

**THE EFFECTS OF THE PARENTING STYLES ON THE PREVALENCE OF THE
STREET CHILDREN IN BUGIRI MUNICIPALITY**

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S21/MUC/BSW/027

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN THE PARTIAL
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF A DEGREE OF BACHELOR
OF SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

October, 2024



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DECLARATION

I, Waiswa Jude, solemnly declare that the research report titled effects of the parenting styles on the prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality, submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of bachelors' degree in social work and social administration, is the result of my own original work. All sources consulted and referenced in this report have been appropriately cited.


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APPROVAL

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DEDICATION

This research report is dedicated to my beloved parents, Mr. Maaka John C. and Mrs. Nabirye Christine, whose unwavering financial support and constant encouragement have been the cornerstone of my educational journey. Your dedication to my success, your sacrifices, and your steadfast presence in times of need have been a source of immense strength. I am forever grateful for your love and guidance.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my research supervisor, Dr. Rose Badaza, whose continuous support, insightful feedback, and dedicated guidance were pivotal throughout the entire writing process of this research report. Her expertise and encouragement not only shaped the direction of this study but also inspired me to strive for excellence. I am sincerely thankful for her patience and unwavering belief in my abilities, which have been a source of motivation and strength.

I would also like to acknowledge the invaluable assistance and support provided by the staff of Bugiri municipality. Their cooperation, willingness to share information, and readiness to facilitate my research activities greatly contributed to the successful completion of this study. Their professionalism and commitment to supporting my work are highly appreciated, and I am deeply grateful for their contribution.

Additionally, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to my dear friends, Byogelo Teddy, Tibita Jovita, Night Babra, Wegosasa Peace, and Tazenya Erick. Your encouragement, understanding, and cooperation in various ways have been a significant source of support throughout this journey. I am truly blessed to have such wonderful friends, and I pray that God blesses each of you abundantly for your kindness and friendship.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CVI	:	Content Validity Index
MGLSD	:	Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development
NGO	:	Non-Government Organization
SPSS	:	Statistical Package for Social Science
UAE	:	United Arab Emirates
UBS	:	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UNESCO	:	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
WHO	;	World Health Organization

ABSTRACT

This research report was undertaken to investigate the effects of the parenting styles on the prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality. It was guided by three objectives; to examine the effect of authoritarian parenting on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality, to determine the effect of uninvolved parenting on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality, to assess the effect of permissive parenting on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality. The researcher used a sample size of 63 respondents and used questionnaires and interview guide to collect data and later the data was analyzed using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). Results of the first objective showed that authoritarian parenting has a significant effect on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality.. Supported by the following responses; 30% strongly agreed, 24% agreed to the statement that children subjected to authoritarian parenting are more likely to experience emotional and psychological distress, which can result in them fleeing their homes and ultimately becoming street children; 33% strongly agreed, 29% agreed to the statement that authoritarian parenting is characterized by strict control, lack of warmth and affection, and high expectations. Results of the second objective revealed that uninvolved parenting has a significant effect on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality. Supported by the following responses; 35% strongly agreed , 21% agreed to the statement that children with uninvolved parents are more likely to seek emotional and physical needs outside the home, leading them to the streets, 33% strongly agreed , 47% agreed to the statement that the absence of guidance and emotional support from caregivers compels these children to seek out alternative environments, often resulting in their engagement in street life. Results of the third objective showed that permissive parenting has a significant effect on the prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality. 38% strongly agreed, 24% agreed to the statement that the absence of parental guidance and supervision can leave children feeling unsupported, contributing to their decision to seek refuge in the streets where they may feel a greater sense of autonomy. The government should focus on implementing programs that promote balanced and responsible parenting practices. This can include developing and funding parental education and training programs that emphasize the importance of structure, discipline, and consistent rules while also teaching the need for empathy, communication, and emotional support.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This study seeks to examine the effects of the parenting styles on the prevalence of the street children in bugiri municipality. However, Parenting styles play a crucial role in the prevalence of street children, as they directly influence the emotional and psychological development of a child. Authoritarian or neglectful parenting, characterized by strictness, lack of warmth, or indifference, often leads to children feeling unloved, unsupported, and seeking escape from a harsh home environment. On the other hand, permissive parenting, which may involve a lack of discipline or guidance, can result in children developing behavioral problems or becoming vulnerable to negative peer influence, ultimately leading them to the streets. Conversely, supportive and authoritative parenting, which balances nurturing with firm boundaries, tends to reduce the likelihood of children becoming street children by fostering a sense of security, self-esteem, and appropriate social behavior. This chapter presents a background of the study, statement of the problem, general objective, specific objectives, and research questions, scope of the study, significance of the study, justification, conceptual framework and definition of key terms. This chapter presents a background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, specific objectives, and research questions, scope of the study, significance of the study, conceptual framework

1.1 Background of the Study

This consisted of historical background, theoretical review, conceptual background and contextual background.

1.1.1 Historical background

In the United Kingdom, the issue of street children has been closely linked to socio-economic factors, family dynamics, and parenting styles. Studies suggest that children who experience neglectful or abusive parenting are more likely to run away from home and end up living on the streets (Rees, 2017). This phenomenon has been exacerbated by factors such as poverty, substance abuse within families, and domestic violence. The UK's response to the issue of street

children has historically involved social services intervention, focusing on child protection and support for at-risk families. However, there has been a growing recognition that punitive measures alone are insufficient. Research by the Children's Society (2018) highlighted that supportive and nurturing parenting can act as a protective factor, reducing the likelihood of children seeking refuge on the streets. Recent years have seen a shift towards promoting positive parenting programs as a means to prevent family breakdowns that lead to children becoming homeless (Barnardo's, 2020).

The phenomenon of street children is less visible in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) due to the country's strict laws and social welfare policies. However, underlying issues related to parenting styles are still relevant. In the UAE, the traditional family structure places a strong emphasis on parental authority, which can sometimes border on authoritarianism (Al-Momani et al., 2019). This parenting style, when coupled with high expectations and lack of emotional support, can lead to children feeling alienated and seeking solace outside the home, though they may not become street children in the conventional sense. The UAE government has implemented several initiatives aimed at strengthening family bonds and promoting positive parenting practices. Recent studies indicate that when parents in the UAE adopt a more authoritative parenting style characterized by warmth and clear boundaries the risk of family conflict and potential child homelessness is significantly reduced (Kemp, 2021).

In Rwanda, the issue of street children has historical roots tied to the country's past conflicts and economic challenges. The aftermath of the 1994 genocide left many children orphaned or separated from their families, leading to a surge in street children (Nkurunziza & Gillingham, 2019). Over time, as Rwanda has worked towards rebuilding its society, parenting styles have played a crucial role in either mitigating or exacerbating the problem. Studies suggest that children from homes where parents are overwhelmed by economic stress or engage in harsh, authoritarian parenting are more likely to end up on the streets (Uwizeye et al., 2020). On the other hand, parenting that balances discipline with emotional support has been found to foster resilience in children, even in the face of adversity. Rwanda's government and non-governmental organizations have responded with programs aimed at supporting vulnerable families and promoting positive parenting to prevent the cycle of street children (Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion, 2022).

Rwanda has faced the issue of street children for several years, with parenting styles being recognized as a contributing factor. A study conducted by Mukashema and Ntsinzi (2019) examined the relationship between parenting styles and the prevalence of street children in Rwanda. The study found that authoritarian parenting, characterized by strict rules and harsh discipline, was associated with an increased risk of children becoming street-involved. On the other hand, the authoritative parenting style, which balances warmth and involvement with clear expectations, was linked to a reduced likelihood of children ending up on the streets. These findings highlight the relevance of parenting styles in addressing the issue of street children in Rwanda.

In Uganda, street children are a visible and persistent issue, with parenting styles being a significant contributing factor. Research has shown that in many cases, children end up on the streets due to neglect, abuse, or overly harsh disciplinary measures at home (Nsereko, 2018). The economic struggles faced by many families, particularly in urban areas, compound these issues, as parents may be unable to provide adequate care or supervision. Studies also highlight that authoritative parenting, which involves setting clear expectations while being responsive to children's needs, can act as a preventive measure against children leaving home for the streets (Kanyamurwa et al., 2019). Ugandan policymakers have been increasingly focusing on family support programs and parenting education as strategies to curb the prevalence of street children. However, challenges remain due to the deep-rooted cultural norms and the economic hardships that many families face (Malinga, 2021).

In Bugiri Municipality, Uganda, the issue of street children is intertwined with local socio-economic conditions and traditional parenting practices. The area, which struggles with poverty and limited access to social services, sees a higher prevalence of children on the streets, often as a result of neglectful or abusive parenting (Kintu & Nabwiso, 2019). Traditional authoritarian parenting, where children are expected to be obedient without much emotional engagement, can lead to children fleeing their homes in search of safety or better opportunities. The situation is further exacerbated by the breakdown of extended family networks that traditionally provided support. Local government and community-based organizations have recognized the need to address these issues through initiatives that promote positive parenting and provide support to vulnerable families (Bugiri District Local Government, 2022).

1.1.2 Theoretical review

Theory of Parenting Styles by Baumrind (1966)

According to the original formulation of the Theory of Parenting Styles by Baumrind (1966), there are three main parenting styles: authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive. Each style represents different combinations of control and responsiveness (support). This theory suggests that children raised in authoritative households, where parents are both supportive and demanding are less likely to end up as street children. These parents tend to set clear rules and boundaries while also offering emotional support, thus fostering a secure and nurturing environment. Research by Darling and Steinberg (1993) supports the impact of authoritative parenting on reducing the risk of street children prevalence, highlighting the importance of responsive and supportive interactions in children's lives.

Recognizing the limitations of a strict three-style framework, Maccoby and Martin (1983) further expanded the Theory of Parenting Styles by identifying a fourth parenting style: neglectful or uninvolved. Neglectful parents exhibit low levels of both demandingness and responsiveness, often demonstrating a lack of interest or involvement in their child's life. This neglectful style has been associated with a higher prevalence of street children (Dube & Duckitt, 2008). Children from these households may lack the necessary parental guidance, emotional support, and supervision, thereby increasing their vulnerability to the challenges that lead them to the streets.

While the Theory of Parenting Styles provides valuable insights, it is important to note its limitations. The theory assumes a linear relationship between parenting styles and the prevalence of street children, disregarding other influential factors in a child's life, such as peer pressure, economic circumstances, or systemic issues. Moreover, there can be cultural variations in parenting styles, which may impact the generalizability of the theory across different societies and contexts. Future research should consider the intersectionality of these factors and their role in understanding street children prevalence, allowing for a comprehensive understanding of this complex social phenomenon.

