentage concerning the level of unemployment among the youth in Kisoro*

*Municipality was 74%. The high mean percentage of unemployment is attributed high rates of poverty, lack of qualifications, few job opportunities in the area, most youth don't want to work and remoteness of the area.*

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*The level of Unemployment among the youth in Kisoro Municipality was also analyzed using frequency distributions and percentages where 71.7% of the respondents agreed that the level of Unemployment among the youth in Kisoro Municipality is very high and this was due to high rates of gambling and illiteracy among the youth in the area, 18.3% argued that the level of Unemployment among the youth in Kisoro Municipality is at a high level, 5.0% argued that the level of Unemployment among the youth in Kisoro Municipality is at a very low level and 5.0%% revealed that the level of Unemployment among the youth in Kisoro Municipality is low.*

***The level of Economic Growth in Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro District***

*This Section describes the dependent variable (Economic Growth). The dependent variable was addressed in Section C of the questionnaire for respondents.*

***Table 7: Level of Economic Growth in Kisoro Municipality***

| <b><i>Descriptive Statistics</i></b>    |          |              |                |                |             |                       |
|-----------------------------------------|----------|--------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------|
|                                         | <i>N</i> | <i>Range</i> | <i>Minimum</i> | <i>Maximum</i> | <i>Mean</i> | <i>Std. Deviation</i> |
| <b>LEVEL OF ECONOMIC GROWTH Valid N</b> | 60       | 2.00         | 1.00           | 3.00           | 2.6333      | .68807                |

*The mean percentage concerning the level of economic growth in Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro*

*District was 26%. The low mean percentage of economic growth is attributed to poor planning of the district and high rates of poverty in the area which is created by high levels of unemployment problems in the area.*

*The level of Economic Growth in Kisoro Municipality was also analyzed using frequency distributions and percentages where 13.3% of the respondents agreed that the level of Economic Growth in Kisoro Municipality is very high, 10.0% argued that the level of Economic Growth in Kisoro Municipality is at a high level, 21.7% argued that the level of Economic Growth is at a low level and 55.0%% revealed that the level of Economic Growth in Kisoro Municipality is very low and this is attributed to poor planning of the district and high rates of poverty in the area which is created by high levels of unemployment problems in the area.*

***Relationship between Unemployment and Economic Growth***

***Table 8: Showing Pearson Correlation between Unemployment and Economic Growth***

|                 |                         | <b><i>Correlations</i></b> |                 |
|-----------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
|                 |                         | Unemployment               | Economic Growth |
| Unemployment    | •                       |                            |                 |
|                 | • Pearson Correlation   | 1.00                       | .705            |
|                 | • Sig. (2-tailed)       |                            | .000            |
| Economic Growth | • N Pearson Correlation | 60                         | 60              |
|                 | • Sig. (2-tailed)       | .705                       | 1.00            |
|                 | • N                     | .000                       |                 |
|                 |                         | 60                         | 60              |

*\*\* Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).*

**Source: SPSS output page**

*Table 8 indicates that there is a strong positive relationship between Unemployment and*

*Economic Growth at  $r = 0.705$  and since the sig. value (.000) was far less than 0.01, which is the maximum level of significance required declaring a significant relationship between Unemployment and Economic Growth, this implies that the level of Unemployment greatly affects the level of Economic Growth of the area. This is because when people are not employed, they remain poor hence failing to meet their personal basic needs, this in turn makes them not to involve in activities that leads to the growth and development of their society which eventually retards/hinders economic growth of the area.*

### **Conclusion of the findings**

*The there is a strong positive relationship between Unemployment and Economic Growth at  $r = 0.705$ , this implies that the level of Unemployment greatly affects the level of Economic Growth of any area. This is because when people are not employed, they remain poor hence failing to meet their personal basic needs, this in turn makes them not to involve in activities that leads to the growth and development of their society which eventually retards/hinders economic growth of the area.*

### **Recommendations of the study**

*On the basis of the findings of this study and conclusions drawn, the following are the*

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*recommendations regarding the relationship between Unemployment and Economic Growth in Kisoro Municipality, Kisoro district*

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