

**ROLE OF PROBATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE IN MITIGATING THE  
EFFECTS OF CHILD NEGLECT ON CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WELL-BEING IN  
UPPER KAUGA MUKONO DISTRICT**

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**UGANDA CHRISTIAN  
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## DECLARATION

I **MINAIDA JANET BONDO** declare that this research proposal is my original work and has never been represented or submitted to any Institution of learning or any University for the academic award.

Signature.....

DATE.....22/08/2024

**MINAIDA JANET BONDO**

## APPROVAL

I hereby certify that this dissertation is the original and individual work of **MINAIDA JANET BONDO**, registration number **S21B15/103**. It has been done under my supervision and is ready for submission to the School of Social Sciences at Uganda Christian University with my due knowledge.

FACULTY SUPERVISOR

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DATE..... 22/08/2024 .....

SIGNATURE: .....  .....

## DEDICATION

The dissertation is dedicated to my father, Mr Bondo Emmanuel Filberto Tambua for the care and support he has shown me through-out the period of this project.

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## **LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS**

PSWO.	Probation and social welfare office
PSWO.	Probation and social welfare officer
GOU.	Government of Uganda
ACE.	Adverse Childhood Experiences
UNICEF.	United Nations Children’s Fund
L.C.	Local Council
UCHL .	Uganda Child Help Line

## **ABSTRACT**

This study investigated the role of probation and social welfare offices in mitigating the effects of child neglect on children's social well-being in Upper Kauga Mukono District. Child neglect is a pervasive issue in Uganda, with severe consequences on children's social well-being. Probation and social welfare offices play a critical role in addressing this issue, however their effectiveness is unclear. Therefore the objective of this study was to assess the role of probation and social welfare offices in mitigating child neglect's effects. The data collection methods the researcher used was a mixed-methods approach using interviews with key informants such as the probation officers and social workers, and questionnaires administered to caregivers and children. The study revealed that probation and social welfare offices play a crucial role in providing support services, counseling, and connecting families to resources, but face challenges like limited resources and staffing. In conclusion therefore, it was revealed that child neglect has severe adverse effects on the social well-being of children and the major forms of child neglect faced by children include physical neglect, emotional neglect and education neglect. In response to the conclusions, the researcher came up with recommendations including effective collaboration between probation and social welfare offices is essential to address child neglect, Increase resources and staffing, enhance community engagement, and develop targeted interventions to address child neglect's effects on social well-being. By addressing these gaps, probation and social welfare offices can better support vulnerable children and families.



## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.0. Introduction

This chapter gave insights on the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, objectives of the study, research questions, scope of study, justification, significance of the study and justification.

### 1.1 Background of the Study

Child maltreatment/abuse researchers have often suggested that experiences with child neglect have long-term and negative effects on social well-being and development of children. In recent years, the number of children that have suffered abuse has increased worldwide. The tender years of early childhood offer great promise and challenge. All children are shaped by their early life experiences. Unfortunately, some children experience child abuse and the common types of child abuse experienced by these children are physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and child neglect (Dr (Mrs.) FunmilolaBosedeAlokan, 2019). This study will focus on child neglect.

Child neglect is the failure of the parents, guardian, or other responsible party to provide for the child's basic needs, such as food, shelter, medical care, educational opportunities, or protection and supervision. Neglect is associated with abandonment and inadequate supervision (Cates, Markell, and Bettenhausen, 1995, p. 1), however neglect is hard to judge and it is not taken serious enough. Perhaps neglect is taken less seriously because the effects are usually insidious and not obvious (Dubowitz, 1994, p. 1). And child neglect is usually not intended by the parent or a caregiver, but other factors can cause or lead to child neglect. Child neglect comes in many different forms, including emotional neglect, educational neglect (failure to register to school or pay for school), medical neglect (failure to provide health care), supervisory neglect, and physical neglect (inability to provide food, shelter, clothing). Neglect is prevalent throughout the world, for example a meta-analysis estimated the worldwide prevalence of neglect to be 16 % for physical neglect and 18 % for emotional neglect (Stoltenborgh, Bakermans-Kranenburg, & Ijzendoorn, 2013). In the global context, there is a growing

recognition of the crucial role played by probation and social welfare offices in fostering rehabilitation and social integration. As societies worldwide grapple with evolving patterns of crime and social challenges, understanding the effectiveness of these institutions becomes paramount for informed policy decisions. Within the continental scope, variations in legal systems and societal structures necessitate a nuanced examination of the role these offices play. Zooming in on the regional dynamics of Mukono, Uganda, this research seeks to explore the specific challenges, successes, and opportunities faced by probation and social welfare offices in a localized context, shedding light on the dynamics that contribute to the overall effectiveness of these institutions in promoting community well-being and rehabilitation.