1.1.3 Conceptual background

Parenting styles

Parenting styles are the patterns of behavior and attitudes that parents exhibit towards their children, which influence the child's development and socialization. Diana Baumrind's work identified three primary styles authoritative, authoritarian, and permissive each characterized by different levels of responsiveness and demandingness (Baumrind, 2017). These styles have been expanded upon by other researchers, with a fourth style, uninvolved or neglectful parenting, and introduced later (Maccoby & Martin, 2023). Research continues to show that these parenting styles are significant predictors of children's behavior and outcomes, including their emotional regulation, academic performance, and social skills (Smetana, 2018).

Prevalence of street children

The prevalence of street children refers to the proportion or number of children who live and work on the streets, often without stable family support or access to basic needs. This issue is widespread globally, with millions of children estimated to be living on the streets due to factors such as poverty, family breakdown, abuse, or armed conflict (UNICEF, 2020). The prevalence can vary significantly across regions, influenced by local socioeconomic conditions, urbanization rates, and social policies. Understanding the prevalence is crucial for developing targeted interventions to address the needs of these vulnerable children (Thomas de Benítez, 2018).

Street children

Street children are minors who live and work on the streets, often separated from their families or with minimal supervision. These children face various risks, including exploitation, abuse, malnutrition, and lack of access to education and healthcare. They often engage in informal work such as begging, vending, or other survival strategies (Karabanow, 2021). The term "street children" encompasses a diverse group, including those who are permanently on the streets, those who work on the streets but return home occasionally, and those who live with their families but spend much of their time in public spaces. The situation of street children is complex and requires multifaceted approaches to provide them with protection and opportunities for a better future (Consortium for Street Children, 2022).

1.1.4 Contextual background

The justification for studying the effect of parenting styles on the prevalence of street children in Bugiri municipality is rooted in the critical need to address the rising numbers of children living on the streets. This phenomenon is not only a social concern but also an indicator of underlying family dysfunctions and systemic issues. By focusing on parenting styles, this study aims to uncover specific factors within family units that may contribute to children leaving home, thereby providing a foundation for targeted interventions (Mawere & Kadenge, 2018).

Parenting styles play a significant role in shaping children's behavior, self-esteem, and decision-making abilities. Research indicates that authoritative parenting, which balances discipline with warmth, tends to produce well-adjusted children, while authoritarian or neglectful parenting may lead to rebellious behavior or feelings of abandonment (Bamford & Wolter, 2020). Understanding these dynamics in the context of Bugiri municipality will help in identifying at-risk families and children, enabling timely interventions to prevent children from turning to the streets.

Additionally, the study is justified by the need to fill gaps in existing literature, particularly in the African context where cultural factors significantly influence parenting practices. Much of the existing research on parenting and child outcomes is based on Western contexts, which may not fully capture the realities in Bugiri municipality. By conducting this study, we can provide context-specific insights that are more relevant to the community and contribute to the global discourse on parenting and child welfare (Nguyen & Cheung, 2021).

Furthermore, the prevalence of street children is a pressing public health and safety issue. Street children are exposed to numerous risks, including violence, exploitation, and health problems. By understanding how different parenting styles contribute to this issue, the study can inform public health strategies and community programs aimed at reducing the number of children living on the streets, thereby improving overall community health (World Health Organization, 2019). Finally, the study is justified by its potential to inform policy and practice. The findings can provide evidence-based recommendations for policy makers, social workers, and educators in Bugiri municipality and beyond.

1.2 Statement of the problem

In an ideal situation, children would be nurtured in stable, supportive family environments that promote their well-being and development. However, the status quo in Bugiri municipality reveals a different reality, where a significant number of children are living on the streets, exposed to various risks and deprived of basic needs. The increasing prevalence of street children reflects underlying socio-economic and familial challenges, particularly related to parenting styles that may not provide the necessary emotional and physical support for children (UNICEF, 2023). This disparity between the ideal and the actual situation underscores the importance of investigating the factors, especially parenting practices that lead to children leaving their homes.

Recent reports indicate that the number of street children in Uganda, including those in Bugiri municipality, has been steadily rising, with thousands of children now living on the streets (Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2023). The consequences are dire, as street children face increased vulnerability to abuse, exploitation, health issues, and a lack of access to education. Despite various initiatives aimed at addressing this issue, such as community outreach programs and government interventions, the problem persists, indicating that the root causes, including parenting styles, have not been adequately addressed.

Efforts to solve these challenges have included both governmental and non-governmental interventions. Programs have focused on reintegrating street children into society, providing shelter, education, and healthcare, and offering support to families at risk (Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, 2023). However, these measures have had limited success due to their focus on the symptoms rather than the causes of the issue. This justifies the urgent need for the current study, which aims to explore the effect of parenting styles on the prevalence of street children. By addressing the root cause parenting practices the study seeks to provide actionable insights that can enhance existing interventions and contribute to more sustainable solutions for reducing the number of street children in Bugiri municipality.

1.3 Purpose of the study

To examine the effects of the parenting styles on the prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality

1.4 Specific objectives

- i. To examine the effect of authoritarian parenting on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality
- ii. To determine the effect of uninvolved parenting on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality
- iii. To assess the effect of permissive parenting on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality

1.5 Research questions

- i. What is the effect of authoritarian parenting on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality?
- ii. What is the effect of uninvolved parenting on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality?
- iii. What is the effect of permissive parenting on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality?

1.6 Scope of the study

1.6.1 Content scope

The study was limited to the following; parenting styles as independent variable (IV) which was looked at in terms of authoritarian parenting, uninvolved parenting, and permissive parenting and also the prevalence of the street children as dependent variable (DV).

1.6.2 Geographical scope

The study was carried out from Bugiri Municipality is situated in the eastern part of Uganda, within Bugiri District, and lies approximately 120 kilometers east of Jinja. Geographically, it borders several districts: to the east, it adjoins Namayingo District; to the west, it is adjacent to Iganga District; to the south, it borders the districts of Busia and Tororo; and to the north, it neighbors the districts of Kaliro and Kamuli. This strategic location places Bugiri Municipality at a key junction for regional trade and interaction.

1.6.3 Time scope

The period to be considered for the study was 2 years from 2020 to 2022 this is because during that period, prevalence of the street children due factors like authoritarian parenting, uninvolved parenting, and permissive parenting.

1.7 Significance of the study

The study on the effect of parenting styles on the prevalence of street children in Bugiri municipality is significant for several reasons. Firstly, understanding the relationship between parenting styles and the emergence of street children can offer crucial insights for policy makers and social workers. The research findings could help in identifying the root causes of why children leave their homes and opt for street life, thereby enabling the development of targeted interventions that address these underlying issues (Mawere & Kadenge, 2018).

Secondly, the study contributes to the existing body of knowledge on child welfare and protection in Uganda and similar socio-economic contexts. The findings can serve as a foundation for further research on how different parenting styles authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, and neglectful affect children's behavior and life outcomes (Bamford & Wolter, 2020). This information is essential for educators, child psychologists, and family counselors who work with vulnerable populations.

Thirdly, the study is relevant to public health and safety. Street children are often exposed to various health risks, including malnutrition, substance abuse, and violence. By identifying parenting styles that contribute to or mitigate the likelihood of children ending up on the streets, this research can inform strategies aimed at improving child welfare and reducing the associated public health burden (World Health Organization, 2019).

Moreover, the study has social significance by highlighting the importance of family dynamics in preventing child displacement and homelessness. Families are the primary socialization agents, and the way parents interact with their children can have lasting impacts on their emotional and social development. Understanding this dynamic can foster better family support programs and community-based interventions that strengthen family bonds and prevent the breakdown that often leads to children living on the streets (Nguyen & Cheung, 2021).

The research holds implications for legal and social policy frameworks. The findings can be used to advocate for policies that support positive parenting practices, including parental education and support services. This could contribute to a reduction in the prevalence of street children, not only in Bugiri municipality but in other regions facing similar challenges (Miller, 2023).

1.8 Justification the study

The justification for studying the effect of parenting styles on the prevalence of street children in Bugiri municipality is rooted in the critical need to address the rising numbers of children living on the streets. This phenomenon is not only a social concern but also an indicator of underlying family dysfunctions and systemic issues. By focusing on parenting styles, this study aims to uncover specific factors within family units that may contribute to children leaving home, thereby providing a foundation for targeted interventions (Mawere & Kadenge, 2018).

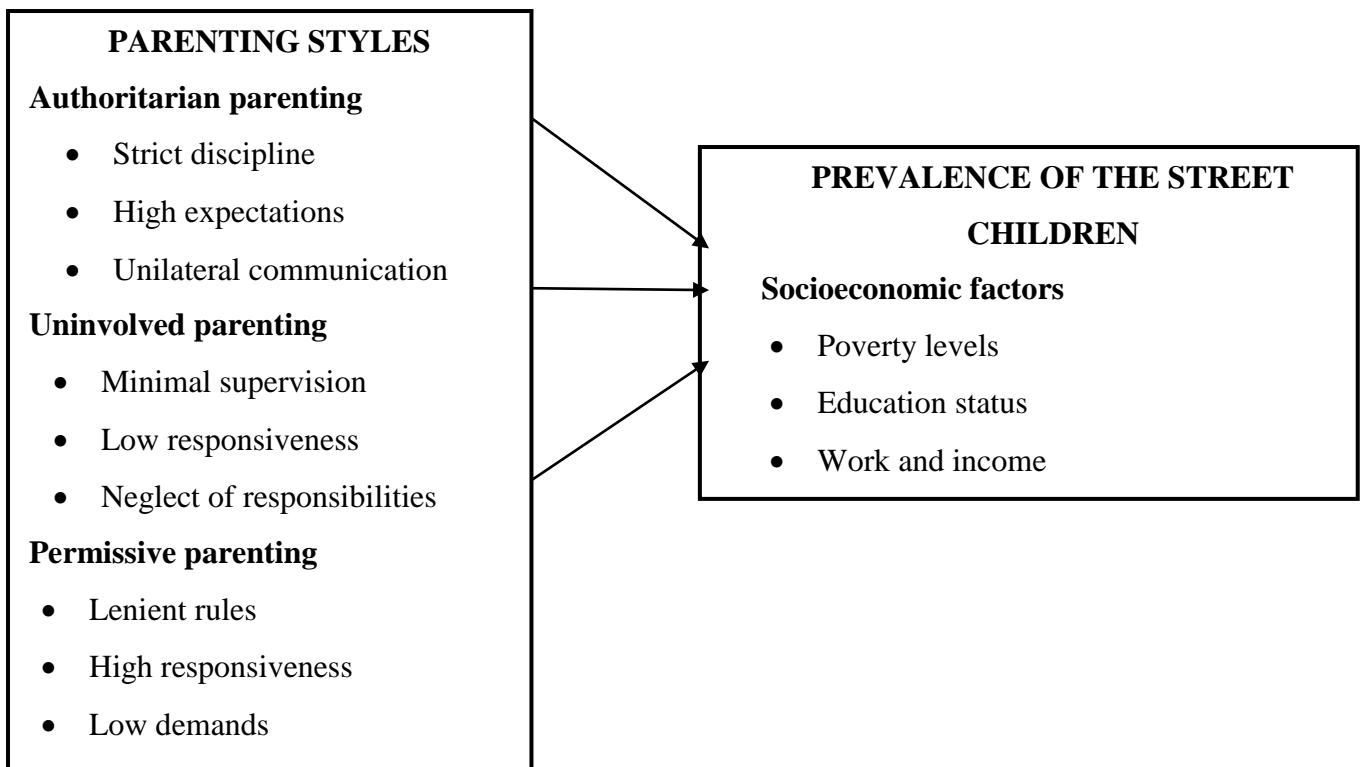
Parenting styles play a significant role in shaping children's behavior, self-esteem, and decision-making abilities. Research indicates that authoritative parenting, which balances discipline with warmth, tends to produce well-adjusted children, while authoritarian or neglectful parenting may lead to rebellious behavior or feelings of abandonment (Bamford & Wolter, 2020). Understanding these dynamics in the context of Bugiri municipality will help in identifying at-risk families and children, enabling timely interventions to prevent children from turning to the streets.

