

Poverty And Its Impact On Family Relationships In Mpumudde Subcounty Jinja West Constituency.

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Abstract

The study aimed at poverty and its impact on family relationships in mpumudde subcounty jinja west constituency and it was guided by the following objectives; To establish the factors that lead to poverty among families in Jinja West constituency, to assess the impact of poverty on the family relationships in Jinja West constituency and to suggest solutions to eliminate poverty effects among family relationships in Jinja West constituency. The researcher used a sample size of 50 respondents who were chosen using simple random sampling because of its ability to ensure inclusiveness of the respondents. The total of 50 respondents were investigated both male and female. The techniques were helped to focus on the data collected of specific individual in jinja district. The researcher used data collection instruments Like questionnaires, interviews and observation. From the findings, 90% agreed that there were various ways of reducing poverty among families and 10% did not agree that there were various strategies of reducing poverty in Mpumudde sub county and some of the respondents explained some of the various ways of reducing poverty in Mpumudde sub county as below. From the summary and conclusion on the impact of poverty on family relationship the study come up with the following recommendations, hard work should be encouraging among families so that they can engage in constructive activities that can raise for them income to overcome poverty. The study also recommends that children should be sent to school so as to get adequate education which can allow them compete favorably in the job market to cut the chain of poverty in their families.

Keywords: Poverty, job market and Family Relationships

Background of the study.

Globally, poverty continues to thrive in both rich and poor countries. In most nations today, inequality between rich and poor is quite high and often widening (Keneth et al., n.d.). The causes are many, including lack of individual responsibility, exploitation by people and businesses with powerful influence or some combination, and other factors (Shamim et al., 2023). Many believe that higher levels of inequality will affect social cohesion and lead to problems such as increased crime and violence (Oliver et al., 2023). World Bank data on global poverty shows that more people are living in poverty than previously thought. For example, the new poverty defines living on the equivalent of \$1.25 a day. With this measurement based on the most recent data available, 1.4 billion people live at or below the poverty line (Zulaikah & Rebecca, 2023). In addition, nearly half of the world's over three million people live on less than US\$2.50 per day, and at least 80% of humanity lives on less than US\$10 per day (Lydia et al., 2023). The GDP [gross domestic product] of 41 heavily indebted poor countries [567 million people] is less than the wealth of the 7 richest people combined (Frank et al., 2023).

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According to the World Bank's Development Research Group, Uganda's poverty rate is on the rise (Christopher & Micheal, 2022). The State of Uganda 2029 report shows that Uganda's poverty rate is increasing despite increased donor funding and economic growth (Financial Sector Deepening, 2020). The report highlights limited access to social services as well as poor family relationships. The population below the poverty line is 24.5 percent, and the poverty ratio was \$1.25 per day. In Jinja district according to the 2014 population and housing census, the social status of people in Jinja is still at low percentages compared to the welfare status of other places in the country (UBOS, 2014) (Faridah et al., 2023). Poverty has a big impact on family relations in Jinja district and the impact of poverty like domestic violence, divorce, poor health, increase in crime rate and many more has led to bad family relations like problem between parent and children, husband and partner. even with relatives where family members end up disagreeing on a certain decision, lack of respect for each other and many parents end up abusing drugs like alcohol abuse, opium smoking and many children don't go to school and the few who join end up dropping out of school (Jinja Community Development Office, 2020) (Vincent & Peter, 2023). However, people are looking for ways to solve the problem of poverty from the whole society to the national level through government support.

As the definition suggests, poverty is a relative measure, what is considered poverty in one society may be considered an adequate standard of living in another society. Any discussion of social class and mobility would be incomplete without a discussion of poverty, which is defined as the lack of the minimum food and shelter necessary to sustain life, more specifically the condition known as absolute poverty (Ho et al., 2020). And today, it is estimated that more than 35 million Americans, approximately 14% of the population, live in the United States, ranging from 10% to 21% depending on political education, so many sociologists prefer a relative rather than an absolute definition of poverty. (Lucky et al., 2023). By definition, poverty is the poor and those who lack what most Americans need for a decent life because they earn less than half the national median income.