Despite efforts to address child neglect, probation and social welfare office in Mukono district faces persistent challenges in safeguarding the social well-being of children. This research seeks to identify the specific gaps and issues within the roles of probation and social welfare offices in mitigating the impact of child neglect. In many countries, neglect is the form of maltreatment most commonly although its extent and form vary, for instances according to Uganda Child Helpline (UCHL) Annual Statistical Report on Cases of violence Against Children FY2017/18, the Child abuse cases reported generally in Uganda included: child exploitation, child neglect, child trafficking, emotional abuse, murder, online child sex and violence, physical abuse, and sexual abuse. Of these, child neglect took lead with 1,791cases (51.6 % males, and 45.3% and 3.1 others.) with Mukono district having 207 cases of 234,069 cases reported. These statistics signify the prevalence of child neglect however much the country

### **1.2 Statement of the Problem. (Bring out clearly the problems and explain)**

Child neglect is a social problem that has great impact on the social well-being and development of the child. It affects different aspects of life of a child such as social, cognitive, emotional, physical, and psychological. However much different government entities such as probation and social welfare office work hard to address the issues associated with child neglect, there's a need for a comprehensive research study on

the roles that they play in mitigating the impact of child neglect on their social well-being.

Therefore, this research aims to examine the effectiveness of the role's probation and social welfare offices in Mukono district play in addressing and alleviating the repercussions of child neglect and its impact on social well-being of affected children.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

The primary purpose of this research was to comprehensively explore and analyze the roles of probation and social welfare offices in Mukono district, with the aim of understanding how these institutions contribute to mitigating the impact of child neglect on the social well-being of children.

### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

#### **1.4.1 Main objective**

To explore the role of probation and social welfare office in upper Kauga-mukono district in mitigating the impact of child neglect on children's well-being.

#### **1.4.2 Specific objectives**

1. To find out the forms of child neglect faced by children in upper Kauga
2. To assess the effects of child neglect on children's social well-being in upper Kauga Mukono district.
3. To examine the roles of probation and social welfare office in mitigating the effects of child neglect on children's social well-being in upper Kauga.
4. To analyze the challenges faced by the Probation and social welfare office fulfilling their roles related to child neglect.

### **1.5 Research Questions**

1. What are the forms of child neglect faced by children in upper kauga?

2. What are the effects of child neglect on children's social well-being in upper kauga in Mukono district?
3. What are the roles of probation and social welfare office in mitigating the effects of child neglect on children's social well-being in upper Kauga?
4. What are the challenges faced by probation and social welfare offices face in fulfilling their roles related to child neglect?

## **1.6 Study scope**

### **1.6.1 Scope of content:**

The research focused on role of Probation and social welfare office of Mukono district in the mitigation of the impact of child neglect on children's social well-being.

### **1.6.2 Geographical study:**

This research focused on probation and social welfare office which is found in Upper Kauga in Mukono district, Uganda, examining the roles of probation and social welfare offices specifically related to child neglect. The study involved both qualitative and quantitative data collection methods.

### **1.6.3 Time scope:**

The study focused on time frame of 3years from 2021 to 2023 of the data available at the probation and social welfare office.

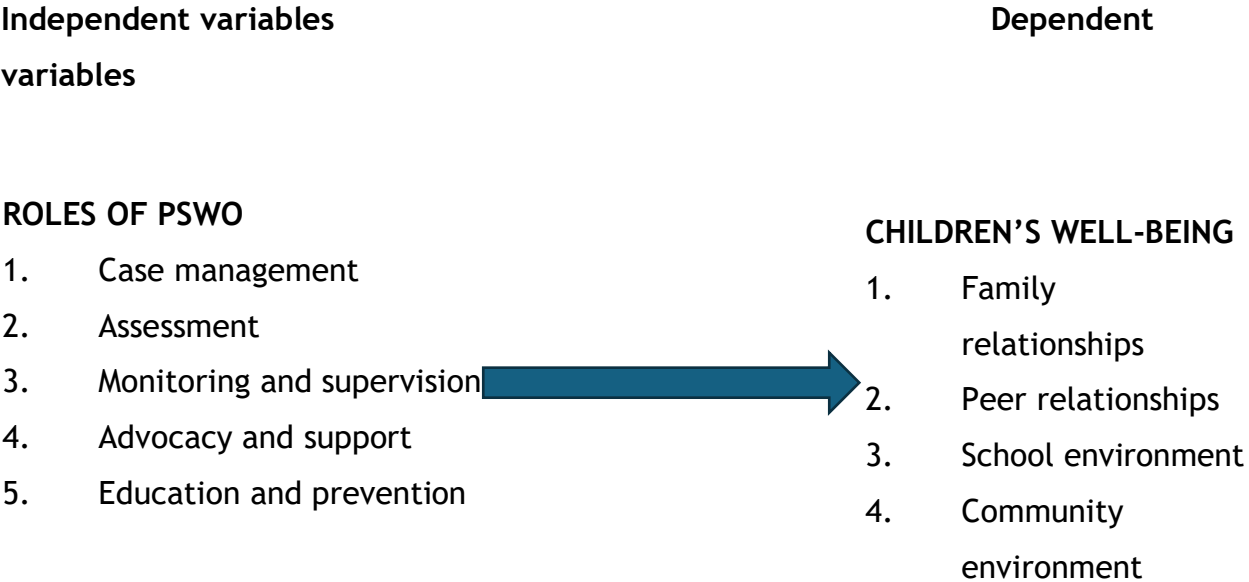
## **1.7 Justification**

Carrying out this research justified by the requirement for the partial fulfillment for the award of degree in social work and social administration. The researcher aims and desires to acquire basic knowledge of research by carrying out this study. Therefore, without carrying out this study, the student will fail to acquire the degree in the pursued program since it is a requirement for the partial fulfillment for the award of degree in social work and social administration

