
Impacts Of Home Schooling On Child Development: A Case Study Of Rubaga Division Kampala District

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Abstract

The modern homeschooling movement began in the 1970s when John Holt an educational theorist and supporter of school reform, began arguing that formal school's focus on rote learning created an oppressive classroom environment designed to make children compliant employees. This research was about the effects of homeschooling on child development in Rubaga division, Kampala district. The study as well supported secondary objectives that included to examine the concept of homeschooling on child development among selected families in Rubaga division Kampala district Uganda, to investigate the impact of homeschooling on children's cognitive development among selected families in Rubaga division Kampala district Uganda and to assess the effects of homeschooling on children's social development among selected families in Rubaga division Kampala district Uganda. The Researcher adapted to a quantitative research design. Quantitative research design was used because the researcher carried out research in Rubaga division, Kampala division which had a big population. The researcher used a sample of 90 respondents during the field work. The categories to be involved in this study included (30) men, (25) NGO officials, (10) teachers, and (25) women. The key findings indicated that majority respondents viewed oral teaching and buying reading materials as the major criteria for homeschooling with 40% and 44.4% respectively, whereas 15.5% were the minority who commended use of professional teachers as a better strategy of child education, a strong positive significant relationship between contract administration and service delivery ($r = 0.336^{**}$, $p = 0.018$). The researcher concluded that the impact of homeschooling on children's cognitive development indicated a positive. The researcher therefore recommends that there is need for mass sensitization of community members about the impacts of homeschooling on child development for support.

Key words: Homeschooling and child development.

Background to the study

The modern homeschooling movement began in the 1970s when educational theorist and school reformer John Holt (Christopher et al., 2022) began to argue that the formal school's focus on rote learning created an oppressive classroom environment designed to for children to become employees who are compliant (Branch et al., n.d.). Holt therefore encouraged parents to free their children from formal education and instead follow a method now known as "unschooling". The first Holt followers joined through Holt's newsletter. "Growth without schooling", it was founded in 1977 (Salimini & Susan, 2023). In this study, the main concept of home education is about child development (Victoria et al., 2023). Homeschooling is the independent variable and child development is the dependent variable, homeschooling is defined as the education of children at home or in various locations outside of an institutionalized school setting. It is usually conducted by a parent, tutor, or online teacher (Julius, n.d.; Sarah et al., n.d.). It uses less formal and more personalized learning methods that do not occur in school (Aisha et al., n.d.).

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Homeschooling in South Africa was illegal during the apartheid regime. The year Mandela was elected president, parents Andre and Bokkie Meintjies were jailed and their children were placed in separate orphanages and prevented from family contact as they were educated at home (Joventa et al., 2023). A few years later, the Mandela government legalized home education with the South African School Act in 1996 (Edward et al., 2023). Clonard was founded in the same year and has since been providing quality teaching materials for home education in line with the CAPS curriculum. As a result, it is believed that over 90% of homeschooling parents do not register with their local departments, making homeschooling statistics a bit of a drag (Entebbe et al., n.d.; Osuman & Julius, 2023). There are an estimated 30,000 to 100,000 home students in South Africa. There have been countless reforms in the education system in Uganda since colonial times (Brighton et al., 2023). But there is still much to be desired. Apart from the fact that the traditional non-formal education system practiced by Africans was actually home schooling itself, modern home schooling in Uganda is currently experiencing a renaissance (Jacinta & Kazaara, 2023). It is a new phenomenon acquired from Western missionaries (Paul et al., 2023; Waludah et al., n.d.). Therefore, there are about 300 national families in Uganda today that have adopted the idea of home education (Ivan et al., 2023)

Problem statement

A United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) situational analysis research was conducted to verify the current conditions of children living in urban areas of Rubaga and the following analysis was made (Tumusabe et al., 2022a, 2022b); The study found that children aged between (7-18) suffer from a severe lack of education, with over 75% of them not attending school or any vocational training of any kind. Additionally, 63% of children have not been immunized against deadly diseases such as malaria and diarrhea. The observation also showed that most households lack clean and safe drinking water, toilets and latrines, which affects the sanitation of the areas (MJSER2023642, n.d.; Peter & Julius, n.d.).

However, the KCCA strategic plan sought to address socio-economic issues affecting the urban areas, especially Rubaga Division, through various initiatives such as; increased budgets for infrastructural development to address problems of poor buildings and lack of latrines, provision of free scholarships to high performing students in urban areas to support education, effective medical care where medicines are available as well as better sanitation of the city through daily cleaning by staff (Jolly et al., n.d.). Despite the fact that there have been amendments to address the negative impacts of child development, more comprehensive strategies need to be developed to address these persistent factors in order to ensure a better future for children in Uganda. Thus, for the above analysis, the researcher intends to evaluate the effects of home education on child development in Rubaga Division, Kampala District, Uganda (Juma Bashir, n.d.; Kazaara, 2023).

Objectives of the study.

1. To examine the concept of homeschooling on child development among selected families in Rubaga division Kampala district Uganda.

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2. To investigate the impact of homeschooling on children's cognitive development among selected families in Rubaga division Kampala district Uganda.

