
**IMPACT OF CORONA VIRUS PANDEMIC TO THE SCHOOL GOING STUDENTS: ACASE OF NTANDI
TOWN COUNCIL, BUNDIBYGYO DISTRICT.**

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Abstract

The study was aimed at investigating the role of corona virus pandemic towards the school dropouts and using Ntandi Town Council as a case study. The study was guided by the objectives such as the impact of corona virus on children, how corona viruses have contributed to school dropout and way of ensuring continuous learning amidst the corona virus pandemic. The study was guided by the qualitative research design and data was collected using interview, focus group discussion and self-administered questionnaire from the 40 respondents purposively selected. the findings of the study indicated that corona virus lockdown have greatly affected children especially in terms of sexual harassment, child labor and malnutrition and these have contributed to the increased rate of school drop out in the district. The finding of the study indicates that corona virus has contributed to malnutrition of the children in the area under study. Due to corona virus lockdown, many businesses were shut down and even factories laid down some workers which made it difficult for parents to provide to the children. It was concluded that corona virus locked have greatly affected children since their rights have been violated and it was recommended that the government should look for possible ways of ensuring that all children return back to school such as learning in shifts, providing economic to the parents among others

Key: Corona Virus, Lockdown, Drop Out, Early Pregnancy

Background to the Study

The novel human corona virus sickness COVID-19 has turn out to be the 5th documented pandemic because the 1918 flu pandemic. COVID-19 became first pronounced in Wuhan, China, and eventually spread global. The corona virus was officially named severe acute respiration syndrome corona virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) by the international Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses based totally on phylogenetic evaluation. SARS-CoV-2 is thought to be a spillover of an animal corona virus and later adapted the potential of human-to-human transmission (Brighton, Deus, Kazaara, Nelson, Catherine, et al., 2023). Due

to the fact the virus is relatively contagious, it rapidly spreads and continuously evolves within the human population. on this overview article, we discuss the primary properties, capacity origin, and evolution of the unconventional human corona virus (Davids et al., 2023). these elements may be crucial for studies of pathogen city, antiviral designs, and vaccine improvement in opposition to the virus.

On 12 January 2020, the sector health agency (WHO) confirmed that a singular corona virus was the motive of a respiration contamination in a cluster of humans in Wuhan town, Hubei Province, China, which was

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mentioned to the WHO on 31 December 2019 (Brighton, Deus, Kazaara, Nelson, Alex, et al., 2023). On 18 March, public gatherings which include locations of worship, pubs colleges and other tertiary establishments, weddings, track indicates, rallies and cultural conferences were suspended for 32 days with on-the-spot effect. Foreigners and Ugandans arriving inside the USA had been put beneath 14-day mandatory quarantine in motels designated through the authorities which might be in Entebbe, about an hour from Kampala, but the stay had been to be paid with the aid of the citizens themselves (Oromo et al., 2023). considering that the necessary quarantine began, approximately forty tourists have been forced to pay up to US\$840 to live in the valuable resort motel, a fee that is excessive for most Ugandans. On 22 March, the first case of COVID-19 in Uganda was confirmed (Kazaara et al., 2023). The confirmed case changed into a 36-12 months-antique male who had travelled to Dubai on 17 March 2020 for a commercial enterprise journey. On returning to Uganda on 21 March 2020 at around 2 am aboard Ethiopian airlines, his temperature become said to be at 38.7 in the course of the screening system at Entebbe Airport which brought on the health crew on the airport to isolate him at the airport for similarly follow up.

Problem Statement

Corona virus started from china and unfold to the complete world accordingly becoming the global

Specific Objectives

- To investigate how corona virus have affected children in Ntandi town council

pandemic (Oromo et al., 2023). consistent with the world health agency (WHO), Corona virus is the various deadliest pandemics which is transmitted via contacts, air, and have symptoms including headache, issue in breathing, high fever and sore throats. One confirmed case in the location can unfold the disease to the complete population and plenty of human beings each in Europe, the USA and at the African continent. If you want to cut down the huge spread of the virus since it has no vaccine, many nations came up with unique strategies consisting of maintaining lockdown on the nations, curfew, putting up quarantine centers and the ultimate of colleges so that you can disperse the populace of students and Uganda is one of these nations that declared lockdown on schools with the aid of sending all children from primary to tertiary degree domestic and till now aside from candidates' training many students are stills at home (Anthony, Kazaara, & Kazaara, 2023). In line with the daily display of 23rd August 2020, it suggested that a midst lock down young ladies and boy have faced specific challenges which include rape, early marriages, early pregnancies with the intention to restrict them from continuing with studies. It is therefore on this basis that the researcher is interested by locating out how corona virus pandemic has affected the college going students taking Ntandi metropolis council as a case study (Anthony, Kazaara, Kazaara, et al., 2023).

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- To find out the role of corona virus towards school drop outs in Ntandi town council
- To find out ways of helping students to ensure continuous learning amidst corona virus lockdown.