**1.8 Significance of the Study**

The major reason for carrying out this research was to enable the student in the partial fulfillment for the award of degree in social work and social administration in order to graduate. This research also contributed to the existing knowledge base which has been developed by other researchers and provides insights that can inform policies and practices to enhance child well-being in Mukono district. This study held providing valuable insights for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers to formulate and implement effective strategies for addressing child neglect. The findings aimed to contribute to the improvement of the overall well-being of children in Mukono district.

**1.9 Conceptual Framework**



**Figure 1: Conceptual Framework**

As shown in the Figure above, the Independent Variable is the role of probation and social welfare office and the dependent Variable is children well-being. The role of PSWO has been outlined under the independent Variable including case management, assessments, monitoring and evaluation, advocacy and support and education and prevention and these roles have influenced the fight against child neglect because

PSWO is one of the key figures in combating effects of child neglect within mukono in general and the arrow to the arrow points to the impact of child neglect on children's well-being and this explains the relationship between the role of PSWO and the effects of child neglect and children's well-being is the dependent variable which has been broken down including family relationships, peer relationships, school environment and community environment.

## CHAPTER TWO.

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

#### 2.0. INTRODUCTION

This chapter provided insights on related literatures to the study. Reviewing related research done on the roles of probation and social welfare office-Mukono district in mitigating the impact of child neglect on children's social well-being is important. This enabled the researcher identify the similarities and differences to determine the gaps that need to be bridged. For this reason, this chapter gives insights about the review of various literatures relevant to the study.

#### 2.1. FORMS OF CHILD NEGLECT

Physically neglect.

This is very easy to spot, especially in child care centers. Physical neglect is the inability of a parent or guardian to take care of a child's basic needs, such as providing shelter, food, clothing, and the child's cleanliness and hygiene. This can manifest itself in different ways. For example, not taking care of the body is like not giving warm clothes in winter. This can be seen when a child arrives at school without a proper shirt. But the opposite is also clear. If your child comes to school in hot weather and wears a winter coat and warm clothes. The most important thing to remember when dealing with clothing requirements is to dress "correctly". Another example of neglecting the body is poor hygiene. It seems like your child doesn't bathe or comes to daycare with dirty clothes. Not only does it harm your child, it also harms relationships with other children. Even if a parent does not take care of their child, it is a form of physical neglect. Of course, accidents happen. However, parents and guardians should do everything they can to protect their children. Leaving a small child alone at home or walking alone on the street are examples of physical indifference.

## **Education Neglect**

Ignoring education this is the condition that occurs when a parent or guardian denies their right to have a child. Education Children have a legal right to education, so not sending them to school regularly is an example of educational neglect. It is important to note that it is not illegal for parents/guardians to withdraw their children from school if alternative educational programs are offered, such as home schooling. It is the responsibility of councils to oversee the education of parents to ensure that their children are safe and that their educational needs are met.

## **Emotional neglect**

Emotional neglect is the failure to meet a child's emotional needs. Just as children have physical needs, they also have emotional needs. Emotional neglect is defined as a child not receiving the nurturing and stimulation they need. This can take the form of being ignored, humiliated, isolated or threatened. Emotional neglect can affect a child's development. Some examples of emotional neglect include not providing human interaction with the child, such as keeping the child alone or trying to scare the child. It sounds scary, but it really happens. Heart failure can be difficult to diagnose, especially in young children, because there is no physical evidence to meet the child's basic health needs, which are often neglected. Meaning or if adequate health care cannot be provided. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that their child receives adequate health and dental care. If the parent or guardian does not provide it, it is considered medical care. An example of this is when a child is injured and the parents do not seek medical attention. Medication negligence can also take the form of ignoring the advice of medical professionals and skipping injections. (India Bryce, Child Abuse and Neglect, 2019).

## **Medical neglect**

Medical negligence refers to a situation where a child's basic medical needs are not adequately met, often due to a failure or failure to provide adequate medical care.

The responsibility of the parents is to ensure that the child receives proper health and dental care. If a parent or guardian does not provide it, it is called medical neglect. For example, if a child harms himself and the parent does not seek treatment. Medical negligence can also manifest as ignoring the advice of medical professionals and refusing vaccinations. (India Bryce in Child Abuse and Neglect, 2019).