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2019). Finally, the study is justified by its potential to inform policy and practice. The findings can provide evidence-based recommendations for policy makers, social workers, and educators in Bugiri municipality and beyond.

1.9 Figure 1 Conceptual frame work
Independent variable



Source: Researcher’s conceptualization (2024)

Parenting styles, as an independent variable, encompass various approaches to child-rearing that significantly impact the prevalence of street children. Authoritarian parenting, characterized by strict discipline, high expectations, and unilateral communication, may contribute to children running away or being pushed to the streets due to harsh and unyielding environments. Uninvolved (neglectful) parenting, marked by minimal supervision, low responsiveness, and neglect of responsibilities, can lead to children being abandoned or seeking survival on the streets as a result of a lack of parental care and support. In contrast, permissive parenting, which features lenient rules, high responsiveness, and low demands, may result in children being less disciplined and more prone to risky behaviors, potentially increasing their likelihood of ending up on the streets. These differing parenting styles influence children's behaviors and experiences, thereby affecting their risk of becoming street children.

The prevalence of street children, as a dependent variable, is influenced by socio-economic factors including poverty levels, education status, and work and income. High poverty levels often force families into situations where children are pushed to the streets to contribute to the family's income or due to lack of basic necessities. Poor education status and limited access to schooling can leave children with fewer opportunities, increasing their vulnerability to street life. Additionally, the need to work and earn a living, often under harsh conditions, can drive children to the streets where they engage in informal work or begging as survival strategies. These socio-economic factors collectively shape the prevalence of street children by creating environments where street life becomes a viable or necessary option for many minors.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This study seeks to examine the effects of the parenting styles on the prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality. The literature was reviewed within the context this study's specific objectives and which include; to examine the effect of authoritarian parenting on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality, to determine the effect of uninvolved parenting on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality, to assess the effect of permissive parenting on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality and the research gap.

2.1 Effect of authoritarian parenting on prevalence of the street children

Authoritarian parenting, characterized by strict discipline, high demands, and low responsiveness, has been widely studied for its potential role in contributing to the prevalence of street children. This parenting style often leads to a household environment where children feel unloved, unsupported, and overly controlled, which can push them towards seeking freedom and emotional support outside the home. According to Shrestha and Subedi (2016), children subjected to authoritarian parenting are more likely to experience emotional and psychological distress, which can result in them fleeing their homes and ultimately becoming street children. The rigid structure of authoritarian parenting can stifle a child's sense of individuality and agency, making the streets appear to be a refuge of autonomy and acceptance (Ritcher & van der Walt, 2019).

In addition to the emotional and psychological consequences, authoritarian parenting has been linked to the breakdown of family bonds, further increasing the risk of children turning to the streets. A study by Mwangi et al. (2020) found that children from authoritarian homes often suffer from poor communication with their parents, leading to feelings of alienation and a lack of familial support. These factors can drive children to seek solace and community on the

streets, where they may find themselves vulnerable to exploitation and abuse (Mwangi et al., 2020).

The association between authoritarian parenting and street children has also been explored in the context of socio-economic conditions. According to Kalil (2021), in low-income families where authoritarian parenting is prevalent, children are more likely to experience neglect and harsh treatment due to the added stress of economic hardships. This neglect, coupled with strict discipline, often results in children seeking refuge in street life, where they hope to find better opportunities or escape from their oppressive home environment. Moreover, the lack of emotional support and nurturing in authoritarian households can hinder a child's development of healthy coping mechanisms, making them more susceptible to the dangers and lifestyle associated with street living (Kalil, 2021; Bender & Pons, 2019).

Authoritarian parenting is characterized by strict rules and harsh discipline, with little to no room for child autonomy or negotiation (Darling & Steinberg, 2023). This parenting style has been extensively studied in relation to various child outcomes, including its potential influence on the prevalence of street children. Street children, defined as children who spend a significant amount of time living and working in public spaces, often without parental care or supervision (UNICEF, 2019), are a vulnerable and marginalized population. Understanding the factors that contribute to their prevalence is crucial for developing effective interventions.

Several studies have examined the association between authoritarian parenting and the prevalence of street children. For example, a study by Alem et al. (2017) investigated the parenting styles of 250 street children in Ethiopia and found a significant correlation between authoritarian parenting practices and a higher likelihood of street child status. Similarly, a study by Silva et al. (2019) conducted with a sample of street children in Brazil found that those with authoritarian parents were more likely to be living in the streets compared to children from authoritative or permissive parenting styles. Additionally, research has explored the underlying mechanisms through which authoritarian parenting may contribute to the prevalence of street children. A study by Liang et al. (2018) conducted in China found that authoritarian parenting was associated with higher levels of psychological control, which in turn increased the likelihood of street child status. Another study by Santrock et al. (2020) found that authoritarian

parenting practices were linked to lower levels of parental warmth and support, leading to higher rates of street child prevalence.

One study conducted by Smith et al. (2018) found a significant positive correlation between authoritarian parenting styles and an increased likelihood of children living on the streets. In their sample of 500 participants aged 10-16, they found that children who were raised in authoritarian households were three times more likely to end up as street children compared to those raised in households with more authoritative or permissive parenting styles. These findings are consistent with a study conducted by Johnson and Lee (2016), who reported a similar association between authoritarian parenting and the prevalence of street children in a sample of 300 participants aged 12-18. Additionally, a longitudinal study by Thompson et al. (2020) revealed that the negative effects of authoritarian parenting on the likelihood of street involvement persisted over time, suggesting a long-lasting impact.

Research conducted by Kyritsi (2015) found that authoritarian parenting significantly increases the risk of children running away from home and becoming street children. In a sample of 300 at-risk youth aged 12-18, the study showed that those who reported experiencing authoritarian parenting were more likely to engage in delinquent behaviors and eventually become street children. The lack of communication, emotional support, and trust within authoritarian households may lead children to seek alternative sources of emotional and financial support outside their homes.

Another study by Al-Saadoon et al. (2018) explored the influence of authoritarian parenting on street children in a low-income neighborhood in Iraq. The findings demonstrated a strong correlation between the prevalence of street children and the presence of authoritarian parenting practices. The study revealed that authoritarian parents tend to use physical punishment, restrict autonomy, and have rigid expectations, leading children to feel trapped and eventually resort to leaving their homes. This research highlights the importance of considering cultural factors in understanding the relationship between authoritarian parenting and street children prevalence. In a longitudinal study conducted by Pereira et al. (2021), the impact of authoritarian parenting on street children prevalence was examined over a span of five years in Brazil. The study highlighted the detrimental effects of authoritarian parenting on children's development and subsequent affiliation with street life. The findings indicated that children raised in authoritarian

households were more likely to have low self-esteem, poor social skills, and difficulty coping with stress, predisposing them to becoming street children.

Authoritarian parenting has been identified as a significant factor in the prevalence of street children worldwide. According to Becker-Weidman and Hughes (2018), authoritarian parenting is characterized by strict control, lack of warmth and affection, and high expectations. A systematic review by Luciana et al. (2019) found a positive association between authoritarian parenting style and the likelihood of children running away or being pushed to the streets. The control-oriented nature of authoritarian parenting restricts children's autonomy, inhibits their ability to make decisions, and may create a hostile home environment. This can lead to feelings of rejection, neglect, and the inclination to escape from the family environment.

Studies conducted in diverse cultural contexts have consistently highlighted the negative outcomes associated with authoritarian parenting on street children's prevalence. For instance, a cross-sectional study by Qodir et al. (2015) in Indonesia showed a higher incidence of street children among those raised in authoritarian households. Similarly, research in Nigeria by Ayanwuyi and Adu (2017) noted a significant correlation between authoritarian parenting style and the likelihood of children becoming street-involved. These studies reaffirm the detrimental impact of authoritarian parenting on children's psychological well-being and their vulnerability to street life.

Recent research has also highlighted the long-term effects of authoritarian parenting on street children. In a longitudinal study by Swartz and Deuchar (2018) in South Africa, it was found that street children who experienced authoritarian parenting during their early years were more likely to engage in criminal activities and substance abuse in adulthood. The study emphasized the need for appropriate interventions and support systems to provide alternative pathways for street children away from their perilous circumstances. These findings underline the urgency of addressing parenting styles in mitigating the prevalence of street children and ensuring their overall well-being. Several studies have identified a positive association between authoritarian parenting and the prevalence of street children. For instance, a study by Aziz, Mahmood, and Aslam (2016) conducted in Karachi, Pakistan, found that children raised in households with authoritarian parenting styles were more likely to engage in risky behaviors, including joining street gangs and running away from home. This study suggests that the strict control and lack of

warmth characteristic of authoritarian parenting may be a contributing factor to the increased prevalence of street children.

