

**THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS INFLUENCING DRUG ABUSE AMONG ADOLESCENTS
AGED 12 TO 18 IN KISENYI, KAMPALA UGANDA**

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EM21B15/032

**A DISSERTATION REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN
PARTIAL FULFILLMENT AS THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF DEGREE OF
BACHELORS IN SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF UGANDA CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY**

June, 2024



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DECLARATION

I, Mbabazi Della, do hereby declare that the work contained in this Research Report titled, "The Socio-Economic Factors Influencing Drug Abuse among Adolescents Aged 12 to 18 in Kisenyi, Kampala Uganda" is original and has never been submitted to the Higher Institution of Learning or any academic Institution for any Degree award or other awards.

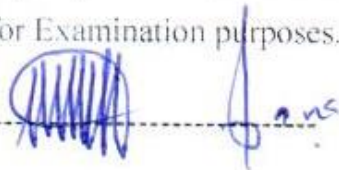
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APPROVAL

This is to certify that this Research Report under the topic: "The Socio-Economic Factors Influencing Drug Abuse among Adolescents Aged 12 to 18 in Kisenyi, Kampala Uganda" was done under my supervision and is now ready for submission to Uganda Christian University Authorities for Examination purposes.

Signature: _____



Date: _____

10/6/2024

MR. MUKHWANA FREDRICK

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my beloved parents, Mr. Francis and Mrs. Anna Ndebesa. Thanks for all the support you have given me throughout my academic career. Thank you for your genuine care, patience, inspirational advice, spiritual and financial support. I say, trust in God for academic victory.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I thank the Almighty God for giving me the grace; guidance and strength throughout the whole study period because without Him I would not have been successful. I am forever indebted to Him. I am very grateful to my beloved parents, Mr. Francis and Mrs. Anna Ndebesa for their enduring love, care, effort, support and financial aid throughout to this level of my education. May they live to see the outcomes of their sweat and hard work. Heartfelt gratitude to the management and staff of the School of Social Sciences but above all, especially to my Supervisor, Mr. Fredrick Mukhwana for the great job done of equipping me with practical skills, guidance in research. Thank you for the academic guidance during my stay at Uganda Christian University. I acknowledge friends for the help rendered to me during the research period. I dearly appreciate the support so much. Really, thank you for the pieces of advice given to me during my course of the study. I am grateful to my sibling, Muhoozi Darren and Tilda Birungi for their inspiration and encouragement to finish this course. Finally, special tributes go to all those who provided all the required information (data) during my research. May the Almighty God bless you all.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
APPROVAL.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
DEDICATION	Error! Bookmark not defined.i
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	Error! Bookmark not defined.
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	v
LIST OF TABLES	viii
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
ACROYNMS	x
ABSTRACT	xi
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION	1
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Background to the Study.....	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	4
1.3 Purpose of the Study	5
1.4 Objectives of the Study	5
1.5 Research Questions.....	5
1.6 Scope of the Study	6
1.6.1 Content Scope.....	6
1.6.2 Geographical Scope	6
1.6.3 Time Scope.....	6
1.7 Significance of the Study	6
1.8 Conceptual Framework.....	7

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	9
2.0 Introduction	9
2.1 The Most Common Drug Abuse Cases among Adolescents Aged 12 To 18 Years..	9
2.2 Social Factors Influencing Adolescents' Involvement in Drugs Abuse..	11
2.3 Economic Factors Influencing Adolescents' Involvement in Drug Abuse.....	14
2.4 Review of the Related Literature.....	16
CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY	17
3.0 Introduction	17
3.1 Research Design	17
3.2 Area of Study.....	17
3.3 Information Sources.....	17
3.4 Target Population	17
3.5 Sample Size Determination.....	18
3.6 Sampling Techniques.....	18
3.7 Measurement Level.....	18
3.7 Procedure for Data Collection.....	19
3.8 Data Collection Instruments	19
3.8.1 The Questionnaires	19
3.8.2 Interview Guide	19
3.9 Data Presentation and Analysis	20
3.9.1 Analysis of Quantitative Data	20
3.9.1 Qualitative Data Analysis	20
3.10 Ethical Considerations and Approvals.....	20

3.10.1 Ethical Clearance	20
3.10.2 Informed Consent	20
3.10.3 Participants' Confidentiality.....	20
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION..	21
4.0 Introduction..	21
4.1 Response Rate of Respondents.....	21
4.2 Demographic characteristics of respondents.....	21
4.3 The Common Drug Abuse Cases among Adolescents..	23
4.4 The Social Factors Influencing Adolescents' Involvement in Drugs Abuse	25
4.5 The Economic Factors Influencing Adolescents' Involvement in Drug Abuse.....	29
CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	31
5.0 Introduction..	31
5.1 Conclusions..	31
5.2 Recommendations.....	31
5.3 Areas of Further Research.....	32
REFERENCES	33
APPENDICES.....	36
APPENDIX 1: SAMPLE SIZE DETERMINATION TABLE.....	36
APPENDIX II: CONSENT FORM FOR PARTICIPANTS.....	37
APPENDIX III: QUESTIONNAIRE.....	38
APPENDIX IV: INTERVIEW GUIDE.....	41
APPENDIX V: INTRODUCTORY LETTER.....	43

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Sampling Frame.....	18
Table 2: Number of respondents participated in this research study.....	21
Table 3: Showing Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents.....	22
Table 4: Findings on the social factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drugs abuse	26
Table 5: Findings on the economic factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drug abuse in Kisenyi.....	29

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework.....	7
Figure 2: Findings on the drugs commonly abused.....	23
Figure 3: How old were you when you first used drugs.....	24
Figure 4: How often do adolescents use drugs.....	25

ACROYNMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
DEO	District Education Officer
DALYs	Disability Adjusted Life Years
DV	Dependent Variable
HIV	Human Immune Virus
IV	Independent Variable
KCCA	Kampala City Council Authority
MoH	Ministry of Health
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
USA	United States of America
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
WHO	World Health Organisation

ABSTRACT

The study was carried out in Kisenyi, Kampala District. The study aimed at examining the socio-economic factors influencing drug abuse among the adolescents. The study objectives included:

1. To identify the most common drug abuse cases among adolescents aged 12 to 18 years in Kisenyi.
2. To find out if there any social factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drugs abuse in Kisenyi.
3. To find out if there any economic factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drug abuse in Kisenyi.

The study adopted a cross-sectional survey research design. The target population was local leaders and youth especially those involved in drug addicts; totaling to 52 respondents. Data was collected by use of questionnaire, and interview guide. It was analyzed qualitatively and quantitatively.

Findings show that cigarettes, Khat (mairungi), marijuana, milla and Cocaine being the most common drugs abused by adolescents in Kisenyi. It was also further noticed that 43.5% of adolescents started use of drugs when they were between 5-9 years, and they could use drugs 2-5 times a day. The study also revealed that encouragement from friends (peer group influence), motivated by parents, involved in selling and distributing drugs, lack of streamlined rules at home, and open drug market in Kisenyi; these are the major social factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drug abuse in Kisenyi, Kampala district. The study finally revealed that employment status, low income level, and family economic status; these are the major economic factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drug abuse in Kisenyi.

Basing on the above study findings, it is concluded that there are various socio-economic factors influencing drug abuse among the adolescents in Kisenyi, Kampala district. The recommends that there is need to enhance the enforcement of the existing legal and institutional frameworks in drugs. The enforcement officers especially police officers, courts and local leaders need to join hands to curbing down the youth involvement in use of drugs; and areas of further research were suggested.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This research aims at investigating the socio-economic factors influencing drug abuse among adolescents aged 12 to 18 in Kisenyi, Kampala Uganda. The independent variable (socio-economic factors) and the dependent variable (drug abuse among adolescents) will be examined. This chapter presents the background to the problem, the problem statement, the purpose of the study, objectives of the study, research questions, scope of the study, the justification and study significance of the study, as well as conceptual framework.

1.1 Background to the Study

In the global context, drug abuse among adolescents aged 12 to 18 varies across different regions. In Asia, the prevalence of drug abuse among this age group is less than 3%, while in Oceania, it exceeds 17% (Aly et al., 2020). According to the 2023 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report, the global burden of illicit drug use among adolescents is estimated at 275million adolescents, an increase of 21.7% from 226 million adolescents in 2010. In 2015 alone, illicit drug use cost the human population tens of millions of disability adjusted life years (DALYs). Europeans suffered proportionately more but in absolute terms the mortality rate was greatest in mid-income countries (World Drug Report, 2023). DALY rates of illicit drug use are estimated to be 2.5 times higher in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) than other regions. Drug abuse is a major threat to education, health and the economy, contributing to 5.1% morbidity, and 5.3% mortality worldwide. The predictors of illicit drug use among adolescents' world over include male gender, peer pressure, low education, psychological factors and increasing poverty levels. Survey (Gray & Squeglia, 2021) among the adolescents in Bangladesh suggests that early (12-15 years) to mid (15-17 years) adolescence is a critical period for the initiation of drug abuse.