According to the World Bank (2020), poverty is one of Africa's biggest problems. Today, many cities have large slums full of miserable poor people who lack many of the basic necessities of human life. Urban areas are crowded with homeless and displaced people, war refugees, disabled people, beggars and abandoned street children, especially in Uganda's capital and most of these cities, including Jinja City Council (ACODE, 2022). It is a situation that easily leads to despair in the hearts of even ardent crusaders for human needs. The painful reality of poverty in Africa according to Banovčínová et al. (2014), one in every African does not get enough food. A study covering the period 2000–2016 showed that approximately 346 million Africans were victims of chronic hunger (Education Bureau, 2018). That was an increase of 40 million people in just one decade.

Tens of millions of African children, including Ugandans, suffer from malnutrition, which means delayed physical and mental development, disease, disability and death. Most of the literature in this area has focused on adolescents and therefore failed to recognize the importance of parent-child relationships, a critical stage of life during which children are at high risk of developing psychological and behavioral problems, especially those who are disadvantaged (Zulaikah & Rebecca, 2023). Existing evidence also does not provide a qualitative understanding of the impact of poverty on parent-child relationships, parenting stress, and parenting practices. Therefore, it is against this background that the researcher intends to examine why poverty is still rampant especially in Uganda and Jinja, despite the government's support for the young, which tends to create tension in family relationships.

Statement of the problem.

Poverty is perceived by all people as a dire problem affecting family relations in Jinja district as it increases the vulnerability of family members such as domestic violence, malnutrition, death, early school leaving, loss of dignity, family separation and many others. In an effort to reduce the case of poverty in family relationships (Victor et al., 2023), the government encourages many families to work hard to earn a living by providing loans through financial institutions, providing universal primary and secondary education, free treatment in government hospitals and many others (Brighton et al., 2023).

Despite the fact that all these efforts are being made, there is still poverty, which greatly affects family relationships (Jac & Kazaara, 2023). This trend of the opposite existence of poverty in family relations prompted the researcher to examine the impact of poverty on family relations in Jinja District focusing on Mpumudde Sub-County in Jinja West Constituency.

Objectives of the study

1. To establish the factors that lead to poverty among families in Jinja West constituency.
2. To assess the impact of poverty on the family relationships in Jinja West constituency.
3. To suggest solutions to eliminate poverty effects among family relationships in Jinja West constituency.

Methodology

The study used a cross-sectional survey design with simple random sampling based on qualitative and quantitative analysis. A cross-sectional survey serves to provide information about the situation at a given time. Information was collected through questionnaires and interviews. This proposal was more precise because it provides for the explanation, investigation, description and experimentation of the phenomenon. The research was conducted in Mpumudde Sub District in Jinja West Constituency. The research focuses on older community residents, the local council, women and youth. The reason for considering this population for study is that they are knowledgeable and confident about their field. The researcher used a sample size of 50 respondents who were selected using simple random sampling for its ability to ensure inclusiveness of respondents. A total of 50 respondents, both men and women, were examined. They helped the technicians to focus on the collected data of a particular individual in Jinja district. The researcher used data collection tools such as questionnaires, interviews and observations. The

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researcher prepared the questions in accordance with the research objectives and questions. Closed-ended and open-ended questions were used, which helped to eliminate the bias of answering the questions directly and also gave respondents time to look at the records and express their own opinion about the impact of poverty on family relationships. The collected data was analyzed according to the set objectives and the created questionnaire. Data were edited and coded using both qualitative and quantitative data analysis. After data entry was completed, tables, charts and graphs were generated in the data presentation process using SPSS & STATA (Nelson et al., 2022).

Results

Lack of capital can cause poverty in family relationship in mpumudde sub county.

Table 1: Shows the response of respondents concerning lack capital as a one of the root cause of poverty.

Respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Strongly agree	25	50
Agree	15	30
Disagree	5	10
Strongly disagree	5	10

Source: Primary Data, 2024

From the findings as shown on the table above, lack of capital among families was strongly agreed as the major cause of poverty in family relation with a percentage of 50, 30 % agreed that lack of capital causes poverty in families. 10% disagree that lack of poverty causes poverty and 10% strongly disagree that lack of capital causes poverty in family relationship in Mpumudde sub county. Some of the respondents like Baba Metaloro and Hawa expressed their view that other causes of poverty in family relationship may include lack of resources such as land and inadequate income that has caused poverty, for individuals in families and households. Such a situation is worsened by lack of market for the few products from agriculture and sometimes there is high competition and even low prices for such products hence causing poverty among families. Increase in population is also another cause of poverty in Mpumudde sub county. It may be as a result of migration from rural areas such as kaitabawala, Ivunamba to look for white color jobs in urban centers. Since most people tend to run away from farming it causes poverty among their families. Early marriage and polygamous marriage may also cause poverty among families in Mpumudde sub county. Men tend to marry more than one wife and taking responsibility of these wives and children becomes difficult due to sharing of the little money with two or more families who all have children. This therefore leads to poverty in family relationship in Mpumudde sub county.