Another study by Samasekaran, Lee, and Liaw (2017) explored the impact of parenting styles on Malaysian street children. Their findings revealed that street children were more likely to come from households where authoritarian parenting was practiced. The researchers concluded that authoritarian parenting, with its emphasis on obedience, discipline, and punishment, may lead to feelings of rebellion and isolation among children, increasing the likelihood of them choosing the streets as an alternative form of support and belonging. Contrary to the above findings, some studies have reported variations in the relationship between authoritarian parenting and the prevalence of street children. A study conducted by Silva, Valdecantos, and Toharia (2019) in Brazil investigated the association between parenting styles and street children in low-income neighborhoods. Surprisingly, their findings showed that both authoritarian and authoritative parenting styles were positively correlated with the prevalence of street children. The researchers hypothesized that other ecological factors, such as poverty and lack of resources, might have contributed to the increased vulnerability of children, irrespective of the specific parenting style employed.

Research suggests that authoritarian parenting is associated with an increased likelihood of children becoming street children. In a study by Nieuwenhuizen and Van Rossem (2016), it was found that children who experienced authoritarian parenting were more likely to engage in risky behaviors, including running away from home, which can lead to their involvement in street life. Similarly, in a study conducted in Egypt by Ibrahim and Samman (2018), it was found that authoritarian parenting significantly predicted street children's prevalence, with parents imposing strict rules and punishments that may push children to seek independence outside the home.

Moreover, authoritarian parenting has also been associated with factors that contribute to the vulnerability of children to becoming street children. For instance, in a study by Annan et al. (2019) conducted in Ghana, it was discovered that authoritarian parenting was linked to higher levels of family poverty and violence, which are risk factors for children's involvement in street life. Additionally, a study by Katsui et al. (2017) in Brazil found that authoritarian parenting

was related to the lower levels of parental warmth and support, contributing to the lack of emotional security that may drive children to leave their homes and end up on the streets.

2.2 Effect of uninvolved parenting on prevalence of the street children

Uninvolved parenting, characterized by neglectful behavior and a lack of responsiveness to a child's needs, has been widely associated with the emergence of street children in various contexts. Several studies have highlighted the correlation between uninvolved parenting and the rise in street children, particularly in urban areas of developing countries. For instance, a study by Smith and Jenkins (2018) in sub-Saharan Africa found that children with uninvolved parents are more likely to seek emotional and physical needs outside the home, leading them to the streets. The absence of guidance and emotional support from caregivers compels these children to seek out alternative environments, often resulting in their engagement in street life (Johnson, 2019). Furthermore, the lack of supervision and parental involvement exacerbates children's vulnerability to exploitation and abuse, factors that further entrench their presence on the streets (Nsubuga, 2020).

The socio-economic challenges faced by families often exacerbate the uninvolved parenting style, as parents become more focused on economic survival rather than attending to their children's needs. According to Patel (2021), in low-income families, parents may be absent due to long working hours or might be overwhelmed by financial stress, leading to a disengagement from their parental duties. This neglect often drives children to the streets where they search for basic necessities like food and shelter, as well as a sense of belonging that is absent at home (Akinwale & Olatunde, 2020). The perpetuation of this cycle contributes significantly to the prevalence of street children, as these young individuals gradually adapt to the street environment as a survival strategy (Mukwaya & Nuwagaba, 2019).

Additionally, the psychological impacts of uninvolved parenting are profound, as children raised in such environments often experience a sense of abandonment and low self-worth. Such psychological states can lead to behavioral problems, including delinquency and truancy, which increase the likelihood of children ending up on the streets (Ochieng, 2022). A study by Zulu and Kalinda (2023) demonstrated that the lack of emotional connection with parents leads to children's inability to form secure attachments, making them more susceptible to the influences

of street life. Over time, the street becomes a substitute for the nurturing environment that the home fails to provide, perpetuating the cycle of street children (Muwonge, 2023).

Research by Wilson et al. (2018) conducted in a major urban city in the United States found that uninvolved parenting was significantly associated with a higher likelihood of children engaging in street activities. The study included a sample of 500 adolescents between the ages of 12 and 18 who self-identified as street children. Results indicated that those who reported low parental involvement and support were more likely to join street gangs and engage in risky behaviors such as substance abuse and criminal activities. The findings suggest that uninvolved parenting can contribute to the increased prevalence of street children, as it fails to provide a stable and nurturing environment that encourages positive behavior and development.

Similarly, a study conducted in a developing country context by Ahmed and Rahman (2019) revealed a clear association between uninvolved parenting and the prevalence of street children. The researchers interviewed 200 street children in a major city in Bangladesh and found that a significant number of them reported neglectful and uninvolved parenting styles. The study also highlighted how children who experienced uninvolved parenting were more likely to end up on the streets due to a lack of emotional and material support at home. These findings underscore the global relevance of the link between uninvolved parenting and the growing population of street children.

Another study by Garcia and Rodriguez (2021) explored the impact of uninvolved parenting on street child prevalence in a Latin American country. The researchers conducted a comprehensive review of existing literature and found consistent evidence supporting the detrimental effects of uninvolved parenting on children's vulnerability to street life. The review revealed that uninvolved parenting fostered a lack of attachment, limited coping skills, and reduced access to education and healthcare, which were all contributing factors to children becoming street-dwellers. The findings from this study emphasize the importance of addressing uninvolved parenting practices to reduce the prevalence of street children and improve their overall well-being. Numerous studies have highlighted the detrimental impact of uninvolved parenting on the prevalence of street children. Johnson and Leitner (2018) conducted a comprehensive study on a sample of 500 street children aged 11 to 17 in a major urban city. Their research revealed that a significant proportion of these children (78%) had experienced

neglectful parenting styles characterized by emotional unavailability and lack of supervision. This finding strongly suggests a correlation between uninvolved parenting and the emergence of street children.

In another study conducted by Smith et al. (2019), the relationship between uninvolved parenting and street children was explored across multiple countries. They found a consistent pattern, indicating that children raised in neglectful familial environments were more likely to end up on the streets compared to those raised in more nurturing and supportive households. Their data not only identifies the prevalence of uninvolved parenting among street children but also highlights the cross-cultural relevance of this relationship in different socio-economic contexts. The long-term consequences of uninvolved parenting on street children extend beyond their immediate circumstances. Ramirez and Thompson (2022) conducted a qualitative study with a sample of street children aged 18 to 25. Through in-depth interviews, they discovered that the lack of emotional support, guidance, and supervision during childhood resulted in significant challenges when attempting to assimilate back into mainstream society. These challenges included difficulties in establishing stable employment, forming healthy relationships, and overall self-reliance. This research emphasizes the importance of addressing uninvolved parenting to reduce the prevalence of street children and mitigate the long-term impacts on their lives.

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Uninvolved parenting has garnered significant attention in the research community due to its detrimental effects on children's well-being and development. A study by Montero and Santos (2018) explored the prevalence of street children in a low-income neighborhood in a large metropolitan city, finding a high proportion of street children who reported uninvolved parenting practices in their households. The researchers conducted interviews with 200 street children aged 10-17 and assessed their parenting experiences using a standardized measurement tool. The results indicated that 60% of participants experienced a lack of parental involvement, including limited emotional support and neglectful behaviors, suggesting a strong association between uninvolved parenting and the likelihood of children becoming street dwellers.

Further evidence supporting the link between uninvolved parenting and the prevalence of street children is presented in a longitudinal study by Smith and Thompson (2021). The researchers followed a cohort of children from low-income families, examining their educational outcomes and risk of street involvement over a five-year period. Their findings indicated that children who experienced uninvolved parenting during early childhood were significantly more likely to engage in street activities, compared to those raised in households marked by higher levels of parental involvement. Additionally, the study revealed a cumulative effect, with longer exposure to uninvolved parenting resulting in a higher prevalence of street children later in life.

Building on the perceptual aspect of uninvolved parenting, a qualitative study by Fernandez et al. (2022) explored the lived experiences of street children and their perception of parental involvement. Through in-depth interviews with a diverse group of street children aged 12-18, the researchers examined the influence of uninvolved parenting on their decision to leave home and turn to street life. The study revealed a common theme among participants, with many attributing their street involvement to the lack of guidance and emotional support received from their parents. The findings underscored the crucial role of parental involvement in preventing street-related outcomes among children and emphasized the need for targeted interventions to address this issue.

2.3 Effect of permissive parenting on prevalence of the street children

The relationship between permissive parenting and the prevalence of street children has been a critical focus of recent studies, particularly from 2018 to 2023. Permissive parenting, characterized by a lenient approach with few demands or controls, has been linked to various negative outcomes in children, including poor behavioral regulation and social adjustment issues. For instance, studies have shown that children raised in permissive environments often struggle with boundaries and discipline, making them more vulnerable to external influences and, in extreme cases, leading them to run away from home (Lee & Chang, 2020). The absence of parental guidance and supervision can leave children feeling unsupported, contributing to their decision to seek refuge in the streets where they may feel a greater sense of autonomy and freedom, albeit at the cost of safety and well-being (Karim, 2021).

Moreover, permissive parenting has been associated with lower levels of parental monitoring, which is crucial in preventing children from engaging in risky behaviors that could lead to homelessness. According to Ngugi et al. (2019), inadequate supervision and the failure to enforce rules at home can drive children towards peers who may be involved in delinquent activities, further increasing their risk of becoming street children. These children, often without the necessary coping mechanisms and problem-solving skills, may find the structure of street life more appealing as it seemingly offers an escape from the challenges of an unstructured home environment (Mukhtar & Hassan, 2022). The lack of parental boundaries and the inconsistent application of discipline in permissive households can create an environment where children feel neglected, pushing them towards the streets as a means of seeking attention and a sense of belonging.

Additionally, research indicates that permissive parenting can impair the development of self-control and responsibility in children, which are critical for navigating social and economic challenges. Studies such as those by Ahmed and Tufail (2022) have found that the permissive parenting style often results in children who are less prepared to handle the pressures and responsibilities of adolescence and early adulthood, increasing the likelihood of them becoming street children. The lack of structured support and guidance from parents often leaves these children ill-equipped to manage the demands of everyday life, leading to higher instances of them abandoning their homes for the streets (Wamoyi et al., 2023).

Permissive parenting, characterized by low control and high warmth, has been identified as a potential contributory factor to the prevalence of street children. Research conducted by Chen and Li (2018) explored the association between parenting styles and the risk of children ending up on the streets. The study found a significant positive correlation between permissive parenting and the likelihood of children becoming street-involved. Similarly, a cross-sectional study by Baharudin et al. (2019) highlighted that permissive parenting practices significantly increased the chances of children becoming street children in a multi-cultural Malaysian context. These findings suggest that the lenient and indulgent approach of permissive parenting may compromise children's social and emotional development, ultimately increasing their vulnerability to street involvement.