Correspondingly, according to the World report prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2023), drug abuse among adolescents is rampant in South America, with more than half of those in drug treatment being under 25 years old. In a cross-sectional survey of adolescents aged between 13 and 18 years in the United States of America (USA), Swendsen et al., (2022) found that 78.2% of the adolescents had been involved in alcohol abuse, while

18.4% had abused an illicit drug at least once. The study concluded that drug abuse was rampant among adolescents in the USA, with the onset age of about 14 years. Kann et al., (2022) also found that alcohol, cannabis, and tobacco had been abused by 75.6%, 48.6% and 48.1% of youth in the United States respectively, by the time they attained the age of 18 years. Generally, alcohol abuse among adolescents and young adults is highest in the European and American regions, while the Southeast Asia region and eastern Mediterranean has the lowest alcohol abuse prevalence rates (Wang & Wang, 2023). This will be investigated, especially scrutinizing the frequently applied or existing socio-economic factors influence adolescents' behaviours, and its influence into drug abuse among adolescents.

Africa faces a significant drug issue, with various substances posing significant challenges to public health and socio-economic development across the continent (Kugbey, 2023). In terms of countries, Kenya, Burundi, Morocco, South Africa and Nigeria are major countries where drug abuse is rampant in the region (World Drug Report, 2023). Similarly, the WHO (2023) global status report on drug and health estimates current drug use among 15-17 years old in Sub Saharan Africa at 21.4%, of which weaknesses in the legal framework and other pertinent factors behind it's rise. Furthermore, a systematic review of studies (Carrier & Klantschnig, 2022) done in Ghana, Benin, Chad and Nigeria found that the overall prevalence of any drug use among adolescents was 41.6%. Similar reports show that several family, social and economic factors predispose adolescents to illicit drug use in Sub-Saharan Africa. Although, a number of interventions have been suggested to reduce illicit drug use in SSA, the evidence of benefit for them is weak (Simbee, 2022), and despite the proven dangers associated with illicit drug use in Eretria and other SSA states, it persists, and in some contexts increases even with interventions. Arguably, Abdool (2022) opine that the East African region has an escalation of drug abuse among the adolescents with countries such as Burundi, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania and South Sudan experiencing an exponential growth of the number of adolescents affected. The system details that the drug use has risen by 26% in the last five years in the East African Community (Abdool, 2022). Interestingly, no single socio-economic factors can be pointed to, to be responsible for this paucity something that this research study delve in.

In Uganda, the burden of illicit drug use is high among school-going individuals, fisher folk, slum-dwelling adolescents and young women involved in high risk sexual behaviours (Nyaoke,

2023); yet this population remains under studied. A study in northern and central Uganda found that two-thirds of school going adolescents had ever used drugs (Simbee, 2022). Previous studies (Ngamije & Yadufashije, 2020) done in Kampala, the capital city and fishing communities in Uganda show that illicit drug use among adolescents are associated with sexual risk behaviours such as high numbers of paying sexual partners and inconsistent condom use. Unregulated marketing and availability of cheap drugs, mass media, peer groups and home environment has increased access to these drugs (Wawira et al., 2023). However, few studies (Nyaoke, 2023 & Kamara et al., 2019) have described illicit drug use among adolescents living in urban slums where use of these substances may be more prevalent.

In Kampala City, several socio-economic factors such as poverty, unemployment, lack of education, and limited access to healthcare contribute to the prevalence of drug abuse among young people (Wawira et al., 2023). These conditions push individuals toward substance use as a coping mechanism or means of escaping harsh realities. With high levels of poverty and unemployment, youth face feelings of hopelessness and boredom, making them vulnerable to drug use (Kamara et al., 2019). Arguably, limited educational opportunities hinder awareness about drug dangers and reduce access to alternative activities. Inadequate healthcare further exacerbates the issue by leaving individuals struggling with addiction without necessary support. Consequently, adolescents in Kisenyi, Kampala are at risk of compromised physical and mental health, impaired cognitive abilities, addiction, and involvement in criminal activities due to drug abuse, emphasizing the need to address these socio-economic factors for the community's well-being (Kuteesa, Webb, Kawuma, Naluwugge & Ndekezi, 2021). In Kisenyi, the prevalence of drug abuse among adolescents has remained high at 70.1%, statistically indicating that socio-economic factors significantly influence the drug abuse among adolescents (Kalungi et al., 2023). Yet, empirical studies into the socio-economic factors influencing drug abuse among the adolescents in Kampala district and Kisenyi in particular remain scanty. Therefore, this study sought to fill the gap of knowledge on the socio-economic factors influencing drug abuse among the adolescents in Kisenyi, Kampala district.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The drug abuse menace poses a serious threat to the social and economic development of a country. The threat is even more serious in developing countries where risk factors of drug

abuse such as unemployment are high. The situation is worse in slum dwellings where various socio-economic factors may encourage drug abuse especially among the youth, and particularly girls, who have been found to be more vulnerable. The prevalence of drug abuse among adolescents in Uganda has remained high (Kalungi et al., 2023), despite the availability of legal and institutional frameworks regulating the use of drugs and other campaigning programs from the Ministry of Health in Kampala. Consequently, there is lack of significant reduction on the adolescents abusing drugs, where it was indicated that in 2021, the adolescents involved in drug abuse was estimated to be 65%, and this have risen to 70.1% in 2023. It is interesting to note that the number of adolescents seeking medical care for illicit abuse related consequences have risen to 13% in 2023 in Kisenyi alone (Kalungi et al., 2023). In turn, these high numbers of adolescents involved in drug abuse may be as a result of socio-economic factors such as parental level of education, level of family income, among others significantly contribute to drug abuse among the youth (Kuteesa et al., 2021). Drug abuse robs the potential of individuals in a society and has been linked to crime and unwanted behaviour. The youth, especially those living in areas characterized by a low socio-economic status such as slum dwellings are even much more vulnerable (Wawira et al., 2023). In Kisenyi, drug abuse causes the adolescents to engage into unwanted social behaviour such as violence, crime, risky sexual behavior, and academic underachievement (Karungi et al., 2023).

Surprisingly, Kampala City Council Authority (KCCA) has put up measures to address the issue of several socio-economic factors in order to improve on adolescents' socio-economic well-being by strengthening and encouraging adolescents to join and benefit from free education program, and rehabilitating them, in addition to the Ministry of Health timely spearheading publicity programs, as well as training several stakeholders on the dangers associated with drug abuse through workshops (Nyaoke, 2023). This has been done with an intention of minimizing drug abuse among adolescents within Kampala. Regrettably, despite of all these efforts, the drug abuse among the adolescents is still experienced and said to remain rife in the Kisenyi. The presence of over 71% of adolescents abusing drugs has made the situation in Kisenyi to become alarming. Despite the rising cases of drug abuse among the youth in Kisenyi, there has been less research attention focusing on the link between socio-economic factors and drug abuse in Uganda. Previous studies have focused on drug abuse among the youth in general, such as (Gray & Squeglia, 2021; Kann et al., 2022; Kamara et al., 2019). The

study addressed the existing gaps by focusing on socio-economic factors in general (conceptual gap) and focusing on adolescents aged 12 to 18, in the context of Kisenyi in Kampala district, Uganda.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to examine the socio-economic factors influencing drug abuse among the adolescents in Kisenyi, Kampala district of Uganda.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The study was guided by the following research objectives: -

1. To identify the most common drug abuse cases among adolescents aged 12 to 18 years in Kisenyi.
2. To find out if there any social factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drugs abuse in Kisenyi.
3. To find out if there any economic factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drug abuse in Kisenyi.

1.5 Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions: -

1. What are the most common drug abuse cases among adolescents aged 12 to 18 years in Kisenyi?
2. Are there any social factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drug abuse in Kisenyi?
3. Are there any economic factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drug abuse in Kisenyi?

1.6 Scope of the Study

In this section, the researcher handled the content scope, geographical scope, and time scope of the study as discussed hereunder.

1.6.1 Content Scope

The study was limited to the socio-economic factors influencing drug abuse among the adolescents. The independent variable (socio-economic factors) and the dependent variable (drug abuse among the adolescents) were examined. The study will consider socio-economic factors as an independent variable indicated by the following parameters; peer group influence, cultural and moral beliefs, education level, gender and home environment, occupation, employment status, and income level. On the other hand, drug abuse among the adolescents was the dependent variable and reflected on the following dimensions; mental disorders, drop out of school, poverty, unemployment, peer groups, and psychological challenges.