## **2.2 EFFECTS OF CHILD ON CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WELL-BEING**

### **Attachment**

Attachment refers to the emotional bond between the baby and the primary caregiver (usually the mother and father). It plays an important role in the social, emotional and psychological development of children. When children are exposed to stress, they form a secure attachment to parents who are attentive, caring, and positive (Ainsworth, 1978). Children develop secure (avoidant or inhibitory) relationships with parents who are unresponsive and unresponsive, but who are not fearful or fearful (Lyons-Ruth et al., 1993; Schuengel et al., 1998). Secure, avoidant, and stable relationships are considered adaptive coping strategies because they are structured around caregiver availability and provide children with models for coping with stressful situations. On the other hand, disorganized attachment indicates a problem or lack of strategies to cope with stress in the presence of parents (Main & Solomon, 1990). Unplanned attachment is a real problem for children. Like planned attachment, nonspecific attachment is the best predictor of long-term impact, especially external cues (Fearon et al., 2010). Children who are neglected in infancy develop attachment disorders due to pathogenic treatments that inhibit the infant's ability to form selective attachments (Hornor, 2008).

### **Emotion Regulation**

Child neglect and abuse hinder children's ability to control their emotions and make them dependent on their caregivers to help them cope (Tronick, 1989). Infants and children are highly sensitive to their parents' emotions and use

their parents' emotional cues to guide their behavior (Klennert et al., 1983; Malatesta & Izard, 1984). An important role in emotional development is the difficulties faced by family members, whether or not they are abused. When a child is sad or depressed, a parent's presence and comfort can help them cope with negative influences and, over time, develop unique and effective ways to manage their emotions. When children are able to regulate their emotions, they respond to challenges with flexible and socially acceptable responses (Cole et al., 1994; Kim & Cicchetti, 2010). Children who have been abused or neglected may not have that experience. Children who are abused and neglected are more likely to experience age discrimination, inequality, lack of love, role models, and emotional support (Shipman & Zeman, 2001). If left unchecked, parents may not care or understand. As a result of these responses, children are at risk of not developing effective emotion regulation strategies (Cicchetti et al., 1995; Kim & Cicchetti, 2010; Rogosch et al., 1995). Emotion regulation problems have been linked to externalizing behaviors such as aggression and problem management (Eisenberg et al., 2001; Kim & Cicchetti) and peer relationship problems (Kim & Cicchetti, 2010; Rogosch et al. et al. ., 1995). Emotion regulation has been found to influence children's emotional and behavioral responses and their relationships with others

## **Peer Relations**

Child neglect and abuse can affect relationships with friends that are important to a child's life. Maltreated and neglected children have high rates of peer problems (Kim & Cicchetti, 2010) and children with a history of institutional care (Almas et al., 2012). According to teachers, aggression and neglect in older children have been found to predict peer relationships (Graham et al., 2010). Emotional regulation problems (Shields & Cicchetti, 2001) and higher levels of aggression and withdrawal (Rogosch et al., 1995) are found in maltreated children and are often neglected, affecting the amount of anger between friends that causes problems. You might get into trouble at school and on the playground.

## **Dissociation**

Dissociation refers to deficiency of the normal, subjective integration of one or more aspects of mental functioning, including memory, identity, cognition, vision, and motor control (Spiegel et al., 2011, p. 19). Dissociation can be reliably and accurately measured in children, adolescents, and adults (Briere et al., 2001; Keck Seeley et al., 2004; Lanktree et al., 2008; van Ijzendoorn & Schuengel, 1996; Wherry et al., 2002). Child abuse and neglect have been implicated in the distinction between primary and secondary school children (Hulette et al., 2008, 2011; Macfie et al., 2001) and adults (van Ijzendoorn & Schuengel, 1996). Higher scores on measures of dissociation are associated with externalizing behavior in children (Kisiel & Lyons, 2001; Shapiro et al., 2012; Yates et al., 2008).

## **2.3. ROLES OF PSWO IN MITIGATING CHILD NEGLECT**

### **Assessments**

Once the agency receives a referral, probation officers begin contacting offenders, families and law enforcement. They conduct home, school and workplace visits to gather information and implement family partnership models. If a crime has occurred or is suspected, we will contact the perpetrator or complainant to obtain additional information to assist in the investigation and prosecution of the matter. In the program, they work with offenders to address developmental, family, employment and financial needs. During the evaluation, confirmatory information about education, mental health, substance use, gang activity, and criminal history will be obtained.

### **Case Management**

Probation officers can conduct a comprehensive assessment and make referrals to partner organizations and community programs. This includes applications for housing, employment, job training and education. Formulates and writes case management strategies based on assessments and information gathered to meet the inmate's specific needs. For example, treatment recommendations may be made, including inpatient reh

abilitation. Each week, clients must be checked in by their probation officer. During this time, they discuss their goals and focus on preventing areas that increase the risk of recidivism.

### **Featured Social Work Court Proceedings**

Probation officers are tasked with accompanying their clients to court hearings to help facilitate evidence for parolees. Communicates and advocates with attorneys, paralegals, and various legal representatives, such as public defenders and community representatives, regarding information gathered during the trial, review, and inspection process. When participating in legal proceedings, they must represent their clients in a fair but consistent manner that balances fairness, accountability, public safety, and the needs of affected communities. Probation officers must prepare and send evaluations, community records, court reports and related correspondence before going to court. You can also show the judgment when you file a motion for violation of judgment or a criminal petition.