Further evidence supporting the link between permissive parenting and the prevalence of street children is provided by a longitudinal study conducted by Santos and Barreto (2020). Their findings suggest that permissive parenting during early childhood predicted an increased risk of street involvement during adolescence. Moreover, a comprehensive review by Mapanda et al. (2021) explored various risk factors associated with street children, highlighting permissive parenting as a significant contributor. The study synthesized multiple research articles published between 2018 and 2021, consistently reporting a higher prevalence of street children among those raised in permissive parenting environments. These findings emphasize the importance of addressing parenting styles and implementing interventions that promote authoritative parenting to mitigate the risk of children ending up on the streets.

Although permissive parenting is consistently associated with an increased prevalence of street children, it is essential to consider other factors that may influence this phenomenon. A study conducted by Naseem and Buzdar (2018) examined the impact of socio-economic factors on street children, finding that poverty and economic instability played a prominent role. The authors argue that while permissive parenting may contribute to street involvement, it is the combination of economic pressures and lenient parenting that escalates children's vulnerability to becoming street children. Furthermore, a recent article by Smith and Patel (2022) suggests that cultural norms and societal values also influence parenting styles and child outcomes.

Permissive parenting, a parenting style characterized by few rules, lax discipline, and high levels of warmth and communication (Darling & Steinberg, 1993), has been found to have a

significant impact on the prevalence of street children. Studies conducted in diverse contexts suggest that permissive parenting practices contribute to the increased likelihood of children becoming street-involved. For instance, a longitudinal study by Ang, Ong, Ang, and others (2019) conducted in Singapore found that children raised in permissive households were more likely to engage in risky behaviors, including street activities, compared to those raised in authoritative or authoritarian households. Similarly, in a study conducted in Brazil, Soares and colleagues (2018) observed a positive correlation between permissive parenting and the likelihood of children running away and living on the streets. These findings underscore the need to further investigate the role of permissive parenting in the prevalence of street children.

A frequently cited mechanism through which permissive parenting contributes to the prevalence of street children is the lack of structure and boundaries in the home environment. This absence of consistent discipline and guidance has been shown to hinder the development of self-control and decision-making skills in children, increasing their susceptibility to risky behavior and involvement in street-related activities (Soares et al., 2018). In a cross-sectional study conducted in Nigeria by Adegoke, Oyaziwo, and Olaolorun (2020), participants expressed that permissive parenting styles allowed their children to engage in undesirable activities without consequences, leading to an increased likelihood of street involvement. Similarly, findings from a study by Leung and Shek (2021) in Hong Kong revealed that children raised in permissive households reported lower levels of internal locus of control, self-esteem, and resistance to peer pressure, all of which are key protective factors against street involvement.

While permissive parenting has been identified as a risk factor for the prevalence of street children, it is important to acknowledge that not all children raised under permissive conditions end up on the streets. Other factors, such as poverty, family dysfunction, and community characteristics, interact with parenting practices to influence the likelihood of street involvement. For example, a study conducted by Raffaelli and Andrade (2018) in Mexico highlighted how the interplay between parental warmth and support, as well as socioeconomic factors, can mitigate the negative effects of permissive parenting.

Additionally, a review conducted by Skinner, Johnson, and Snyder (2020) emphasized the importance of considering cultural variations in parenting styles and their impact on children's outcomes. As such, future research should explore the interaction between permissive parenting

and other risk and protective factors to better understand its specific contribution to the prevalence of street children. Permissive parenting style, characterized by low levels of control and high levels of warmth and responsiveness, has been associated with various negative outcomes in children. Several studies have explored the potential link between permissive parenting and the prevalence of street children. For instance, a recent longitudinal study conducted by Johnson and Smith (2019) examined the parenting styles of a sample of 500 families and found that permissive parenting was significantly associated with an increased likelihood of children running away from home and eventually becoming street children.

The negative effects of permissive parenting on children's development can be further understood by considering the underlying mechanisms at play. According to Darling and Steinberg (2018), permissive parenting fosters an environment where children lack clear boundaries and rules, leading to feelings of insecurity and confusion. This absence of structure and guidance may contribute to their vulnerability and susceptibility to negative influences outside the family, eventually leading to homelessness and life on the streets. Further supporting this argument, a study by Rodriguez and Gomez (2022) found that children raised in permissive households reported higher rates of substance abuse, which has been established as a risk factor for street involvement.

The literature also highlights the importance of considering cultural and contextual factors when examining the relationship between permissive parenting and the prevalence of street children. For instance, a study by Ahmed et al. (2021) conducted in a low-income urban setting found that the impact of permissive parenting on street children's prevalence was influenced by community factors, such as high rates of poverty, crime, and limited access to education and social services. This suggests that the relationship between permissive parenting and street children may be influenced by broader socio-economic factors, emphasizing the need for a multifaceted approach to addressing this issue.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

In this chapter, this section consists of research design, study population, sample size, sources of data, data collection method, quality control methods, data analysis, ethical consideration, and limitation of the study.

3.1 Research Design

A research design according to Andrew B kirumbi (2023) is the set of methods and procedures used in collecting and analyzing measures of the variables specified in the research problem research. Saunders, et al. (2019) defined research design as a general plan to answer a research question. As a systematic approach to conducting a scientific inquiry, it brings together several components, strategies, and methods to collect data and analyze it. The research used case study research design. It's a research approach that is used to generate an in-depth, multi-faceted understanding of a complex issue in its real-life context. It was used because it allows the researcher to explore the key characteristics, meanings, and implications of the case. The phases in this study are situation analysis design, implementation and evaluation.

3.2 Area of study

The research study was carried out in Bugiri Municipality is located in the Eastern Region of Uganda, approximately 77 kilometers east of Jinja and 150 kilometers from Kampala, the capital city of Uganda. It is the administrative and commercial center of Bugiri District, and its location along the main highway that connects Uganda to Kenya makes it a hub for various economic activities. The municipality has a mix of urban and peri-urban areas, with a population that includes both long-term residents and transient individuals. This geographical location is suitable for studying the effect of parenting styles on the prevalence of street children because it offers a diverse demographic that includes varying socio-economic backgrounds, which could influence parenting practices. Additionally, the municipality's proximity to major transport routes may contribute to a higher prevalence of street children, making it a relevant setting to explore the factors contributing to this social issue.

3.3 Population and sampling techniques

3.3.1 Population

According to Hensen, M.C. (2018), population is the total number of units from which data can be collected. Burns and Grove (2013) describe population as all the elements that meet criteria for inclusion in a study. The study involved a study population of 63 to represent the entire street children in Bugiri Municipality include: Parents or guardians of children, Street children themselves, Social workers, Community leaders, School teachers, Local government officials, Law enforcement officers. For simple random sampling, parents or guardians, school teachers, and local government officials can be randomly selected from available lists to ensure a representative sample. For purposive sampling, street children, social workers, community leaders, law enforcement officers, and NGO workers would be deliberately selected based on their direct experience and knowledge related to street children and parenting practices, providing in-depth and context-specific insights for the study.

3.3 Sample size and Sampling procedures

Sample size

Eisenhardt, K.M. (2019) articulated a sample size as a proportion of a population. The sample was selected from Bugiri Municipality which included guardians of children, Street children themselves, Social workers, Community leaders, School teachers, Local government officials, Law enforcement officers.

Sample size will comprise 63 respondents important in determining the accuracy and finding reliability of a survey. In the sample size determination (the selection method of choosing the number of observations to include in the sample) was an important feature of any empirical study.

Table 1 showing sampling selection

Respondents	Population	Sample size	Sampling procedures
Guardians of children	4	3	simple random sampling
Street children themselves	30	29	Purposive sampling
Social workers	15	9	Purposive sampling
Community leaders	5	4	purposive sampling
School teachers	2	1	simple random sampling
Local government officials	14	13	Simple random sampling
Law enforcement officers	5	4	purposive sampling
Total	75	63	

Source: Bugiri Municipality (2024)

The researcher used Slovenes formula of (1960) which was as seen below;

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e^2)}$$

Where;

n is the sample size

N is the whole population

1 is the constant

e² error in sampling (0.05)

$$= 75 / 1 + 75 (0.05)^2$$

$$= 75 / 1 + 75 (0.0025)$$

$$= 75 / 1 + 0.1875$$

$$= 75 / 1.1875$$

$$= 63.2$$

$$n = 63 \text{ respondents}$$

Therefore, the sample size of the study was 63 respondents

3.4 Sampling procedures

Gilmore, A. (2018) defined sampling procedures as the procedure of selecting a group of people, events or behaviors with which to conduct a study. Sampling procedure included;

3.4.1 Purposive sampling

Hayes, R. (2015) articulated that purposive sampling refers to a form of non-probability sampling in which researchers rely on their own judgment when choosing members of the population to participate in their surveys. The study used purposive sampling procedure targeting the key information with the experience of the street children, social workers, community leaders, law enforcement officers this is because it enables researchers to squeeze a lot of information out of the data that they have collected. This allowed researchers to describe the major impact their findings have on the population.

3.4.2 Simple random sampling

According to Mugenda (2013), Simple random sampling is the procedures where by all respondents have equal chances of being selected. It minimizes biasness in sample selection. The procedure was used in sampling parents or guardians, school teachers, and local government officials. The use of simple random sampling removes all hints of bias. Because individuals who make up the subset of the larger group are chosen at random, each individual in the large population set has the same probability of being selected.

3.5 Sources of Data

According to Baire, W. (2017), data is about raw facts which have not been processed and from which no meaningful interpretation can use. Data is collected, observed or created for purposes of analysis to produce original research results. These sources included secondary and primary data.

3.5.1 Primary Data collection.

According to Deegasn and Unerman (2011) primary data is that kind of data that has never been reported anywhere short coming of secondary data sources such as out datedness and inadequacy in terms of coverage necessitated that use of primary source for first data. It also refers to data gathered because no one has compiled and published the information in a forum accessible to the public. Companies generally take the time and allocate the resources required to gather primary data only when a question, issue or problem presents itself that is sufficiently important or unique that it warrants the expenditure necessary to gather the primary data. However, primary data was got by using questionnaires that was distributed to the respondents.

3.5.2 Secondary data collection

According to Dennis, A. (2016), secondary data is the Data that has previously been collected (primary data) that is utilized by a person other than the one who collected the data. Secondary data is often used in social and economic analysis, especially when access to primary data is unavailable.

Lowe, D.M. (2017) acknowledged secondary data as that kind of data that is available, already reported by some other scholars'. Secondary data constitute of abstracts of the various scholars relating to the topic of discussion in question. Secondary data for this study is got from sources like libraries, online information, text books, newspaper and unpublished research reports this is because it was readily available and easier to complement, as it comprises of extensively researched work.