1.6.2 Geographical Scope

The study was conducted in Kisenyi, Kampala district of Uganda. Kisenyi is situated in the heart of downtown Kampala's Central Division. Kisenyi is approximately 2.7km from the city centre of Kampala. This particular area was selected because of continued adolescents' involvement in drug abuse.

1.6.3 Time Scope

The researcher analyzed data on the period of 2015 - 2024, the time when the adolescents' involvement in drug abuse have become a worryingly concern in the study area. Secondly, the study was conducted over a specific period of 3 months (from March to May 2024) to enable the researcher accomplish other education requirement and meet other education deadline (University calendar).

1.7 Significance of the Study

According to (Creswell, 2014), the term significance refers to study findings, including the strengths in adding new knowledge or bridging knowledge gaps and the value of the research findings. The study finding is expected to be of help to the following people and sectors:

Policy makers: This study results are expected to shade light on the factors influencing drug abuse among the adolescents. This shall be of vital importance to the health practitioners, legislators and human rights activists to supervise and monitor drug abuse.

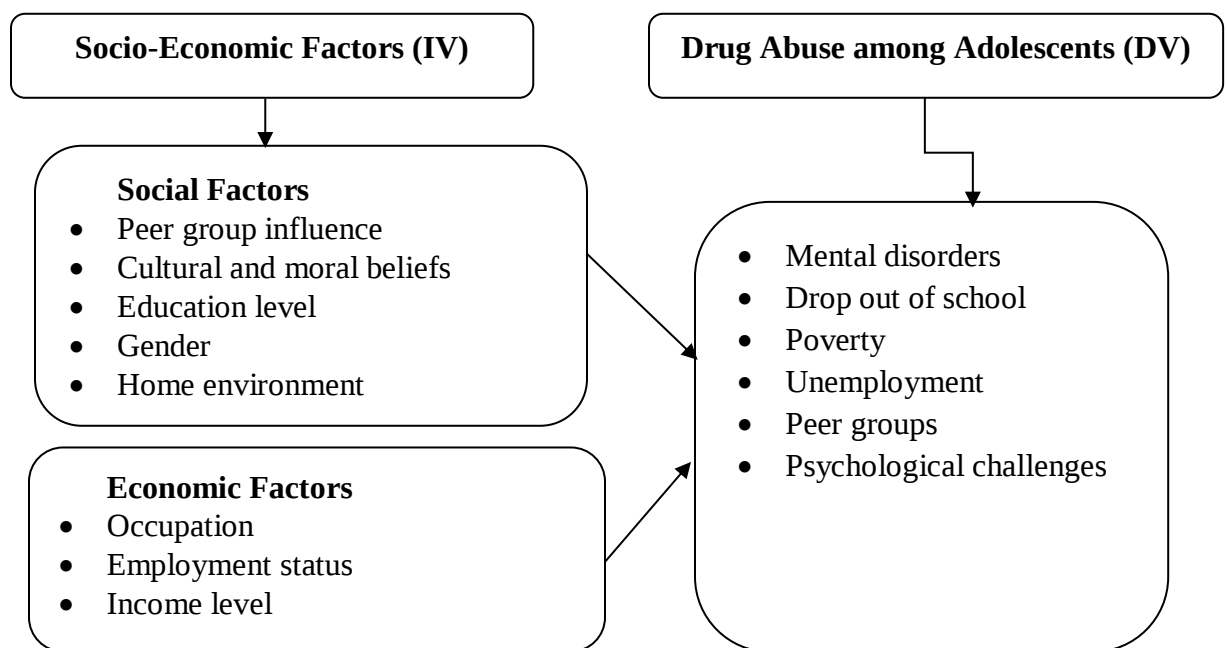
Health practitioners: The study finding is expected to offer views and ideas to them to develop policies to minimize prevalence of drug abuse and other related causes of substance abuse.

The finding is expected to also serve as an additional source of reference for other researchers and students whose studies relate to the topic under discussion.

1.8 Conceptual Framework

The study will be based on a conceptual framework as illustrated in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework



Source: Adopted from Aly et al., (2020) and modified by the researcher

The conceptual framework in the Figure 1 above explains the relationships that exist between the independent (socio-economic factors) and the dependent variable (drug abuse among adolescents) for this study. In this study the independent variable is socio-economic factors with its dimensions of social factors (i.e peer group influence, cultural and moral beliefs, education level, gender and home environment); and economic factors (i.e occupation, employment status, and income level). When all these are in place, they positively have an influence on the drug abuse among adolescents as the dependent variable. Drug abuse among adolescents can be indicated by mental disorders, drop out of school, poverty, unemployment, peer groups, and

psychological challenges as reflected in Figure 1 above. The next chapter covers the literature review, comprising of empirical reviews as well as research gaps or summary of literature review.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter discusses the existing literature related to the research under study. It further covers different writers, researchers and authors' views, opinions, perception and ideas. The literature review was further done basing on the study themes developed in accordance to the study objectives namely: the most common drug abuse cases among adolescents aged 12 to 18 years, social factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drugs abuse, and economic factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drug abuse. When reviewing the literature, the researcher considered both the literature that agree and those that do not agree with the topic under study to form a firm foundation for the study. There is a provision for a summary of the review of literature depicting the possible gaps that will identify during this study.

2.1 The Most Common Drug Abuse Cases among Adolescents Aged 12 To 18 Years

The percentage of adolescents involved in drug abuse in 2022-2023 have been largely increasing cross the global. Globally, youths are at risk of engaging in drug abuse. In Uganda, the prevalence of drug abuse among youths is 70.1% which is a lot higher than that of East Africa which is approximated at 45.5% (Kuteesa, Webb, Kawuma, Naluwugge & Ndekezi, 2021). More than 1.6million or 8.3% of 12 to 17 years olds reported using drugs in the last year across Europe (WHO, 2023).

In the global context, drug abuse is a serious problem that countries are facing. According to the World Drug Report (2023) prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), drug abuse is rampant worldwide with about 75 million people aged between 15 and 24 years having abused drugs at least once. Among adolescents, cannabis was commonly abused due to the perception that it is easily available and has less harm. It is noted that 591,000 teenagers aged 12 to 17 years use illicit drug other than marijuana. The report also highlights the fact that the adolescence period between the age of 12 and 17 years is a critical period where young people may be easily lured into drug abuse, while the peak exposure age is about 18 to 25 years (World Drug Report, 2023).

In a cross-sectional survey of adolescents aged between 13 and 18 years in the United States of America (USA), Swendsen *et al.* (2022) found that 78.2% of the adolescents had been involved in

alcohol abuse, while 81.4% had abused an illicit drug at least once. The study concluded that drug abuse was rampant among adolescents in the USA, with the onset age of about 14 years. Kann *et al* (2022) also found that drug abuse, cannabis, and tobacco had been abused by 75.6%, 48.6% and 48.1% of youth in the United States respectively, by the time they attained the age of 18 years. Generally, alcohol abuse among adolescents and young adults is highest in the European and American regions, while the South East Asia region and eastern Mediterranean has the lowest alcohol abuse prevalence rates (WHO, 2023).

Correspondingly, Carrier & Klantschnig (2022) reviewed the status of drug abuse among high school students in Iran aged between 14 and 19 years. The findings revealed that Cigarette and Hookah were the most commonly used substances by the students. Other drugs such as Opium, Alcohol, and Heroine were also prevalent. In Europe, substance abuse among adolescents and the general population is also a major problem. According to the Gray & Squeglia (2021), at least 77 Million people in Europe aged between 15 and 64 years have used Cannabis at least once, while 12.7 million and 11.4 million have used amphetamines and Ecstasy respectively, at least once. A UNODC (2023) report showed that 269 million people abuse drugs globally.

In Sub-Saharan Africa, about 28 million people are drug abusers and about 37,000 people in Africa die annually from diseases associated with drug abuse. A study by (Kamara et al., 2019) revealed that Nigeria has the highest drug prevalence rate among the youth at 20.9% and followed by South Africa at 15%. Further, Mbalu (2022) based on a sample of 143,201 youths with a mean age of 17.5 years, established that the prevalence of drug abuse among youths in Sub-Saharan Africa was 41.6%. The drugs consumed by the youth in this study included; caffeine products (41.2%) but this was only in the West African countries. This was followed by alcohol (32.8%), tobacco products (23.5%), khat (22.0%), cannabis (15.9%), depressants (11.3%), amphetamines (9.4%), the heroine (4.0%) and cocaine (3.9%).

In East Africa, the prevalence rate of drug abuse among the youth is 45.5% (Simbee, 2022). It was projected that East Africa will have a third of all drug abusers in Africa by the year 2050 due to a high level of urbanization (Ngamiye & Yadufashije, 2020). This is attributed to the easy

availability and affordability of drugs facilitating the abuse of drugs among youths in East Africa.