### **Interventions and Supervision**

A probation officer's job is to intervene or increase the level of supervision to help clients comply with the terms of their probation. They use risk assessments during the engagement to determine how to negotiate, implement and update case plans for their clients. Sometimes face-to-face meetings are held in clients' homes or in various community settings. Once the court process is complete, we will begin face to face meetings with parolees and their families to review court orders, answer questions, and provide new guidelines and expectations. Working with difficult clients requires a deep understanding of where they live, work and spend their time.

### **Records Management**

These officers also perform technical and administrative work. They typically have access to criminal justice information systems to handle all case management activities, including risk screening, assessment, case planning, intervention, and many

child abuse and other child abuse backgrounds. They must keep hard copies and electronic records, which are often shared with the appropriate law enforcement agencies. They review records periodically to determine enrollment conditions, verify accuracy, and prepare statistical reports. Obtain and maintain photographs of your customers and other relevant photographs. (Source: Social Welfare Degree Guide)

#### **2.4. CHALLENGES FACED BY PSWO IN MITIGATING CHILD NEGLECT**

**Lack of transport:** Lack of transport is an issue related to reducing child deprivation. There are very few transport facilities to facilitate home visits. "The organization has a car for many tasks and cases. Lack of transport affects the work of social workers. Transport is a challenge for service delivery by social workers. Child and family life in Mukono region. (Strydom, 2010).

**Alcohol and child offenders:** Alcohol and drug abuse by juvenile offenders is a serious problem. It has been found that the majority of behavioral and behavioral problems encountered by welfare officers are juvenile offenders who have alcohol and other substances such as poly and alcohol that have been administered in the company. This has led to some criminals getting physically close to some welfare officers. Some of the bad guys run out of their rooms and go drinking in the city's nightclubs. Although most participants indicated that they were involved in substance abuse, juvenile offenders appeared to have easy access to drugs. This may be due to weak security systems in the industry. This finding is in line with Chitembwe's (2006) observation that the availability of drugs and alcohol in Zambian prisons is one of the main reasons for the deviant behavior of incarcerated juvenile offenders. Just as Onyango (2013) found in Kenya that the availability of drugs and other substances makes rehabilitation orders impossible because prisoners under the influence of alcohol and drugs lead to poor learning and violation, other African countries will also face problems similar going through this. Mugerwa (2010) identified that anti-social behavior among youth offenders in Uganda remains a significant problem not only for welfare officers but also for other youth offenders. Findings indicate that social workers in Zambia face higher

levels of these problems. This means that programs that focus on the psychological aspects of delinquent behavior in juvenile offenders need to be strengthened.

Labor shortage: Labor shortage has been identified as a problem. There are few social workers. There are too few social protection officers to carry out their duties of rehabilitating minor offenders. The Mukono Regional Probation and Welfare Department has a population of over 5,000 but only two welfare officers. The organization only has two welfare officers, but is supposed to have five welfare officers. The above means that the welfare officer cannot perform his duties to the best of his ability due to the duties assigned to him. The failure of welfare officials to perform their duties is also a problem in other African countries. Mugerwa (2010) observed that the failure of social workers to adequately fulfill their role in the rehabilitation process in Uganda makes it difficult for social workers to provide quality services.

The criminal proceedings of child offenders will be postponed. Delays in cases in the High Court are also a problem. Most of the cases that are heard in the High Court are not started or finished on time. Juvenile offenders are incarcerated for long periods of time, and one of the main reasons for these delays is lack of transportation. Most cases involving juvenile offenders in the High Court involve offenses such as murder, child neglect and divorce and attempted murder. The bill says that delaying criminal proceedings against juvenile offenders in the High Court is an injustice and a challenge to justice for children. Lack of transportation has been found to be directly related to delays in solving children's problems. According to Chitembwe (2006), in Mukono, the lack of transport to take children to court not only increases the length of court proceedings but also increases the number of child crimes in the institution. This is because exams are often suspended if the speaker does not show up. This shows that the lack of transportation in rehabilitation centers leads to other problems.

Social workers have little knowledge of how to implement the program. Another challenge is the lack of knowledge among social workers. Due to the lack of care training of welfare officers, there is a lack of skills. Here are some of them: The lack of training in social work makes it difficult to carry out some jobs. Some social service

officers don't know how to counsel and can't give inmates to victims. This means that service delivery may be lacking. Some police officers are unfamiliar with specific social work concepts and laws related to children's rights. In addition, some noted that a lack of social work training contributed to the inability of some social work officers to write reports accurately. In many cases, reports written by local welfare officers do not contain important information that the court can use for sentencing. For example, some local social services officers do not produce reports that contain all the information about juvenile offenders. It makes a poor and shallow report.

## **2.5 STRATEGIES TO ENHANCE THE ROLES OF PROBATION AND SOCIALWELFARE OFFICE MUKONO DISTRICT IN MITIGATING CHILD NEGLECT.**

### **Strategy 1:**

Support parents, caregivers and families: Educate and train families, caregivers and parents about their children's early development. This increases the chances of using good teaching methods with children and reduces the levels of violence and abuse against children in the home.