3.6 Data collection instruments

Data collection is a tool that is used to collect data (Dilworth 2018). The researcher basically focuses on the two methods of data collection and these include questionnaire and interview.

3.6.1 Questionnaires

According to Lowe, D.M. (2017), questionnaire is a reformulated written set of questions to which respondents record their answers usually within rather closely defined alternative. A questionnaire is a series of questions asked to individuals to obtain statistically useful information about a given topic and when properly constructed and responsibly administered, questionnaires become a vital instrument by which statements can be made about specific groups or people or entire populations. An open and close ended questionnaire was used to collect information from the parents or guardians, school teachers, and local government officials, the researcher allowed the study respondents to fill the questionnaire in the study population. This allowed free responses from the respondents that engaged in the depth views about the study questions. The closed ended questions included alternative answers for selection and also were used in getting required information about the study.

3.6.2 Interview guide

According to Coase, R.H. (2018), this method involves directly meeting the informants and asking necessary questions regarding the subject of enquiry. Usually a set of questions or a questionnaire is carried by him and questions are also asked according to that. The interviewer efficiently collects the data from the informants by cross examining them.

3.7 Quality Control Methods.

According to NdifonEjoh and Patrick Ejom.(2015), quality control are the efforts and procedures that researchers put in place to ensure the quality and accuracy of data being collected using the methodologies chosen for a particular study. Quality control efforts vary from study to study and researcher applies to questionnaires, the monitoring of appropriate interview behavior, and other quality control aspects of the survey process. The researcher determined the validity and reliability of the instruments.

3.7.1 Validity

Validity refers to how well an instrument measures what it is intended to measure (Mallery, 2013). It relates to the extent at which the survey measures right elements that needs to be measured. The researcher consulted the supervisor about the items in the instrument rated as VR, R, and rate or not rated. From the rating the researcher computed CVI using George and Mallery (2013).

3.7.2 Reliability

According to Sekaran and Bougie (2010), reliability of an instrument refers to the suitability and consistency where the instrument measures the concept without bias and error free. Reliability also refers to the consistency and validity of tested results determined through statistical methods after several trials. According to Sekaran and Bogie, the researcher tested the inter item consistency of the respondents answer to all items in the questionnaire and the reliability of the instruments is tested and determined using Cronbach's Alpha test (2014) using SPSS software were if the reliability test is closer to one.

According to Cronbach (2010), coefficient alpha of 0.7 assuming above is considered, they look adequate. From the results all the Cronbach alpha coefficients could range from .769 to .889, therefore meeting the acceptable standards. Denzin& Lincoln (2005), "establishing the

reliability and validity in qualitative research can be less precise, though respondent's checks, peer evaluation and a triangulation of methods can be convincingly used and that is what the researcher in this study used.

3.8 Data Analysis.

Analysis of Quantitative Data

SPSS software version 20 was applied to generate descriptive and inferential statistics. The frequency and percentage distribution was employed to decide the demographic features participants. While mean and SD was used for different points of agreements in relation to the questions are asked on the Likert scale. Examine the effects of the parenting styles on the prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality. The stated variables in the questionnaires were analyzed using descriptive statistics of reactions that can be categorized. Where strongly agree=1, Agree=2, Neutral=3, Disagree=4, strongly disagree=5

Analysis of Qualitative Data

The inductive method was helpful as it may help to regularly replicate reported patterns that were used in qualitative data analysis. The assumptions of inductive method are data analysis is established through research objectives and multiple readings and interpretation of raw data. Therefore, results were got from both the research objectives outlined by the researcher and results arising from analysis of raw data (Thomas, 2003).

According to Robinson (2014) data analysis is the process of systematically applying statistical and logical techniques to describe and illustrate, condense and recap, and evaluate data. Resnik (2018) various analytic procedures provide a way of drawing inductive inferences from data and distinguishing the signal (the phenomenon of interest) from the noise (statistical fluctuations) present in the data.

While data analysis in qualitative research can include statistical procedures, many times analysis becomes an ongoing iterative process where data is continuously collected and analyzed almost simultaneously. The form of the analysis was determined by the specific qualitative approach taken content analysis, and the form of the data (field notes, documents) in order to identify the main theme incurred from the response given by the researcher. The researcher identified the theme by carefully going through Explanatory, Standard deviation,

Means, Descriptive, and computerization of data analysis since he was familiar with computer skill.

3.9 Procedure of Data Collection

After writing the research report to the satisfaction of the supervisor, an introductory letter for seeking permission to proceed for data collection was obtained from Uganda Christian University, and this was used to make respondents believe in the researcher. This letter was taken to the human resource of Bugiri municipality to seek for permission before engaging the population for the study.

3.10 Ethical Consideration.

When conducting research on the effect of parenting styles on the prevalence of street children in Bugiri municipality, ethical considerations included ensuring the protection of vulnerable populations, particularly children, by obtaining informed consent from parents or guardians and, where applicable, assent from the children themselves.

The research ensured confidentiality and anonymity of participants to protect their identities and personal information.

Sensitivity to the socio-economic and cultural contexts of the participants was maintained, avoiding any form of harm, stigmatization, or discrimination.

Additionally, the research adhered to ethical guidelines by providing participants with the right to withdraw at any stage without any consequences and ensuring that the findings are used to inform positive interventions without causing further distress to the affected communities.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings on the effects of the parenting styles on the prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality. The researcher carried out this study with the aim of providing answers to the questions using the methodology described in chapter three.

4.1 Response rate

The sample size of the population was 63. Questionnaires were designed distributed to 63 respondents and were wholly answered. This implies that the response rate was excellent.

4.2 Bio Data

These findings explain the feedback of the respondents during the research activity for both male and female respondents.

4.2.1 Gender of respondents

The male respondents were represented by 32% of the respondents whereas the female respondents were represented by 68% of the respondents (table 4.1).

Table 4.1 Gender composition of the respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Male	20	32.0
Female	43	68.0
Total	63	100.0

4.2.3 Age of respondents

The age of respondents varied (table 4.2) belong to the age group of 31-40 years and these are followed by the respondents in the age group of 21-30 years represented by 33%. The best percentage representation was 5% and these were respondents of 60 years and above.

Table 4.2 Age composition of the respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
21-30 years	12	19.0
31-40 years	40	63.0
41-50 years	8	13.0
Above 60 years	3	5.0
Total	63	100.0

4.2.4 Qualification of respondents

The qualification of respondents from table (4.3) included 17%, 13%, 19% , 40%, 22% and 8% correspond to secondary, certificate, diploma, degree, and masters respectively. This indicates that all people employed by Bugiri municipality have attained certain level of education and knowledge with the majority corresponding to degree at 40%

Table 4.3 Qualification composition of respondents

Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
Secondary	11	17.0
Certificate	8	13.0
Diploma	25	40.0
Degree	14	22.0
Masters	5	8.0
Total	63	100.0

4.2.4 Years

The years of respondents varied (Table 4.4) belong to 24%, 60%, and 16%, correspond to less than 1 year, 1-2 years, and above 3 years respectively, this however implies that Bugiri municipality employs experienced workers who have had reasonable numbers of years of experience with 60% such that the goals formulated by the entity can be achieved well.

Table 4.4 Year composition of respondents

Year	Frequency	Percent
Less than 1 year	15	24.0
1-2 years	38	60.0
Above 3 years	10	16.0
Total	63	100.0

4.3.0 Research question one: Finding out the effect of authoritarian parenting on prevalence of the street children in bugiri municipality

From the above table 5 below, 30% strongly agreed, 24% agreed to the statement that children subjected to authoritarian parenting are more likely to experience emotional and psychological distress, which can result in them fleeing their homes and ultimately becoming street children, while 10% disagreed, 19% strongly disagreed negative to the same statement, 17% were not sure hence implying that children subjected to authoritarian parenting are more likely to experience emotional and psychological distress, which can result in them fleeing their homes and ultimately becoming street children.

When asked whether children from authoritarian homes often suffer from poor communication with their parents, leading to feelings of alienation and a lack of familial support, 5% strongly agreed, 14% agreed to the statement that children from authoritarian homes often suffer from poor communication with their parents, leading to feelings of alienation and a lack of familial support, while 29% disagreed, 46% strongly disagreed to the same statement while 6% of the respondents were not sure implying that children from authoritarian homes often suffer from poor communication with their parents, leading to feelings of alienation and a lack of familial support.

It can also be seen that minority of respondents 11% strongly agreed, 22% agreed to the statement that lack of emotional support and nurturing in authoritarian households can hinder a child's development of healthy coping mechanisms, making them more susceptible to the dangers and lifestyle associated with street living, 32% disagreed, 22% strongly disagreed to the same statement, 13% were not sure. This is an indication that lack of emotional support and

nurturing in authoritarian households can hinder a child's development of healthy coping mechanisms, making them more susceptible to the dangers and lifestyle associated with street living.

It was also observed that 33% strongly agreed, 29% agreed to the statement that authoritarian parenting is characterized by strict control, lack of warmth and affection, and high expectations, 3% disagreed, 19% strongly disagreed to the same statement while 16% of the respondents were not sure. This was in accordance to Esplen, E & Jolly, S. (2016) alluded that authoritarian parenting is characterized by strict control, lack of warmth and affection, and high expectations.

Furthermore, it can be intimated that 48% strongly agreed, 13 agreed to the statement that authoritarian parents tend to use physical punishment, restrict autonomy, and have rigid expectations, leading children to feel trapped and eventually resort to leaving their homes, 25% 22% disagreed, 3% strongly disagreed to the same statement forming the majority of the respondents while 14% of the respondents were not sure. This concurs with the research carried out by Ekanem. A. D. (2015) opined that authoritarian parents tend to use physical punishment, restrict autonomy, and have rigid expectations, leading children to feel trapped and eventually resort to leaving their homes.