In Uganda, the prevalence of drug abuse among youths aged 15-24 years is 70.1% (Kuteesa, 2020; WHO, 2023). Of these 39.1% use drugs regularly and the common drugs consumed include: alcohol (23.3%), kuber (10.8%), khat (10.5%), aviation fuel (10.1%), Cannabis (9.2%), and cigarettes (5.9%) (Wawira et al, 2023). However, the occurrence of drug abuse in males was twice as much as in females who are usually initiated at a later stage (Wawira et al, 2023). In addition, traditional cultural values influence youths' attitudes and beliefs, which in turn influence their health risk behaviours hence abuse of drugs.

In Kampala city, a study by (Nakibuuka & Nalubega, 2022) revealed that drug abuse is notably very common among youths in Kampala city suburbs and slums. This is because these areas are highly populated with Ugandans from different tribes as well as other nationalities including Somali, Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees. In the same study, it was revealed that the most noteworthy users of drugs were youths aged 15-24 years. The study showed the commonly abused drugs in Kisenyi as Khat (52.6%), alcohol (25.6%), marijuana (15.4%), cocaine (6.4%) and heroin (0.8%). This was partly attributed to the fusion of cultures with some of the Ugandans adopting drug use from their non-Ugandan friends in the neighbourhood (Nakibuuka et al., 2023). However, all the drug users identified in this study were male and did not explore drug abuse among females. This study is therefore timely as it examining the socio-economic factors influencing drug abuse among the adolescents both male and female aged 12-18 years in Kisenyi slum of Kampala district.

2.2 Social Factors Influencing Adolescents' Involvement in Drugs Abuse

According to Kuteesa, Webb, Kawuma, Naluwugge & Ndekezi (2021), among boys and girls, spending time out with peer friends in the evenings and skipping school were found to be risk factors for drug abuse. Bullying, physical abuse, avoiding sleep to concentrate on academics, and the resulting psychological trauma are also predisposing factors for adolescent's involvement in drug abuse. On the other hand, Aly et al., (2020) opines that factors such as peer pressure, physical and sexual abuse, early exposure to drugs, stress and parental guidance can greatly affect a person's likelihood of drug use and addiction. Another survey (Abdool, 2022)

conducted in Niger and Nigeria found out that the most prevalent influencing factors for adolescents' involvement in illicit drug use are peer influence and inadequate parental or guardian care.

Gray and Squeglia (2021) argued that school influence on young people's illicit drug use have been well researched, with several reviews investigating school effects on smoking, and other drug use. Some schools are located nearby trading centers where drugs are sold within the same environment. Within South Africa, truancy, and school exclusion are associated with increased illicit drug use. Evidence suggests that aspects of the school environment such as student participation, good teacher-student relationships and a positive school ethos are associated with reduced illicit drug use (Kann et al., 2022). Important family influences include parental/sibling substance use, family structure, and family relationships (e.g. parental support, parental supervision, and good parent-child communication). There was also considerable evidence for a link between peer drug use and higher drug use in young people. However, this study was carried out outside Uganda, not entirely urban slums-based and carried out almost two years ago. These constitute gaps in conducting a similar study in Uganda, thus a justification for this study.

Nakibuuka & Nalubega (2022) further specified several factors influencing to drug abuse among adolescents in Kampala slums, and these mainly includes, religious service attendance, family structure, family member smoking cigarettes/tobacco, a friend who smoke or use drugs, and watching television. Another study (WHO, 2023) in Sub-Saharan African countries identified social media access, type of house lived in, source of livelihood, drug availability, cost of drugs, perception on drugs, and convenience in taking, as major factors influencing illicit drug uptake among adolescents. Similarly, Kamara et al., (2019) argued that in the context of drug use, current age and age of initiation can both influence behavior among adolescents. Research within South Africa, Scotland, the UK and internationally, has shown a strong relationship between age and illicit drug use (Wang & Wang, 2023). As age increases during adolescence, so does the likelihood that a young person will have engaged in some form of illicit drug use. Among adolescents in South Africa, cigarette smoking, cocaine use and cannabis use all increase between the ages of 11 and 15 years. One longitudinal study involving

582 street kids in Kenya (Kann et al., 2022) found that young people who started using drugs at an earlier age displayed use of illicit drugs as they grow up. These adolescents display weaker decision-making skills, and become more susceptible to peer pressure, leading to continuous use of illicit drugs.

More so, Aly et al., (2020) asserts that well-being of adolescents has an influence on the use of illicit drugs. Wellbeing is considered to refer to as ‘the state of being comfortable, healthy or happy’. There are several indicators of young people’s wellbeing, including physical health, emotional (mental) health, depression, stress, life satisfaction and anxiety, and when adolescents are in such situation, they devote to use of illicit drugs to find pleasure. Previous research (Abdool, 2022) has shown that emotional and mental health problems in childhood and adolescence are predictors of risk behaviours such as smoking. Illicit drug use has been commonly observed to be co-morbid with mood disorders such as depression (Carrier & Klantschnig, 2022). The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2023) study revealed depressive mood to be associated with regular use of tobacco and cocaine, and lifetime illegal drug use in the majority of young generations.

Individuals with internalizing behaviours (e.g. psychological problems and emotional distress in the form of depression) and feelings of stress may self-medicate, resorting to illicit drug use as a temporary relief for anxiety or depression (Ngamije & Yadufashije, 2020). Survey (Swendsen et al., 2022) among the adolescents in Bangladesh suggests that early (12-15 years) to mid (15-17 years) adolescence is a critical period for the initiation of drug abuse, and that illicit drugs may peak in late adolescence (18-19 years) and among young people aged 20-24 years. Illicit drug use increases with age, and health behaviours adopted during adolescence such as use of drugs have implications that can persist throughout the life course (Abdool, 2022).

Indeed, a review by Swendsen et al., (2022) suggests that as well as using drugs for external motives, e.g. to obtain social rewards or avoid social rejection, young people may also use illicit drugs in order to enhance positive mood or well-being or to attenuate negative emotions (coping strategies). Stress and anxiety can have a negative impact on emotional well-being. The perceived stress relieving capabilities of many drugs create an obvious route for their use.

Indeed, Scottish adolescents have reported one of their reasons for using drugs being to forget about or solve their problems (Nyaoke, 2023). A review of psychosocial factors related to adolescent smoking identified stress and associated distress or depression as important factors in the initiation of smoking (Simbee, 2022). However, illicit drug use itself, (particularly early onset and excessive use) can also lead to or exacerbate personal, psychological or emotional problems, thus potentially sustaining or accelerating use in the longer term. With regards to the social factors in question, the researcher developed a sense of concern in achieving knowledge on the social factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drugs abuse in Kisenyi.

2.3 Economic Factors Influencing Adolescents' Involvement in Drug Abuse

According to Carrier & Klantschnig (2022), economic risk factors reported in connection with drug consumption are; high rates of unemployment and income status. Particularly, unemployment and drug consumption among adolescents become linked into a vicious cycle. A research study by United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2023) indicated that prevalence of drug consumption previous to incarceration was 28.5%, and this could be as a result of such individuals experiencing depression and anxiety as a result of inappropriate feeding. Swendsen et al., (2022) opine that Mexico is one of the main producers of illicit drugs, and during recent decades, it has also become an important consumer, mainly due to its condition as a passage to supply markets in the United States of America. These illegal substances, consumed for their mind-altering properties, often generate dependence and in some cases, in the long term, cause health conditions such as cardiovascular complications. However, this study was carried out outside Uganda, not entirely urban based and carried out almost two years ago. These constitute gaps in conducting a similar study in Uganda, thus a justification for this study.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Africa is witnessing a rise in drug trafficking, fuelled by its strategic geographic location between drug-producing regions in Latin America and Asia and consumer markets in Europe (UNODC, 2023). The UNODC's World Drug Report 2020 highlighted that the continent's drug problem is multifaceted, encompassing both traditional substances like cannabis and heroin as well as emerging synthetic drugs like methamphetamine. More to above, Gray & Squeglia (2021)

further noted that unemployment is a significant risk factor in drug consumption among adolescents. According to the National Agency for Campaign against Drug Abuse (NACADA, 2022), whose mandate is to coordinate and spearhead the fight against drug and substance abuse in Kenya, drug abuse is mostly prevalent in the slum dwellings due to various factors such as low family income, unemployment, and ease of access to drugs among other factors. However, this study focused on a case study design and only two categories of respondents (drug addicts and health practitioners) were interviewed; unlike this study that will focus on several categories of participants, in addition to using mixed research approaches, thus creating a gap for the study.