Research questions

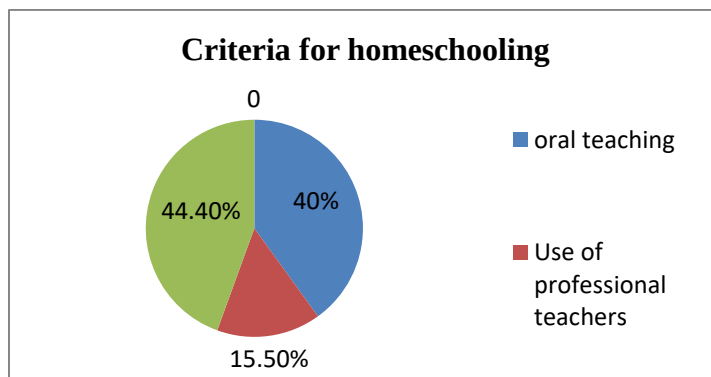
1. Examine the concept of homeschooling on child development among selected families.
2. What is the impact of homeschooling on children's cognitive development?

Methodology.

The Researcher adapted to a quantitative research design. Quantitative research design was used because the researcher carried out research in Rubaga division, Kampala division which had a big population. The choice of the study area was because the researcher used all the languages used in the study area and more so the researcher understood all the study area properly which made data collection easy and concrete. The researcher adopted both primary and secondary sources of information. Primary sources of information included using questionnaires to collect data and secondary source of information included use of articles related to the study, publications and books. The researcher used a sample of 90 respondents during the field work. The categories to be involved in this study included (30) men, (25) NGO officials, (10) teachers, and (25) women. These categories were used by the researcher since they were directly or indirectly affected by the homeschooling on the child's development. The researcher developed both primarily and secondary sources of information and data. In collecting Primary Data, the researcher used questionnaires as tools for collecting data. For Secondary Data, publications by re known authors in this field for example magazines, articles, books and News Papers will be used by the researcher to gather information that is required. Data analysis was conducted in SPSS and all results were presented in a tabular (Nelson et al., 2022). Frequencies and percentages were reported at univariate level, correlation and regression analysis were considered for further analysis.

Results.

Figure showing child homeschooling criteria



According to the statistics, majority respondents viewed oral teaching and buying reading materials as the major criteria for homeschooling with 40% and 44.4% respectively, whereas 15.5% were the minority who commended use of professional teachers as a better strategy of child education (Joventa et al., 2023).

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Impact of homeschooling on children's cognitive development**Table 1: Correlation between Contract Administration and Service Delivery**

		Homeschooling	cognitive development
Homeschooling	Pearson Correlation	1	.018**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.336
	N	90	90
cognitive development	Pearson Correlation	.018**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.336	
	N	90	90

****.** Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The correlation analysis showed a strong positive significant relationship between contract administration and service delivery ($r = 0.336^{**}$, $p = 0.018$) (Nelson et al., 2023). The significance value ($p = 0.018$) was less than the critical p value of 0.05 hence the researcher fails to reject the null hypothesis. This implied that there was a significant positive relationship between homeschooling and cognitive behaviour.

Model Evaluation.

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.158 ^a	.250	.248	1.15921

The regression analysis indicated that 25% of the variations in cognitive development were explained by homeschooling. The regression coefficient indicated that a unit increase in the homeschooling times resulted into 0.158 units increase in the cognitive development. Findings implied that homeschooling positively impacted cognitive development.

Summary of the findings.

In examining the concept of homeschooling on child development, the respondents argued that it was an alternative of formal school, basic education, and traditional knowledge. The findings indicated a low enrolment of homeschooling children and a high no of formal education pupils (Mark et al., 2023). In the criteria for homeschooling, oral teaching, use of professional teachers, and buying reading materials was the response got from the field. In ascertaining the effectiveness of homeschooling on children, quick language comprehension and ability for child expression were the predominant factors in the process of interviewing the parents. And in other ways to ensure child homeschooling as a mode of education (Anthony et al., 2023), consultation of professionals and use of internet information were the strategies derived from the respondents. The impact of homeschooling on children's cognitive development had several factors in the process. The results showed that less value was achieved from child homeschooling with many parents indicating a higher negative attitude than a more positive outcome. Critical analysis and question interpretation were the special attributes children exhibited in various lessons. On verifying

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official examination setting in homeschooling, more parents lacked the materials and less of them had. Most respondents agreed that homeschooling was the best available option for child's exposure with a below average percentage disagreeing with the analogy.

Conclusion

The alternative formal education, oral teachings, and quick language comprehension were some of the findings for the level of understanding of the concept homeschooling on child development. The impact of homeschooling on children's cognitive development indicated a positive, less value of homeschooling on children, good performance of class lessons, better ability to understand different tests performed, higher question interpretation, and quiz tests and more research work. Effects of homeschooling on the child's social development included, better child interaction with peers and limited movement. More quality time for children was preferred as a remedy for social interaction as well as more official examination setting and appreciation of the effect of homeschooling on child development.

Recommendations

There is need for mass sensitization of community members about the impacts of homeschooling on child development for support.

Government should come up with more practical solutions to address issues affecting homeschooling on child development in our communities.

The Ugandan government should revise the education curriculum and include homeschooling as another possible alternative to promote the teaching and learning processes in Uganda today

Parents should embrace homeschooling as another suitable means of educating their children to instill in them good morals and most especially create a favorable environment for them to grow up better citizens.

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