### **Strategy 2:**

Help children and young people cope with problems and challenges: Must: Should Get the skills to manage and face risks and challenges without resorting to violence and to seek appropriate support if violence occurs. This is important to reduce violence and abuse against children at home, at school and in the community.

### **Strategy 3:**

Change attitudes and social norms that encourage violence, abuse and marginalization of children: Attitudes and social norms that hide violence and abuse, including child failure, change and fight. This is the most effective way to prevent abuse and violence in the first place.

**Strategy 4:**

Promote and provide support services for children: Children should be encouraged to seek quality professional support and report abuse and violence. This helps them cope and cope better with experiences of abuse and violence, including child neglect.

**Strategy 5:**

Enforce laws and policies that protect children: Laws that protect children must be implemented and enforced. This sends a strong message to society that violence and abuse against children is unacceptable and unpunished.

**Strategy 6:**

Collect data and conduct research: You need to know about abuse and violence, where it occurs, what conditions and age groups and communities of children are most affected. This is important for planning and design. Develop intervention strategies, monitor progress, and set annual and interim goals to end child abuse and violence. (Ending violence against children: 6 strategies for action - UNICEF)

## **CHAPTER THREE:**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0. Introduction**

This chapter explained how the research was carried out. It includes research design, study area and population, sampling techniques, sample size and data collection methods, data processing, data analysis methods, data quality control, honesty and ethical considerations.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

Cross-sectional research design: The researcher used cross-sectional research design. It involves collecting data from a sample of participants at a single point in time. It aimed to examine and compare different variables at that specific moment. In this study, the researcher studied the relationship between the role of PSWO and the mitigation of effects of child neglect and by analyzing the data collected, the researcher explored how far PSWO has contributed to mitigating the effects of child neglect on children's well-being among the participants.

#### **3.2. Study area**

This study was conducted in upper kauga, which is located in central division Mukono District. Mukono region is bordered by Kayunga district to the north, Buyikwe district to the east, Kalangala district to the west, Kira town and Wakiso district to the west. Upper kauga district was chosen because it is one of the areas in Uganda that has many cases of child neglect.

#### **3.3. Study population (total population)**

A population is a group of people or a set of elements whose characteristics you want to know, which may or may not be observable. According to the 2014 census conducted

in Uganda, there are five parishes in upper kauga in Central division and sub-district: Seeta, Bukerere Nyenje, Misindye and Nantabulirwa have a total population of 40,914 female and male adults (National Population and Housing Census, 2014). A total of more than 27 children are victims of child neglect in the area each year. Therefore, these research populations includes 27 children affected by child neglect, the chairman of LC1 and some local leaders including the Mukono District probation and social Welfare Officer.

### **3.4. Sample size**

The sample size to be considered is of 25 respondents. Taken from the total population of about 27 in upper Kauga in Central division

The size also included a sample of five key informants who are the probation and social welfare officers, chairmen of LC1 and local police officers from Upper Kauga-Mukono District.

### **3.5. Sampling techniques**

**Simple random sampling:** This is a sampling technique where each member of the population has an equal chance of being selected to be part of the sample. It involves randomly selecting individuals or items from the population without any specific criteria or characteristics influencing the selection process. The researcher will use simple random sampling technique to obtain the sample size and this is because the population is relatively homogenous and the researcher wants to ensure that each member has an equal opportunity to be included in the sample, minimizing bias and allowing for generalization of the results to the entire population.

**Purposive sampling:** Purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling technique where researchers select participants based on specific criteria relevant to the research question or objectives. This method is used when researchers aim to gather information from individuals who possess certain characteristics or experiences relevant to the study, allowing for targeted and focused data collection. This will be used to select the probation and social welfare officers, local police officers and L.C1 chairman of upper

Kauga and this is because these individuals have adequate knowledge about the study and given that they are the ones that deal directly and first hand with the victims of child neglect in the area.

**Table 1: Population, sample size and sampling method**

Category of respondents	Study Population	Sample size	Sampling method
LC1 chairman and probation and social welfare officers and local police officers	5	5	Purposive sampling
children reported to have faced child neglect	22	20	Simple random sampling
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>25</b>	

Source: Mukono District Local Government, 2023

### SAMPLE SIZE DETERMINATION

Slovene formula will be used to determine sample size from the 105 population of the selected categories of people as follows;

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

“n” is sample size, “N” is population, “e” is error (0.05) or level of confidence 95%

“N” (population) = 27

$$n = \frac{27}{1 + 27(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{27}{1 + 27(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{27}{1 + (0.0675)}$$

$$n = 27 \div 1.0675$$

$$n = 25$$

A sample of 25 children, including probation officers, LC chairperson and local police officers reported to be victims and witnesses of child neglect in upper Kauga Mukono district will be selected using simple random sampling given that their population size is big in number. Simple random sampling will be used for this category of population because its procedure is unbiased and it makes research on large populations more practical.

### **3.6 sources of data**

While carrying out the research study, both primary and secondary data were used by the researcher.