The ideals of poverty and pressures from depression as a result of low income thereof push the youth to use drugs to liberate themselves or to feel part of given groups (Simbee, 2022). The most commonly used drugs among the youth are alcohol, tobacco, khat and cannabis as argued by Mbalu (2022). Children have also been found to be vulnerable especially in separated families and poor families, as a result they resort to drug abuse to avoid getting anxiety. Low family income and financial problems may lead to psychological stress and dropping out of school which expose children to drug abuse (Otieno & Ofulla, 2019). Poor parenting practices such as lack of parental supervision, indulgence, and neglect also make children vulnerable to drug abuse. The study took one method research design (quantitative), data was collected by use of questionnaires. Data was analyzed by percentages, mean scores, standard deviation and tables, unlike this study, that will use both quantitative and qualitative approaches.

The findings are consistent with those of Nyaoke (2023) whose study revealed that economic strains during childhood increased the chances of drug abuse by young adults, although self-control during adolescence period mediates this relationship. The panel study involved 1285 adolescents and the variables included the dynamics of family income, development of the child, transition to adulthood, and drug abuse. The relationship was tested using structural equation modelling. Mbalu (2022) also carried out a study on drug abuse among college and university students in Eldoret using a descriptive cross-sectional survey where 500 students participated. The students cited various economic factors that led them to drug abuse including financial problems. However, the study has a contextual gap by virtue of focusing on college students only, unlike this study.

Otieno and Ofulla (2019) conducted a cross-sectional study to determine the economic factors associated with drug abuse among secondary school students in nine schools in Kisumu town, western Kenya. A total of 458 students were interviewed using a closed ended questionnaire. The study found that economic status of the student's family, including family income determined the likelihood of abusing drugs. Students from low-income families had been involved in drug abuse more than those from middle or high-income families. However, this study considered all secondary school students. Kugbey (2023) carried out an analysis of the drug abuse menace in the coastal region of Kenya in a descriptive survey involving 45 respondents. The respondents included parents, teachers, drug abuse victims and leaders in the local communities. One of the key findings was that poverty was driving many youths to drug abuse. Karungi et al., (2024) also noted that unemployment and low personal or household income are associated with higher levels of drug abuse. However, the current study will focus on adolescents between the age of 12 and 18, because this group is considered more vulnerable to drug abuse. With regards to the economic factors in question, the researcher developed a sense of concern in achieving knowledge on the economic factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drugs abuse in Kisenyi.

2.4 Summary of Literature Review

After the review of related literature, the researcher realized that the related studies are dealing with social and economic factors influencing drug abuse among the adolescents, but none of them was carried out in Kisenyi, Kampala district of Uganda. To sum up, chapter two reviewed the literature related to drug abuse indicated that the drug abuse menace poses a serious threat to the social and economic development of a country. The threat is even more serious in developing countries where risk factors of drug abuse such as unemployment are high (Mbalu, 2022). The situation is worse in slum dwellings where various socio-economic factors may encourage drug abuse especially among the youth. It was upon this background that the researcher decided to investigate the socio-economic factors influencing drug abuse among the adolescents in Kisenyi, Kampala district of Uganda.

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter explains the research design, area of the study, information sources, study population, sample size determination, sampling techniques, measurements levels, the procedure for data collection, the data collection instruments; quality/error control, data presentation and analysis, and ethical considerations.

3.1 Research Design

The study employed a cross-sectional survey design. The cross-sectional survey design was used because it is relatively quick and easy to conduct, data on all variables was collected once and it provided an opportunity for studying a wide range of respondents. The cross-sectional survey was handy in this study since it accommodates a variety of methods of data collection that facilitates a quantitative understanding of the study phenomenon (Nyenje and Nkata, 2016).

3.2 Area of Study

The study was conducted in Kisenyi, Kampala district of Uganda. The study was conducted in the 3 parishes of Kisenyi slum namely; Muzaana village of Kisenyi I parish, Kiganda village of Kisenyi II Parish and Nook Village of Kisenyi III parish. Kisenyi is situated in the heart of downtown Kampala's Central Division. Kisenyi is approximately 2.7km from the city centre of Kampala.

3.3 Information Sources

The researcher mainly used primary sources of information. These primary data were collected by the use of questionnaires, focus group discussions and interview guide.

3.4 Target Population

The target population involved: local leaders (7) youth especially those involved in drug addicts (53). Local leaders were interviewed to get variety of views to make this study successful. Youth were also selected in order to obtain valid and reliable information required for this study.

3.5 Sample Size Determination

According to Katamba and Nsubuga (2014) sample size is the portion or subset of the total population. To address the existing gap, the study sample was selected following the recommendations of Morgan and Krejcie (1970) table in determining sample size to represent a cross section of people in this research. In this regard, out of 60 target population, 52 sample size was considered (Appendix 1). These included; local leaders (7), and 45 youth especially those involved in drug addicts. These local leaders mainly included, 3 LCs, 2 local defense officers and 2 youth representatives)

Table 1: Sampling Frame

Category	Population	Sample size	Selection	Tool
Local leaders	7	7	Purposive	Interviews
Youth	53	45	Purposive	Questionnaire
Total	60	52		

Source: Self Constructed Basing on Krejcie & Morgan (1970) table

3.6 Sampling Techniques

The study intentionally selected local leaders and youths, specifically targeting those engaged in drug abuse. Youths, particularly those involved in drug abuse, were selected based on specific criteria, such as self-reported drug use, known involvement in drug-related activities, referrals from community members or organizations dealing with substance abuse issues, and documented history of substance abuse treatment or counseling. Additionally, a snowball sampling method was utilized, wherein one youth involved in drug abuse referred the researcher to others with similar experiences. This method facilitated comprehensive representation of the entire population under study.

3.7 Measurement Level

According to Kothari (2013), “sound measurement level should meet the tests of validity and reliability”. It is recognizable when you are asked to indicate your strength of feeling about a particular issue on a 3-1 rating scale. The three –point scale which included the following kinds

of answers were used; 3=Agreed, 2=Undecided/ neutral, and 1=Disagree, and the respondents were asked to indicate their degree of agreement with the statements on the study variables.

3.8 Procedure for Data Collection

The researcher obtained introductory letter from the School of Social Sciences of Uganda Christian University. The letter introduced the researcher to authorities in the study area. After, the local leaders were contacted with the view of seeking permission to collect data and to explain the purpose of the study. Once this was done, the researcher distributed the questionnaires to the selected youth with the permission from the local leaders. Completed questionnaires were collected immediately, where not possible, arrangements were made to pick them on a later date. The researcher also made an appointment with local leaders for the interview. The interviews were conducted after assuring the participants confidentiality of their information.

3.9 Data Collection Instruments

The data collection instruments used in this study included questionnaires and interview guide.

3.9.1 The Questionnaires

A set of questionnaires were developed for the forty-five (45) youths. A likert scale format of a questionnaire was appropriately used. The questionnaires were used because they permit anonymity that results in more honest responses and they were the best tools for quantitative research.

3.9.2 Interview Guide

The in-depth interview guide was used to interview and obtained data from the local leaders. Interviews were arranged and conducted by the investigator with the seven (7) local leaders. Open ended in-depth interviews were conducted to generate first hand and reliable data; and probing was further used. An interview guide was designed to facilitate the asking of questions in a logical manner. It also involved meeting respondents face-to-face and collecting information from the selected respondents.

3.10 Data Presentation and Analysis

Data was analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively as follows: -

3.10.1 Analysis of Quantitative Data

Quantitative data was provided by youths. This data was scientifically analyzed to get frequency and percentages, and presented in figures and tables.

3.10.1 Qualitative Data Analysis

Local leaders provided qualitative data. At the end of each day, field notes were transcribed. Qualitative data was analyzed by content after transcribing and developing themes. Thematic content analysis was used to analysis this data where key findings were transformed into themes for easy analysis and presentation of data. The respondents' views were quoted verbatim to give their actual feeling about the issues that was raised. This therefore, gave an in-depth insight of the problem under study.

3.11 Ethical Considerations and Approvals

3.11.1 Informed Consent

Informed consent form (Appendix II) that clearly elaborates on the goal and study purpose was filled by all those who participated in the research. This enhanced confidentiality of the research which increased their involvement and participation. The respondents were also informed that participation in the study was voluntary and they had a right to accept or decline to participate or withdraw from the study anytime. The researcher also gave thorough explanations about the purpose of the study and their right to either accept or reject to participate in the interview or filling in of the questionnaires.

3.11.2 Participants' Confidentiality

In trying to protect participants' confidentiality, each participant's record was given a unique ID number. Researcher asked the participants to sign the consent forms to show their willingness to participate in the exercise after persuading them to participate in the research. The principle of anonymity was also strictly followed.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction

The study was undertaken to identify the most common drug abuse cases among adolescents aged 12 to 18 years; finding out if there any social factors and any economic factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drug abuse.