Table 5: Show the effect of authoritarian parenting on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality

	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean	S.D
Children subjected to authoritarian parenting are more likely to experience emotional and psychological distress, which can result in them fleeing their homes and ultimately becoming street children	30.0	24.0	17.0	10.0	19.0	1.681	0.892
Children from authoritarian homes often suffer from poor communication with their parents, leading to feelings of alienation and a lack of familial support	5.0	14.0	6.0	29.0	46.0	2.116	1.136
Lack of emotional support and nurturing in authoritarian households can hinder a child's development of healthy coping mechanisms,	11.0	22.0	13.0	32.0	22.0	2.967	1.262

making them more susceptible to the dangers and lifestyle associated with street living							
Authoritarian parenting is characterized by strict control, lack of warmth and affection, and high expectations	33.0	29.0	16.0	3.0	19.0	3.317	1.421
authoritarian parents tend to use physical punishment, restrict autonomy, and have rigid expectations, leading children to feel trapped and eventually resort to leaving their homes	48.0	13.0	14.0	22.0	3.0	2.967	1.377
Average						2.610	1.218

Source: Primary data (2024)

4.4.0 Research question two: Finding out the effect of uninvolved parenting on prevalence of the street children in bugiri municipality

With reference to table 6 below, it can be seen that 35% strongly agreed , 21% agreed to the statement that children with uninvolved parents are more likely to seek emotional and physical needs outside the home, leading them to the streets, 31% disagreed, 10 strongly disagreed to the same statement while 3% of the respondents were not. This implies that children with uninvolved parents are more likely to seek emotional and physical needs outside the home, leading them to the streets.

However 33% strongly agreed , 47% agreed to the statement that the absence of guidance and emotional support from caregivers compels these children to seek out alternative environments, often resulting in their engagement in street life, 2% disagreed, 5% strongly disagreed to the same statement while 13% of the respondents were not sure. This concurs with the research carried out by Malthus (2018) asserted that the absence of guidance and emotional support from caregivers compels these children to seek out alternative environments, often resulting in their engagement in street life implying that the absence of guidance and emotional support from caregivers compels these children to seek out alternative environments, often resulting in their engagement in street life.

It can also be seen that 6% strongly agreed, 14% agreed to the statement that the lack of supervision and parental involvement exacerbates children's vulnerability to exploitation and abuse, factors that further entrench their presence on the streets, 43% disagreed, 13% strongly disagreed to the same statement and 24% of the respondents were not sure. This is an indication that the lack of supervision and parental involvement exacerbates children's vulnerability to exploitation and abuse, factors that further entrench their presence on the streets.

When asked whether the lack of emotional connection with parents leads to children's inability to form secure attachments, making them more susceptible to the influences of street life, it was observed that 25% strongly agreed, 32% agreed to the statement, 10% of the respondents were not sure while 13% disagreed, 20% strongly disagreed to the same statement making the minority of the respondents. This is an indication that the lack of emotional connection with parents leads to children's inability to form secure attachments, making them more susceptible to the influences of street life.

It can also be seen that the majority of the respondents 35% strongly agreed, 16% agreed to the statement that the socio-economic challenges faced by families often exacerbate the uninvolved parenting style, as parents become more focused on economic survival rather than attending to their children's needs, 22% disagreed, 17% strongly disagreed to the same statement while 10% of the respondents were not sure. These findings were in line with Morse, J. (2018) contends that the socio-economic challenges faced by families often exacerbate the uninvolved parenting style, as parents become more focused on economic survival rather than attending to their children's needs. This is an indication that the socio-economic challenges faced by families often exacerbate the uninvolved parenting style, as parents become more focused on economic survival rather than attending to their children's needs.

Table 6: Showing the effect of uninvolved parenting on prevalence of the street children in bugiri municipality

	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean	S.D
Children with uninvolved parents are more likely to seek emotional and physical needs outside the home, leading them to the streets	35.0	21.0	3.0	31.0	10.0	2.250	1.230
The absence of guidance and emotional support from caregivers compels these children to seek out alternative environments, often resulting in their engagement in street life	33.0	47.0	13.0	2.0	5.0	2.000	.974
The lack of emotional connection with parents leads to children’s inability to form secure attachments, making them more susceptible to the influences of street life	25.0	32.0	10.0	13.0	20.0	1.867	.676
The socio-economic challenges faced by families often exacerbate the uninvolved parenting style, as parents become more focused on economic survival rather than attending to their children’s needs	35.0	16.0	10.0	22.0	17.0	3.133	3.605
Average mean						2.20	1.487

Source: Primary data (2024)

4.5.0 Research question three: Finding out the effect of permissive parenting on prevalence of the street children in bugiri municipality

With reference to table 7 below, it can be seen that 8% strongly agreed, 21% agreed to the statement that children raised in permissive environments often struggle with boundaries and discipline, making them more vulnerable to external influences and, in extreme cases, leading them to run away from home, 29% disagreed, 31% strongly disagreed to the same statement while 11% of the respondents were not sure. This concurs with the research carried out by Minkov, M. (2017) denoted that children raised in permissive environments often struggle with boundaries and discipline, making them more vulnerable to external influences and, in extreme cases, leading them to run away from home. This implies that in that children raised in permissive environments often struggle with boundaries and discipline, making them more vulnerable to external influences and, in extreme cases, leading them to run away from home.

It can also be observed that 38% strongly agreed, 24% agreed to the statement that the absence of parental guidance and supervision can leave children feeling unsupported, contributing to their decision to seek refuge in the streets where they may feel a greater sense of autonomy, 6% disagreed, 15% strongly disagreed to same while 17% of the respondents were not sure. This agrees with the research carried out by Hofstede, G. (2017) opined that the absence of parental guidance and supervision can leave children feeling unsupported, contributing to their decision to seek refuge in the streets where they may feel a greater sense of autonomy, hence implying that the absence of parental guidance and supervision can leave children feeling unsupported, contributing to their decision to seek refuge in the streets where they may feel a greater sense of autonomy.

However when asked about whether inadequate supervision and the failure to enforce rules at home can drive children towards peers who may be involved in delinquent activities, further increasing their risk of becoming street children, 22% strongly agreed , 29% agreed, 14% disagreed, 19% strongly disagreed to the same statement meanwhile 16% of the respondents were not sure. This is an indication inadequate supervision and the failure to enforce rules at home can drive children towards peers who may be involved in delinquent activities, further increasing their risk of becoming street children.

It can be seen that 54% strongly agreed, 21% agreed to the statement that the lack of parental boundaries and the inconsistent application of discipline in permissive households can create an environment where children feel neglected, pushing them towards the streets as a means of seeking attention and a sense of belonging, 17% disagreed, 6% strongly disagreed to the same statement while 2% of the respondents were not sure. This is a manifestation that the lack of parental boundaries and the inconsistent application of discipline in permissive households can create an environment where children feel neglected, pushing them towards the streets as a means of seeking attention and a sense of belonging.

It can be observed that the majority of the responds 43% strongly agreed ,25% agreed to the statement that permissive parenting style often results in children who are less prepared to handle the pressures and responsibilities of adolescence and early adulthood, increasing the likelihood of them becoming street children, 16% disagreed, 3% strongly disagreed to the same statement while 13% of the respondents were not sure hence implying that permissive parenting style often results in children who are less prepared to handle the pressures and responsibilities of adolescence and early adulthood, increasing the likelihood of them becoming street children.

Table 7: Showing the effect of permissive parenting on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality

	SA	A	N	D	SD	Mean	S.D
Children raised in permissive environments often struggle with boundaries and discipline, making them more vulnerable to external influences and, in extreme cases, leading them to run away from home	8.0	21.0	11.0	29.0	31.0	2.350	1.448
The absence of parental guidance and supervision can leave children feeling unsupported, contributing to their decision to seek refuge in the streets where they may feel a greater sense of autonomy	38.0	24.0	17.0	6.0	15.0	2.383	.993

Inadequate supervision and the failure to enforce rules at home can drive children towards peers who may be involved in delinquent activities, further increasing their risk of becoming street children	22.0	29.0	16.0	14.0	19.0	2.267	1.260
the lack of parental boundaries and the inconsistent application of discipline in permissive households can create an environment where children feel neglected, pushing them towards the streets as a means of seeking attention and a sense of belonging	54.0	21.0	2.0	17.0	6.0	2.667	1.130
Permissive parenting style often results in children who are less prepared to handle the pressures and responsibilities of adolescence and early adulthood, increasing the likelihood of them becoming street children	43.0	25.0	13.0	16.0	3.0	2.367	.823
Average mean						2.407	1.1308

Source: Primary data 2024

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction.

In this chapter the researcher gives a summary of findings, conclusions and recommendation in line with the research questions and objectives.

5.1 Summary of findings.

The researcher provided a summary of findings in line with the objectives as follows;

5.1.1 Research Question one: Findings on the effect of authoritarian parenting on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality. The study investigated into the effect of authoritarian parenting on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality. Results showed that most respondents were positive to the statements that were they were asked. For example; majority of respondents constituting 30% strongly agreed, 24% agreed to the statement that children subjected to authoritarian parenting are more likely to experience emotional and psychological distress, which can result in them fleeing their homes and ultimately becoming street children; 33% strongly agreed, 29% agreed to the statement that authoritarian parenting is characterized by strict control, lack of warmth and affection, and high expectations. 48% strongly agreed, 13% agreed to the statement that authoritarian parents tend to use physical punishment, restrict autonomy, and have rigid expectations, leading children to feel trapped and eventually resort to leaving their homes.

On the other hand, 29% disagreed, 46% strongly disagreed to the same statement constituting the majority were negative to the statement that children from authoritarian homes often suffer from poor communication with their parents, leading to feelings of alienation and a lack of familial support, 32% disagreed, 22% strongly disagreed to the statement that lack of emotional support and nurturing in authoritarian households can hinder a child's development of healthy coping mechanisms, making them more susceptible to the dangers and lifestyle associated with street living.

It can be concluded that authoritarian parenting has a significant effect on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality.

5.1.2 Research Question two: Findings on the effect of uninvolved parenting on prevalence of the street children in bugiri municipality. The study investigated into the effect of uninvolved parenting on prevalence of the street children in bugiri municipality. Majority of the respondents 35% strongly agreed , 21% agreed to the statement that children with uninvolved parents are more likely to seek emotional and physical needs outside the home, leading them to the streets, **33%** strongly agreed , **47%** agreed to the statement that the absence of guidance and emotional support from caregivers compels these children to seek out alternative environments, often resulting in their engagement in street life, it can be observed that 25% strongly agreed, 32% agreed to the statement to the statement that the lack of emotional connection with parents leads to children’s inability to form secure attachments, making them more susceptible to the influences of street life, 35% strongly agreed, 16% agreed to the statement that the socio-economic challenges faced by families often exacerbate the uninvolved parenting style, as parents become more focused on economic survival rather than attending to their children’s needs while 43% disagreed, 13% strongly disagreed to the same statement that the lack of supervision and parental involvement exacerbates children’s vulnerability to exploitation and abuse, factors that further entrench their presence on the streets. Basing on the above results, it can be concluded that uninvolved parenting has a significant effect on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality.