**Primary source:** A primary source of data is the firsthand information collected directly from the original source. In this case, the researcher will use sources like questionnaires and interviews to obtain information and data directly from the individuals being studied. Primary sources provide raw, unfiltered data that can be analyzed and interpreted to draw conclusions and make informed decisions. . The researcher will collect the data personally through interviews and questionnaires. For respondents who can't read and write, the researcher will read out the questions giving options in their local language.

**Secondary source:** A secondary source of data is information that has been collected and compiled by someone else for a purpose other than the researcher's current study. This data has already been processed, analyzed, and interpreted by the original source. Examples of secondary sources include books, journal articles, reports, databases, and other publications where data has been aggregated and presented for use by others. Researchers often use secondary data when primary data collection is impractical, costly, or time-consuming. In this case data from the annual reports written about child neglect at the probation and social welfare office in upper Kauga will be reviewed.

These reports will examine the role played by probation and social welfare office in mitigating the impact of child neglect on children's social well-being and impacts in Goma division-Mukono district.

### **3.7 Data collection methods and instruments**

The data collection methods and research instruments that was be used during the process of data collection include; questionnaires and in-depth interviews.

#### **3.7.1 Questionnaires:**

Questionnaires are a data collection method consisting of a set of questions designed to gather information from respondents. The Researcher will use questionnaires because of standardization; they provide a standardized set of questions, ensuring consistency in data collection across respondents, efficiency; they can be administered to a large number of respondents simultaneously, making them a cost-effective data collection method. Anonymity; respondents can answer questions without disclosing their identity which may encourage confidentiality and reduce social bias and it is also easy to quantify and analyze responses and data from questionnaires. Some of the types of questionnaires are structured Questionnaires which consist of closed-ended questions with pre-defined response options and are efficient for collecting quantitative data , another is semi-Structured Questionnaires and include a mix of closed-ended and open-ended questions, allowing for some flexibility in respondent answers. Unstructured Questionnaires primarily consist of open-ended questions, allowing respondents to provide detailed, qualitative responses. These Questionnaires were administered to the children who are victims of child neglect and also parents to these children.

#### **3.7.2 Key informants Interviews**

Key informant interviews involve gathering information from individuals who have specialized knowledge or experience relevant to the research topic. These individuals, known as key informants, are selected based on their expertise, involvement, or position within a particular field or community and in this study the key informants are the probation and social welfare officers, local police officers and L.C1 chairman of

upper Kauga and the reason for using this method is because key informants provide detailed and accurate information about the study and this information may not be obtained from other sources and offer firsthand information based on their experience and knowledge with child neglect. These informants also validate the findings obtained through other collection methods. Key informant interviews will be administered to the 2 probation and social welfare officers, the LC1 chairperson of upper Kauga and 2 local police officers within the area of study.

### **3.8 Data collection procedure**

After receiving a letter of introduction from the Department of Social Sciences, Uganda Christian University, the researcher sought permission from the management of the Department of Health and Welfare (Mukono Local Government) and several interviewees to use as case studies. The researcher visits several respondents, conducts interviews and distributes questionnaires.

### **3.9 Quality control error control**

#### **3.9.1 Validity of the research instrument**

The principal investigator confirmed the validity of the instruments used for data collection by pretesting the questionnaire and strives to avoid errors by participating in data collection and analysis. Therefore, validity is measured by determining how well an instrument measures an outcome or how well it is designed to influence an intervention.

#### **3.9.2 Reliability of the research instrument**

The instrument were reliable in measuring what it is supposed to measure, even if it is administered by different researchers and in reality the results should be the same. And a small number of respondents will be pilot surveyed for this research project before sending questions to other respondents. Therefore, we aim to ensure reliability through pre- and post- survey validation. The reliability of observational measurements is achieved by using the same test method, when similar tests are performed on a

group of people after a certain period of time. Therefore, the reliability of a test is estimated by examining the consistency of responses between two variables/groups.

### **3.10 Data analysis**

#### **3.10.1 Analysis of quantitative data**

Data analysis was done with the help of a package that is not only easy to use but also efficient in managing the relationships between variables and regression in the study. All variables are named and coded for computer input. All responses are coded for computer data entry. After data entry is complete, negative word scales are recorded and assigned a new value. Fourth, calculate the objective index and obtain the total score of the scale items. Fifth, the data is screened to minimize data entry errors. Quantitative data will be analyzed using descriptive statistics and Pearson's correlation to examine the relationship between the independent variables and the dependent variable of the study.

#### **3.10.2 Analysis of qualitative data**

A thematic approach used to analyze the qualitative data to identify themes, categories and patterns. The themes that emerged from the interviews related to each guiding question are presented in the results and the stories selected by the participants are shown as illustrations.

### **3.11 Ethical considerations**

Researcher considered several ethical standards, including:

**Respondent confidentiality:** Respondents do not wish to reveal their name or contact information in the questionnaire. To prevent tracking of information provided to respondents, identifiers will be used instead of names.

All data collected was only be used for this study and for no other purpose.

The research procedures are as follows: be explained to all participants. Consent should be obtained from interviewees prior to participation in the study.

All literary sources are acknowledged throughout the study with appropriate references and references.