4.1 Response Rate of Respondents

This sub-section presents the summary of the statistics for the respondents' response rates. Out of a total of 60 targeted study respondents, 52 were reached and positively responded by participating in the study, giving an 86.7% response rate. Further details are presented in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Number of respondents participated in this research study

Category(s)	Targeted participants	No. actually involved.	% of response rate.
Questionnaire.			
Youth	53	45	84%
Interviews			
Local leaders	7	7	100%
TOTAL.	60	52	86.7%

Source: Primary data (2024)

4.2 Demographic characteristics of respondents

The characteristics of respondents in terms of sex (gender), age groups, highest education level, religious and period are as shown 3 below.

Table 3: Showing Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Gender		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Male	34	65.4
	Female	18	34.6
	Total	52	100.0
Valid	Age Bracket		
	12 – 14 years	10	19.2
	15- 17 years	24	46.2
	18years and above	18	34.6
	Total	52	100.0
Valid	Education level		
	Primary	21	40.4
	Secondary	16	30.7
	Tertiary	13	25
	Others (never been to school)	2	3.9
	Total	52	100.0
Valid	Religion		
	Protestant	13	25
	Catholics	24	46.2
	Moslems	10	19.2
	Others (Born again)	5	9.6
	Total	52	100.0
Valid	Period lived community		
	Below 5 years	11	21.2
	5 – 10 years	27	51.9
	11-16 years	10	19.2
	Over 16 years	4	7.7
	Total	52	100.0

Primary source: 2024

According to the table 2 above, majority (65.4%) of the respondents were males whereas the minority, and (34.6%) of the respondents were females.

Likewise, the study findings show that (46.2%) of the respondents were 14-17years, thus still juvenile; 34.6% were aged 18 years and above. This response implies that most of the

participants were those adolescents that common abused drugs like mairungj, marijuana or even cocaine

As shown in table above, respondents varied in terms of education level. (40.4%) had primary level, followed by 30.7% with secondary level, 25% had tertiary qualifications, while 3.9% had never went to school. These results indicate that the majority of participants stopped at primary level of education, but every participant had reasonable knowledge on the drug abuse activities as their responses were appropriate and corresponded to the questions asked.

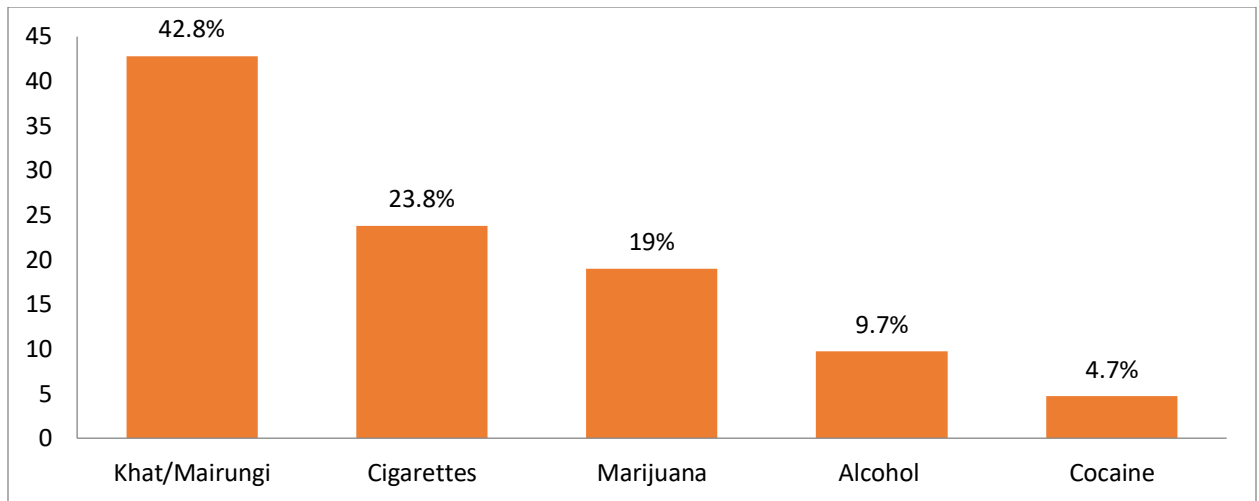
Results also indicated that 46.2% of the respondents were Catholics, followed by 19.2% who were Moslems, 25% were protestants and the least 9.6%) were born again. These results indicate that the adolescents abuse drugs irrespective of their religious affiliations.

Lastly, the majority of the participants (51.9%) indicated they have been staying/living in Kisenyi for a period between 5-10 years. The implication of these is that, all the participants are familiar with several drugs abused and their related socio-economic factors that may contribute to the abuse of such drugs.

4.3 The Common Drug Abuse Cases among Adolescents

The first objective of the study was to identify the most common drug abuse cases among adolescents aged 12 to 18 years in Kisenyi. Respondents were asked to identify the drugs commonly used. The findings are presented in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: Findings on the drugs commonly abused (N=45)

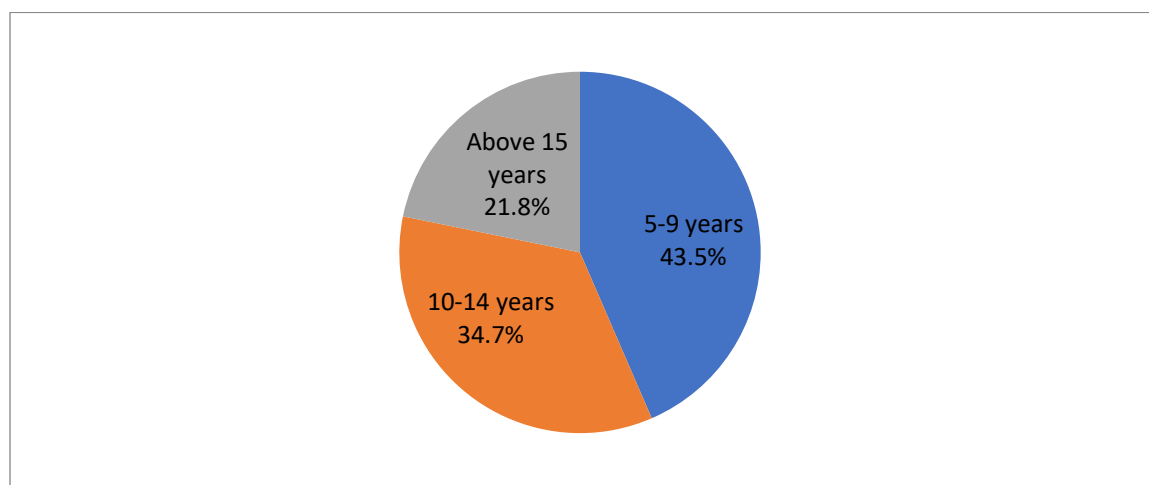


Primary Source, 2024

From the field study, 42.8% of the respondents mentioned that adolescents commonly use Khat (mairungi); followed by 23.8% who mentioned of cigarettes, marijuana mentioned by 19%, alcohol by 9.7%, and milla by 4.7% of the respondents. One of the interviewed local leader noted, mairungi is cheap enough to be an after-work or daily routine for many in the slums who barely earn enough money for food.

The researcher went ahead to establish how old the adolescents were when they first used drugs. The findings are presented in Figure 3 below.

Figure 3: How old were you when you first used drugs N=45

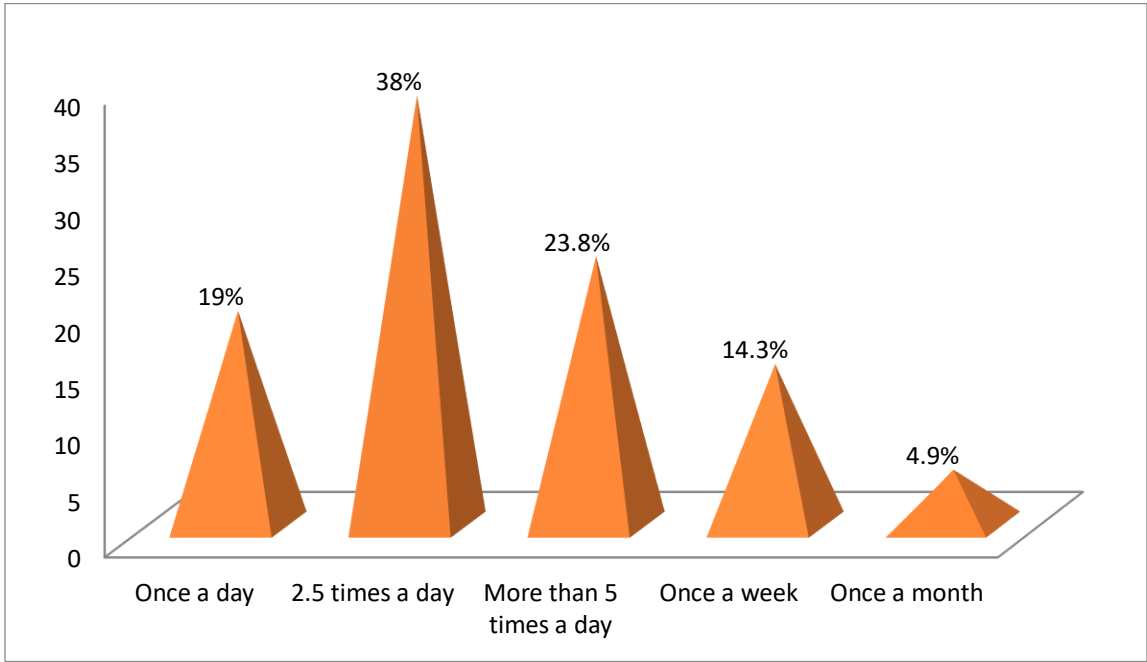


Primary Sources, 2024

From the field study, it was clearly indicated that 43.5% of adolescents accepted to have started use of drugs when they were between 5-9 years, followed by when they were 10-14 years 34.7%, while, above 15 years represented by 21.8% of the respondents. This indicates that most adolescents started using drugs as still as early as 5 years, when they have not even fully developed and this could be as a result of lack of parental support.