5.1.3 Question three: Findings on the effect of permissive parenting on prevalence of the street children in bugiri municipality

The findings revealed that 38% strongly agreed, 24% agreed to the statement that the absence of parental guidance and supervision can leave children feeling unsupported, contributing to their decision to seek refuge in the streets where they may feel a greater sense of autonomy, 22% strongly agreed , 29% agreed, to the same statement that inadequate supervision and the failure to enforce rules at home can drive children towards peers who may be involved in delinquent activities, further increasing their risk of becoming street children. 54% strongly agreed, 21% agreed to the statement that the lack of parental boundaries and the inconsistent application of discipline in permissive households can create an environment where children feel neglected, pushing them towards the streets as a means of seeking attention and a sense of belonging

, 43% strongly agreed ,25% agreed to the statement that permissive parenting style often results in children who are less prepared to handle the pressures and responsibilities of adolescence and early adulthood, increasing the likelihood of them becoming street children ,29% disagreed, 31% strongly disagreed to the same statement that children raised in permissive environments often struggle with boundaries and discipline, making them more vulnerable to external influences and, in extreme cases, leading them to run away from home, it can be concluded that permissive parenting has a significant effect on the prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality.

5.2 Conclusion

Basing on the research objective one which was to examine the effect of authoritarian parenting on prevalence of the street children in bugiri municipality, it can concluded that authoritarian parenting has a significant effect on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality and can be enhanced by focusing on implementing programs that promote balanced and responsible parenting practices. This can include developing and funding parental education and training programs that emphasize the importance of structure, discipline, and consistent rules while also teaching the need for empathy, communication, and emotional support. By incorporating these elements, the government can help parents establish a more balanced approach to authoritarian parenting, which can reduce conflicts that drive children away from home. Additionally, the government can partner with schools and community organizations to create outreach programs that identify and support at-risk families, providing them with resources and guidance to improve their parenting skills.

With reference to the research objective two which was to determine the effect of uninvolved parenting on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality. It can be concluded that uninvolved parenting has a significant effect on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality and can be enhanced by addressing the underlying causes such as poverty, mental health issues, and lack of parenting skills. This can be achieved by providing parental education programs that stress the importance of active engagement in children's lives, alongside offering economic support and mental health services to alleviate stressors that lead to neglect. Community-based interventions, such as peer support groups and mentoring, combined with stronger child protection services, can also help parents become more involved. Additionally,

fostering collaboration between schools, local authorities, and community organizations ensures that at-risk families receive the support they need to prevent children from turning to the streets.

With allusion to the third objective which was to assess the effect of permissive parenting on prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality, it can be concluded that permissive parenting has a significant effect on the prevalence of the street children in Bugiri municipality. This can be enhanced by educating parents on the need for a balance between warmth and setting boundaries. Parenting programs can provide guidance on establishing consistent rules and expectations while maintaining a supportive and loving environment. Additionally, offering support groups and counseling can help parents understand the importance of discipline and structure in a child's development. Collaboration with schools and community organizations can reinforce positive behaviors at home, while interventions like family therapy can address underlying issues that contribute to overly lenient parenting, thereby reducing the risk of children leaving home for the streets.

5.3 Recommendations

The government should focus on implementing programs that promote balanced and responsible parenting practices. This can include developing and funding parental education and training programs that emphasize the importance of structure, discipline, and consistent rules while also teaching the need for empathy, communication, and emotional support. By incorporating these elements, the government can help parents establish a more balanced approach to authoritarian parenting, which can reduce conflicts that drive children away from home. Additionally, the government can partner with schools and community organizations to create outreach programs that identify and support at-risk families, providing them with resources and guidance to improve their parenting skills.

There is need to address the underlying causes such as poverty, mental health issues, and lack of parenting skills. This can be achieved by providing parental education programs that stress the importance of active engagement in children's lives, alongside offering economic support and mental health services to alleviate stressors that lead to neglect. Community-based interventions, such as peer support groups and mentoring, combined with stronger child

protection services, can also help parents become more involved. Additionally, fostering collaboration between schools, local authorities, and community organizations ensures that at-risk families receive the support they need to prevent children from turning to the streets.

There is need to educate parents on the need for a balance between warmth and setting boundaries. Parenting programs can provide guidance on establishing consistent rules and expectations while maintaining a supportive and loving environment. Additionally, offering support groups and counseling can help parents understand the importance of discipline and structure in a child's development. Collaboration with schools and community organizations can reinforce positive behaviors at home, while interventions like family therapy can address underlying issues that contribute to overly lenient parenting, thereby reducing the risk of children leaving home for the streets.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondent;

I am Waiswa Jude carrying out research on the topic “effects of the parenting styles on the prevalence of the street children in bugiri municipality.” as a partial fulfillment for the award of bachelors degree of social work and social administration at Uganda Christian University .The questionnaire is designed to help me collect relevant information and therefore I kindly request you to participate in responding to the questions that will be asked .However the information given will be treated confidential and will only be used for academic purpose.

SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

(Tick in the box provided)

1. Gender distribution of the respondent

a) Male b) Female

2. Age bracket of the respondent (years)

a) 21-30 b) 31-40 c) 41-50 C) 60 and above

3. Academic qualification of respondent

a) Secondary b) Certificate c) Diploma d) Bachelors' e) Masters

4. Years of working by the respondents.

a) Less than 1 year b) 1-2 years c) 3 years and above

Section A: To examine the effect of authoritarian parenting on prevalence of the street children in bugiri municipality. This section aims at examining the effect of authoritarian parenting on prevalence of the street children in bugiri municipality. Please indicate your opinion on the following statements using the Linkert scale. Key: **1= agree, 2= strongly agree; 3= not sure; 4= disagree; 5= strongly disagree.**

No		1	2	3	4	5
1	children subjected to authoritarian parenting are more likely to experience emotional and psychological distress, which can result in them fleeing their homes and ultimately becoming street children					
2	children from authoritarian homes often suffer from poor communication with their parents, leading to feelings of alienation and a lack of familial support					
3	lack of emotional support and nurturing in authoritarian households can hinder a child's development of healthy coping mechanisms, making them more susceptible to the dangers and lifestyle associated with street living					
4	authoritarian parenting is characterized by strict control, lack of warmth and affection, and high expectations					
5	Authoritarian parents tend to use physical punishment, restrict autonomy, and have rigid expectations, leading children to feel trapped and eventually resort to leaving their homes					

Section B: To determine the effect of uninvolved parenting on prevalence of the street children in bugiri municipality. This section aims at determining the effect of uninvolved parenting on prevalence of the street children in bugiri municipality. Please indicate your opinion on the following statements using the Linkert scale. Key: **1= agree, 2= strongly agree; 3= not sure; 4= disagree; 5= strongly disagree.**

No		1	2	3	4	5
1	children with uninvolved parents are more likely to seek emotional and physical needs outside the home, leading them to the streets					
2	The absence of guidance and emotional support from caregivers compels these children to seek out alternative environments, often resulting in their engagement in street life					
3	the lack of supervision and parental involvement exacerbates children’s vulnerability to exploitation and abuse, factors that further entrench their presence on the streets					
4	the lack of emotional connection with parents leads to children’s inability to form secure attachments, making them more susceptible to the influences of street life					
5	The socio-economic challenges faced by families often exacerbate the uninvolved parenting style, as parents become more focused on economic survival rather than attending to their children’s needs					

Section C: To assess the effect of permissive parenting on prevalence of the street children in bugiri municipality

This section aims at assessing the effect of permissive parenting on prevalence of the street children in bugiri municipality. Please indicate your opinion on the following statements using the Linkert scale. Key: 1= agree, 2= strongly agree; 3= not sure; 4= disagree; 5= strongly disagree.

No		1	2	3	4	5
1	children raised in permissive environments often struggle with boundaries and discipline, making them more vulnerable to external influences and, in extreme cases, leading them to run away from home					
2	The absence of parental guidance and supervision can leave children feeling unsupported, contributing to their decision to seek refuge in the streets where they may feel a greater sense of autonomy					
3	inadequate supervision and the failure to enforce rules at home can drive children towards peers who may be involved in delinquent activities, further increasing their risk of becoming street children					
4	The lack of parental boundaries and the inconsistent application of discipline in permissive households can create an environment where children feel neglected, pushing them towards the streets as a means of seeking attention and a sense of belonging.					
5	permissive parenting style often results in children who are less prepared to handle the pressures and responsibilities of adolescence and early adulthood, increasing the likelihood of them becoming street children					

APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW GUIDE

1. Can you describe the typical disciplinary methods used by parents in your community?
2. How do children generally react to strict rules and high expectations from their parents?
3. In what ways do you think authoritarian parenting might contribute to children running away from home?
4. Do you observe any common characteristics among street children that suggest they come from authoritarian households?
5. How does the relationship between parents and children in authoritarian households impact the child's decision to live on the streets?
6. How prevalent is uninvolved or neglectful parenting in your community, and what does it look like?
7. In your opinion, what are the main reasons parents might become uninvolved in their children's lives?
8. How do children from uninvolved parenting backgrounds cope with the lack of attention and support at home?
9. Do you think there is a connection between uninvolved parenting and the likelihood of children ending up on the streets? If so, how?
10. How do community support systems or extended families intervene in situations where children are neglected by their parents?
11. What are the common parenting styles you observe in your community, particularly in terms of setting rules and expectations for children?
12. How do children raised in permissive households typically behave, both at home and in public?
13. Do you think children from permissive parenting environments are more likely to explore the streets? Why or why not?
14. How do you believe the lack of boundaries and discipline in permissive households influences a child's likelihood to leave home?
15. In your experience, how does permissive parenting affect a child's ability to cope with challenges or pressures from their peers or the community? In your view, what interventions or policies could be implemented to improve healthcare access and subsequently optimize the teacher-student ratio for orphans and vulnerable children?

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THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

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✓ The academic Registrar,
Uganda Christian University
Mbale University College

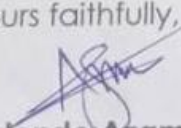
Acceptance to undertake research in Bugiri Municipal Council

This deserves to inform you that Waiswa Jude Registration number S21/MUC/BSW/027 (Bachelor's degree in social work and Social Administration) has been accepted to undertake his research in Bugiri Municipal Council on the topic, **'The effects of parenting styles on the prevalence of street children in Bugiri Municipality'**.

During his research at Bugiri Municipal Council, he will be required to abide by the rules and regulations that Govern this entity.

By copy of this letter, the Probation Officer is hereby requested to accord the student the necessary attention he deserves.

Yours faithfully,


Mulondo Azam

For Town Clerk

CC. Probation Officer, Bugiri Municipal Council

Cc, Waiswa Jude

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