Methodology

Research Design

The researcher applied the qualitative research design which was in form of a case study. Mugenda and Mugenda (2003) describes a case study as an in-depth investigation of an individual, a group, institution or a particular phenomenon. Koul (2001) looks at a case study as an attempt to examine a particular individual or a unit in depth in order to gather pertinent information that can help to solve a problem at hand. This case study of Ntandi town council was aimed at investigating how corona virus has affected the school going students. A qualitative case study design was selected because it helped to get the detailed description on how the corona virus has affected the school going students in Ntandi town council. This research design was selected in order to capture deep understanding of the study including respondent's feelings, emotions and non-verbal communications.

Study Population

Amin (2005) defines study population as a complete collection of the elements that are of interest in a particular investigation. It is also defined as the entire set of cases from which research samples is drawn (Wilson 2010). The study was carried out on the school going students who are in the lockdown, teachers, education officers and the students

Sample size

The researcher selected only 100 respondents from the total population and this was based on the recommendations of Amin (2005) who said that the fewer respondent in the qualitative research produces credible and reliable data than many respondents.

Participants	Number	Percentage
Students	30	
Teachers	10	
Parents	30	
Education officers	10	
Religious leaders	10	
Politicians	10	
Total	100	

Sampling Technique

Sampling is the selection of a proportion from the largest population whose views are generalized to represent the views of the target population due to limited time and resources (Wilson 2010).

The researcher used Purposive or Judgmental Sampling Method. Purposive sampling method is where the participants are selected deliberately because they have knowledge about the study in order to get reliable information.

Data analysis

The researcher analyzed data using SPSS (Nelson et al., 2022). This is the process of identifying patterns or themes within the data collected qualitatively (Braun & Clarke 2006). The commonest ideas from the respondents made up themes which helped to have a detailed understanding about the topic under study.

RESULTS**How corona virus has affected children in Ntandi town council**

The finding of the study indicates that corona virus has contributed to malnutrition of the children in the area under study. Due to corona virus lockdown, many businesses were shut down and even factories laid down some workers which made it difficult for parents to provide to the children.

This is in line with the findings of World Vision (2020) which found out that COVID19 exacerbates the risks of poor nutrition, experiencing maltreatment, and being exposed to violence at home. Recognizing that the impacts of these measures will hit some groups of children harder than others is critical. These groups of vulnerable children include children living in poverty, children with disabilities, children in out-home care, children in detention, and also refugee children and children at risk of child labour. According to the Save the Children (Uganda) report (2020) on the impact of corona virus on girl child, they reported that over 10,000 school going children have been pronounced in the seven months lockdown period of schools. This is in line with the UNICEF report which requested governments to start reopening schools in order to save the young girl child who have not yet been pregnant in order to reduce on the dropout levels (Victor et al., 2023). The findings also indicate that corona virus lockdown has subjected children to child labour in the town council. Due to economic hardships in homes, parents have decided to go work with their children in order to earn a living; children have also started working on the construction sites, digging in the cocoa farms and others in order to earn a living.

Influence of corona virus towards school drop outs in Ntandi town council

The purpose of the second research objectives was aimed at find out how corona virus pandemic and the lockdown have contributed to school dropout among the children of the area under study.

The results from the study reveals that economic crisis created by the strategies against the wide spread of the corona virus will leave many students drop out of the school (Mercy et al., 2023).

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This finding is in line to reports of BBC news focus on Africa (dated 28th October 2020), they reported that, most African countries have remained at home in Uganda and Kenya amidst reopening due to the failure to rise school fees. In order to curb down the wide spread of corona virus, countries opted for lockdowns and many businesses were shuttered down and others up to now such as bars, sports betting's, casinos are still closed. This has made parents to fail to raise school fees for their children (Micheal et al., 2023). The results also indicated that students were exclusively left during the remote learning that was initiated by the ministry of education and sports. After the closure of schools, the ministry put emphasis on online learning in order to make students busy. Unfortunately, the results indicate that learning was not taking place in the rural areas and have made many students to lose hope in schooling.

Ways of helping students to ensure continuous learning amidst corona virus lockdown.

The researcher found out that corona virus is now in the community and every place has got cases of the virus, this means that its within us and will stay with us (Joventa et al., 2023).

Parents and other educational stake holders requested the government to teach the learners on how to stay with the virus because it's her to stay like other diseases such as cholera, malaria and AIDS.

Governments should prioritize efforts to continue education for all children during and after temporary school closures, and make it accessible to all, using all available technology, including radio and television broadcasts, telephones, computers, secure text messaging apps, or other means, including printed materials (Mark et al., 2023). These efforts should include adapted, accessible material and communication strategies for children with different disabilities. In cases where schools and teachers have very limited resources, governments should consider providing targeted funding to teachers and school officials in under-resourced areas so that they can contact their students, print materials for all, and distribute learning materials in more remote or rural areas. In many areas, teachers often already fund teaching materials out of pocket.

Conclusion

The study findings should that children have been affected by the outbreak of the corona virus and with subsequent lock down such as causing child rights violations in terms of rape, child labor, lack of medical care and other basic needs. It was therefore concluded that to greater extent corona virus will lead to school dropout since many families are poor and therefore can't send their children back to school, others are pregnant and even forced into marriage (Aisha et al., 2023).

Recommendations

Parents should work hard to protect their children from abuses such as rape and defilement. They should not send them to risky areas alone and even should teach them dangers of premarital sex.

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Local leaders should make by-laws that prevents the violation of children's rights amidst continued lockdown on schools. these laws should be agreed upon by the community and should be implemented

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