Another question was posed to identify how often adolescents use the drugs. Findings are presented in Figure 4 below.

Figure 4: How often do adolescents use drugs N=45



Primary Sources, 2024

From the study, respondents equivalent to 19% revealed that adolescents used the drugs once a day, 38% mentioned of 2-5 times a day, and only 4.9% mentioned of once a month. This indicates that some of the adolescents have become addicted to drug abuse in Kisenyi.

4.4 The Social Factors Influencing Adolescents’ Involvement in Drugs Abuse

The second objective of the study was to find out if there any social factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drugs abuse in Kisenyi. The findings are presented in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Findings on the social factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drugs abuse N=45

Statements	Responses (n=45)	Extent of dis(agreement)	
		<i>freq.</i>	%
My friends encouraged me to start using drugs	Agree	41	91.1
	Neutral	0	0.0
	Disagree	4	8.9
	Total	45	100.0
My parents could give me cigarettes to taste	Agree	37	82.2
	Neutral	3	6.7
	Disagree	5	11.1
	Total	45	100.0
Parents were not strict, and have never talked to me about drugs and their effects	Agree	36	80
	Neutral	3	6.7
	Disagree	6	13.3
	Total	45	100.0
	Agree	31	68.9
	Neutral	0	0.0
	Disagree	14	31.1

Drugs especially Khat and Mirra is sold openly during the day in this community	Total	45	100.0
I help my parents in selling and distributing drugs	Agree	29	64.5
	Neutral	5	11.1
	Disagree	11	24.2
	Total	45	100.0
I rarely attend church services to hear testimonies against drug use	Agree	26	57.8
	Neutral	12	26.6
	Disagree	7	15.6
	Total	45	100.0
In our community, there is lack of traditional values that safeguard the use of drugs among adolescents	Strongly Agree	26	57.8
	Neutral	4	8.9
	Disagree	15	33.3
	Total	45	100.0

Primary Source: 2024

From the field study, the social factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drugs abuse in Kisenyi were mentioned. The 91.1% of respondents mentioned that friends encouraged them to start using drugs, and only 4(8.9%) of them disagreed with the above statement. One of the interviewed local leaders had these to say, "my sons friends encouraged him to start using drugs and this was done through giving him their drugs to always have a try".

The research study revealed that parents could give me (their children) cigarettes to taste, and this was accepted by 82.2% of the respondents. Interviewed local leader had this to say, "parents have a tendency of giving their children cigarettes to taste. Parents also commonly give their children tobacco pipes (enyungu) to put for them fire".

Further, 80% of the youth agreed that parents were not strict, and have never talked to me (adolescents) about drugs and their effects. One of the interview local leaders noted that, "parents are always busy with their work schedule. They have no time or lack time talking to their

children. These adolescents need guidance and advice from their parents. They totally lack moral guidance and advice especially related to dangers associated to use of drugs”.

The research study revealed that drugs especially Khat and Mirra are sold openly during the day in this community, and this was accepted by 68.9% of the total respondents. Interviewed local leaders noted that, some of the drugs are sold publically during the day time. “These young generations in Kisenyi have looked at it as normal since they have grown seeing people selling and using drugs in public places, motivating them to also have try and taste”, they noted.

Further, the research study revealed that adolescents help their parents in selling and distributing drugs, and this was mentioned by 64.5% of respondents. One of the interviewed local leaders noted that, “some of the adolescents help their parents to transport, sell and distribute drugs to the potential buyers. They help their parents in hawking and distributing the drugs to the final destination (markets), and in the long run, these adolescents have become serial abusers of such drugs”.

More to the above, 57.8% of the youth agreed that adolescents rarely attend church services to hear testimonies against drug use. One of the interviewed local leaders had this to say, “youth rarely attend Church services. They have missed to hear several testimonies and preaching related to drug abuse and its related consequences; and eventually, considering drug abuse as normal”.

Lastly, the research study revealed that there is lack of traditional values that safeguard the use of drugs among adolescents, and this was mentioned by 57.8% of the respondents. One of the interviewed local leaders had this to say, “adolescents’ no longer fear their parents, guardians and the general public. Public themselves no longer take the responsibility of looking after all the children within their jurisdiction as it is clearly stated that, a child is grown by the whole village”. Therefore, lack of collaboration and good will from the generation public to advise and fight against adolescent involvement in use of drugs, have eventually enhance drug abuse among adolescents.

4.5 The Economic Factors Influencing Adolescents' Involvement in Drug Abuse

The third objective of the study was to find out if there any economic factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drug abuse in Kisenyi. The findings are presented in Table 5 below.

Table 5: Findings on the economic factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drug abuse in Kisenyi N=45

Statements	Responses (n=45)	Extent of dis(agreement)	
		<i>freq.</i>	%
My family's economic status has contributed to me engaging in drug abuse	Agree	42	93.3
	Neutral	0	0.0
	Disagree	3	6.7
	Total	45	100.0
My current unemployment status has contributed to me engaging in drug abuse	Agree	40	88.9
	Neutral	0	0.0
	Disagree	5	11.1
	Total	45	100.0

My low income level has contributed to me engaging in drug abuse	Agree	37	82.2
	Neutral	4	8.9
	Disagree	4	8.9
	Total	45	100.0
The community I stay or live in has contributed to me engaging in drug abuse	Agree	33	73.3
	Neutral	0	0.0
	Disagree	12	26.7
	Total	45	100.0

Primary Source, 2024

The study aimed at establishing the economic factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drug abuse in Kisenyi. 93.3% of the respondents agreed that family's economic status has contributed to me (adolescents) engaging in drug abuse. One of the interviewed local leaders noted that, "adolescents help them parents in selling and distributing drugs. Drug business is one of the lucrative business ventures around Kisenyi, and several families have got involved in such business". Therefore, adolescents tend to be involved directly to support their parents in selling the drugs, distributing them, and of-course they have to have a taste on what they are selling.

The research study revealed that the current unemployment status has contributed to adolescents engaging in drug abuse, and this was agreed by 88.9% of the total respondents. One of the interviewed local leaders noted, "some of the adolescents especially school drop-outs are employed in the drug distribution and selling directly. For adolescents to be in must business of selling drugs, they end-up also using the same drugs. They are always forced to have a taste on the drugs they are selling, to clearly differentiate the quality and taste preferred by their customers".

The study noted that in the community, low income level has contributed to me (adolescents) engaging in drug abuse, and this was accepted by 82.2% of respondents. One of the local leaders reported that, "adolescents from low income background in Kisenyi tend to miss school. The drop-out of school is too high in this category of adolescents. They always experience several socio-economic challenges back home".

Lastly, the study findings revealed that adolescents stays or live in has contributed to their engaging in drug abuse, and this was mentioned by 73.3% of the total respondents. One of the interviewed local leader had these to say, “Kisenyi cell have been identified for selling and distributing several types of drugs with Kampala city”.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter therefore contains the conclusion of findings and recommendations of the study. The chapter further presents conclusions and recommendations from the research study; and areas of further research have been suggested.

5.1 Conclusions

In view of the study findings, a number of conclusions were made from the findings and discussion above in chapter four.

Basing on the study findings, the researcher concludes that cigarettes, Khat (mairungi), cigarettes and marijuana were the most common drugs abused by adolescents in Kisenyi. It was also further noted that 43.5% of adolescents started use of drugs when they were between 5-9 years, and they could use drugs 2-5 times a day.

The study also concluded that encouragement from friends (peer group influence), adolescents getting motivated by their parents, and involved in selling and distributing drugs were the major social factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drug abuse in Kisenyi, Kampala district.

Finally, it is concluded that employment status, low income level, and family economic status; these are the major economic factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drug abuse in Kisenyi, Kampala district.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the study conclusions, several recommendations were made;

The study recommended that there is need for the government to create employment opportunities for unemployed adolescents. It was revealed that unemployment contribute to drug abuse, therefore, equipping these adolescents with technical and vocational skills by the government and other development partners, would eventually boost their ability to get employment opportunities so as to minimize of drug abuse.