Effects of Poverty on family relationship in Mpumudde sub county.

Table 2: Showing response on effects of poverty on family relationships.

Reactions	Frequency	Percentage
Agree	47	94
Disagree	3	6

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Total	50	100
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Source: Primary Data, 2024

According to the information obtained as to whether poverty has impact on family relationship in Mpumudde sub county. Most of the respondents agreed that poverty has impact on family relationship. This accounted to 94%, while some respondents disagreed that poverty has impact family relationship in Mpumudde sub county which is 6%. This directly indicates that poverty has great impact on family relationship in Mpumudde sub county. Some of the respondents supported their agreement that poverty has great impact in family relationship by expressing the following;

The ways of reducing poverty among families in Mpumudde sub county.**Table 3: Response on reducing poverty.**

Respondents' opinion	Frequency	Percentage
Agreed	45	90
Not agreed	5	10
Total	50	100

Source: primary data, 2024.

From the table above about 90% agreed that there are various ways of reducing poverty among families and 10% did not agree that there are various strategies of reducing poverty in Mpumudde sub county and some of the respondents explained some of the various ways of reducing poverty in Mpumudde sub county as below. Hard work is a critical factor that enables individuals and households to improve in wellbeing and move out of poverty. Community members observed that prosperity is not a product of luck and chance but was a result of will and determination to move out of a bad situation like poverty in family relationship in Mpumudde sub county.

Summary

The study was under taken to examine the impact of poverty in family relationship in Mpumudde sub county. The summary is therefore according to the objectives as discussed in chapter four. According to the findings of objective one, poverty is caused by lack of capital among family members as seen in table. This therefore makes it hard for the families to establish income generating activities from which they could get income to improve their standard of living. Poor attitude of the people towards work has been found out as a cause of poverty on family relationship. Most people are lazy and are not willing to work for themselves. Some even migrate from the villages to the town simple because of laziness and this attitude leads to poverty in family relationship. Another cause of poverty according to the findings is low community participation in most development programmes due to lack of awareness on some of the programs in the town council especially those implemented by development partners. This leads to lack of ownership of some of the poverty reduction programs by poor families. Considering the study findings poverty in family relationship is caused by lack of capital, poor attitude of the people towards work, low participation in most development programs among others. On the finding of objective two which talks about the effect of poverty on family relationship in Mpumudde. many respondents agreed that poverty really has

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effect on the family as shown in the table. Some of the respondents agreed that poverty leads to high levels of stress in families which correlate with the economic circumstances that the families under go. Another effect of poverty on family relation according to the finding is that it leads to high mortality rate due to the inability to afford food and medical care. This increases the exposure to diseases such as malaria, diarrhea and even malnutrition in children where these children will have poor immune system and have poor health.

Conclusions

According to the findings of the study, the researcher concluded that poverty really has great impact on family relationship in Mpumudde sub county. This is evidenced by the fact there is high school dropout, malnutrition, domestic violence, high level of stress, high crime rate among families in Mpumudde sub county

Recommendations

From the summary and conclusion on the impact of poverty on family relationship the study come up with the following recommendations, hard work should be encouraging among families so that they can engage in constructive activities that can raise for them income to overcome poverty.

The study also recommends that children should be sent to school so as to get adequate education which can allow them compete favorably in the job market to cut the chain of poverty in their families.

Another recommendation is that the available resources that the families have like land, money should be put to proper use and not wasted.

The study further recommended that commercial farming should be encouraged instead of subsistence farming so that family incomes will increase with the sale of the products and reduce poverty on family relationship.

The government should promote employment opportunities to the people so that then family incomes and standards of living can improve thus reducing poverty in family relationship.

The study also recommends that sensitization programs be provided to the people about the available government programs that are geared towards reducing poverty in families such as

National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) from which the poor can benefit.

Parish Development Model (PDM).

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