The study final recommends that parents should also take a responsibility of taking their children to school. All children should be taken to school to benefit from free education for all program (UPE and USE), and this would eventually minimize the number of adolescents involved in drug use and business.

The recommends that there is need to enhance the enforcement of the existing legal and institutional frameworks to minimize the openly selling of drugs in public spheres. Those found selling drugs openly should be arrested and get prosecuted before the laws. The enforcement officers especially police officers, courts and local leaders need to join hands to curbing down the youth involvement in use of drugs.

The study recommends that NGO's should put more emphasis on the prevention of drug abuse, and this should depend more on programs directed at adolescents. In addition, it is important for the NGO's to begin sensitizing the public and all concerned stakeholders to seek non-blaming, supportive responses from adults. This will help these adolescents to be more confident when disclosing what happened to them. NGOs should continue providing counseling services to the drug addicts (adolescents) to rehabilitate them.

Lastly, the study recommends that the government of Uganda and Ministry of Health should promote publicity on dangers associated with drug abuse. Public sensitization and awareness

programs on dangers associated with drug abuse need to be put on televisions, radios and newspapers so as to extend relevant information to the general public across the country.

5.3 Areas of Further Research

On the basis of the study findings and conclusions, the study recommends the following areas for further research on: Research should be carried out intensively on drug abuse and find out whether the offenders are punished according to the law for both abusers and sellers, and if not then why. Also, research should be conducted on under-reporting of adolescents' abuse of drugs to police, and other institutions, organizations that provide legal services which are even free. Research should be carried to find out why people prefer settling drug abuse cases at village, family levels and even those that are reported to police withdraw file closed and the same applies to courts of law. Also, there is need to find out why drug abuse law is not strongly implemented and supported, by most of stakeholders.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: SAMPLE SIZE DETERMINATION TABLE

<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>
10	10	220	140	1200	291
15	14	230	144	1300	297
20	19	240	148	1400	302
25	24	250	152	1500	306
30	28	260	155	1600	310
35	32	270	159	1700	313
40	36	280	162	1800	317
45	40	290	165	1900	320
50	44	300	169	2000	322
55	48	320	175	2200	327
60	52	340	181	2400	331
65	56	360	186	2600	335
70	59	380	191	2800	338
75	63	400	196	3000	341
80	66	420	201	3500	346
85	70	440	205	4000	351
90	73	460	210	4500	354
95	76	480	214	5000	357
100	80	500	217	6000	361
110	86	550	226	7000	364
120	92	600	234	8000	367
130	97	650	242	9000	368
140	103	700	248	10000	370
150	108	750	254	15000	375
160	113	800	260	20000	377
170	118	850	265	30000	379
180	123	900	269	40000	380
190	127	950	274	50000	381
200	132	1000	278	75000	382
210	136	1100	285	100000	384

Note.—*N* is population size. *S* is sample size.

Source: Krejcie & Morgan, 1970

APPENDIX 1I: INFORMED CONSENT FORM

**TOPIC: THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS INFLUENCING DRUG ABUSE
AMONG ADOLESCENTS AGED 12 TO 18 IN KISENYI, KAMPALA UGANDA**

I..... have agreed to take part in the study of “The Socio-Economic Factors Influencing Drug Abuse among Adolescents Aged 12 to 18 In Kisenyi, Kampala Uganda”. I have understood the purpose and the methods to be used in the study and agreed without being coerced or forced.

Confidentiality: Your answers will be taken generally as a contribution from one member of the participants. The answers will be treated in confidence and used for purposes of this study only. It is not necessary that you give your name and nobody will be allowed access to the questionnaires used as they will be immediately collected and kept by the principal investigator only.

Voluntary Consent: You are free to choose whether you should take part in this study or not. You will not be persecuted in any way for declining to take part in the study neither will it affect you at work place. We shall only proceed beyond this point if you accept to take part in the study. You are also free to stop at any stage of the study if you feel uncomfortable. If you have any questions about the study now or at any time during the study, you may contact the principal investigator: Mbabazi Della, on Telephone +256703674974.

Consent Statement: I have been informed about the study on the “The Socio-Economic Factors Influencing Drug Abuse among Adolescents Aged 12 to 18 In Kisenyi, Kampala Uganda”. The purpose and nature of the study, the benefits and risks have been explained to me. I have been informed that the information given will be kept confidential and that participation in the study is voluntary and that no consequences will result if I refuse to participate or withdraw from the study.

Sign : Date :

Or thumb print : Date :

Appendix III: QUESTIONNAIRE

Youth's Information

Introduction

Dear respondent,

My name is Mbabazi Della, a student of Uganda Christian University carrying out a study on “The Socio-Economic Factors Influencing Drug Abuse among Adolescents Aged 12 to 18 In Kisenyi, Kampala Uganda”. The information provided for this research will be purely for academic purposes and will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Thank you for the time to complete this questionnaire.

Date:

I request you to read the instruction against each section/question carefully and answer it accordingly.

Instruction:

Kindly tick or precisely fill in where applicable or respond according to the instruction given.

Section A

1- Age

- ☐ 12 – 14 years
- ☐ 15 – 17 years
- ☐ 18 years & above

2- Sex (Gender)

- ☐ Male
- ☐ Female

3- What is the highest qualification that you have attained?

- ☐ Primary
- ☐ Secondary
- ☐ Tertiary institution
- ☐ Others (Specify) -----

4- Which religion do you belong to?

a) Protestant ☐

b) Catholic ☐

c) Muslim ☐

d) Others (specify)-----

5- How long have you lived/stayed in this community?

○ Below 5 years ☐

○ Between 6 – 10 years ☐

○ Between 11 – 15 years ☐

○ Over 16 years ☐

Section B: The most common drug abuse cases among adolescents aged 12 to 18 years in Kisenyi.

1. Which of the drugs below have you ever used?

Cigarettes ()

Alcohol ()

Khat (Mairungi) ()

Mirra ()

Any other (specify) -----

2. How old were you when you first used drugs? -----

3. How often do you use the drug indicated above?

Once a day ()

2-5 times a day ()

More than 5 times a day ()

Once a week ()

Any other (specify) -----

Section C

General Instruction on Sections C, & D

Using the scale below, please tick the score you think is most appropriate to the issues in the given item(s)Scale:

Agree	Not Sure	Disagree
3	2	1

	C, Items: Social factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drugs abuse	3	2	1
4.	My friends encouraged me to start using drugs			
5.	My parents could give me cigarettes to taste			
6.	Parents were not strict, and have never talked to me about drugs and their effects			
7.	Drugs especially Mirra is sold openly during the day in this community			
8.	I help my parents in selling and distributing drugs			
9.	I rarely attend church services to hear testimonies against drug use			
10.	In our community, there is lack of traditional values that safeguard the use of drugs among adolescents			

Section D

	D, Items: Economic factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drug abuse	3	2	1
11.	My family's economic status has contributed to me engaging in drug abuse			
12.	My current unemployment status has contributed to me engaging in drug abuse			
13.	My low income level has contributed to me engaging in drug abuse			
14.	The community I stay or live in has contributed to me engaging in drug abuse			
15.	Any other (specify) ----- -----			

Thank You Very Much for Your Response

APPENDIX IV: INTERVIEW GUIDE

Interview Guide for Local Leaders

Guiding Questions

1. In your view, what are the most common drug abuse cases among adolescents aged 12 to 18 years in your area of operation?

2. Of the following, specify the major social factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drug abuse in your area? (Tick many)

a). Peer group influence ()

b). Motivated by parents ()

c). Involved in selling and distributing drugs ()

d). Any other (specify) ()

3. In your view, are there any economic factors influencing adolescents' involvement in drug abuse in your area?

a). Employment status ()

b). Low income level ()

c). Family economic status ()

d). Any other (specify) ()

-
-
4. What are you doing about and challenges they are facing?

-
-
-
-
5. How best do you want drug abuse among adolescents to be minimized?

Thank you for your Co-operation

APPENDIX V: INTRODUCTION LETTER



May 22nd 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: INTRODUCTORY LETTER FOR RESEARCH

This is to introduce to you **MBABAZI Della Desree** Registration number **EM21B15/032**, a student of Uganda Christian University, pursuing Bachelor's degree in Social Work. She is expected to carry out research in the final year under the guidance of a university supervisor in partial fulfillment for the requirements of the above mentioned award.

Topic: "The Socio-Economic Factors Influencing Drug Abuse among Adolescents Aged 12 to 18 in Kisenyi, Kampala Uganda."

The purpose of this communication is to request your office to allow her collect data from your organization. Any assistance rendered to her will be highly appreciated.



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