Obvious personal reliance should be avoided, only the entire study. Speak up during interviews, data analysis, and reporting.

### **3.12 Anticipated limitations and delimitations of the study**

Some respondents do not want to give information because they are not sure where it will go. This is determined by having an impressive reputation in the field of research as an academic institution and receiving letters of introduction from universities. Researchers lacked the necessary funds to promote their research, such as motivation . We collect data on respondents, printing costs and even shipping costs to the organization. However, the researcher uses himself to mobilize the financial support of the family.

Some people hesitate to present the question about the time the researcher has set in his research. This will be addressed by sending out more questionnaires, which will help fill in the gaps of those who did not respond to the questionnaires. Administration time, understanding of questionnaire items and explanations provided to respondents. To reduce these threats, research assistants are trained and informed about the procedures to be followed in data collection.

Finally, the use of research assistants may result in insufficient time to administer the questionnaire, understand the questionnaire items, and provide explanations to the respondents. To reduce these threats, research assistants are trained and informed about the procedures to be followed in data collection.

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## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

#### 4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents and discusses the results of analysis that has been done to look at the specific objectives of the study and in relation to the reviewed literature in investigating the role of probation and social welfare office in mitigating the effects of child neglect on children's social well-being. The study was carried out using questionnaires and interview guides with selected respondents. The data-filled questionnaires were copied and analyzed by tallying and tabling in frequency polygons while identifying how often certain responses occurred and later evaluation was done. The information was then recorded in terms of percentages. Also, interview results were coded on frequency tables which were calculated in terms of percentages and presented in this study as illustrated below.

#### 4.1 Findings on demographic characteristics of respondents

This section presents the general background information about the respondents in relation to their age, education level and gender as shown in the table below;

**Table 1: Background Information about the respondents**

Item	Description	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	10	40
	Female	15	60.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Age	10-14 years	5	20
	15-18 years	5	20
	19-30 years	5	20
	Above 30	10	40
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Level of education	Primary	10	40
	Secondary	5	20
	Tertiary	10	40.0
	<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Primary data 2024

The findings of the study indicated that there were more female respondents than their male counterparts .the female respondents were represented by a percentage of 60% while the male had a representation of 40%.

The findings of the study also indicated that 40% of the respondents were above the age of 30, while 5% were between 10-14 yrs,5% between 15 to 18 years and last 19 to 30 was represented by 5 %.

The findings also revealed that 40% of the respondents had attained at least tertiary education, that being the majority of the respondents. The finding further portrayed that 40 percent of the respondents had primary level education and lastly 20 percent had gotten secondary level education.

#### 4.2 THE FORMS OF CHILD NEGLECT FACED BY CHILDREN IN UPPER KAUGA

The study sought to investigate the respondents’ rankings on the forms of child neglect faced by children in upper Kauga. The statistics in table 4.5 below indicate the findings on this objective. Responses were in form of ticking against statements in regards to the respondent’s degree of acceptance

**Table 4 showing forms of child neglect faced by children in PSWO**

Statements	SA		A		NS		D		SD	
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
Education neglect	15	60	5	20	0		5	20	0	0
Emotional neglect	0	0	5	20	0		20	80	0	0
Physical neglect	21	84	2	8	0		2	8	0	0
Medical neglect	7	28	10	40	0		3	12	5	20

Source: Primary Data 2024

The findings of the study revealed that educational neglect was strong form of child neglect with 60% of the respondents strongly agreeing to the statement. The findings also revealed that 20% of the respondents agreed to the same statement while the lastly 20% disagreed to the statement.

The findings further revealed that emotional neglect was not a form child neglect. This was evident whereby 80% of the respondents disagreed to the statement. This drew a narrative that parents and care giver didn't find emotional attachment as a basic provision for their children but rather material provision.

The findings of the study still revealed that physical neglect was the strongest form of child neglect, whereby 84 % of the respondents strongly agreed to the statement while the other 8 % agreed to the same. This was indicative that neglected children would be easily identified physically by vision through malnourishment, dirtiness and disease.

Medical neglect was also listed as a strong form of neglect to the children, this was portrayed by the findings whereby 28% and 40% of the respondents strongly agreed and agreed respectively. This form of neglect was strongly attributed to poverty and unemployment by parents and care giver of the neglect children.

#### **4.3 TO ASSESS THE EFFECTS OF CHILD NEGLECT ON CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WELL-BEING IN UPPER KAUGA MUKONO DISTRICT.**

The study sought to assess the respondents' rankings on the effects of child neglect on their social wellbeing faced by children in upper Kauga . The statistics in table 4.5 below indicate the findings on this objective. Responses where in form of ticking against statements in regards to the respondent's degree of acceptance

**Table showing the effects of child neglect on the social wellbeing of children in upper kauga**

Statements	SA		A		NS		D		SD	
	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%	<i>f</i>	%
Affects peer relations with friends	5	20	5	20	0		0	0	15	60
Children develop avoidant attachment with their guardians	20	80	5	20	0		0	0	0	0
Neglect hinders child's ability to control emotions	3	12	2	8	0		10	40	10	40
High measures of dissociation	5	20	5	20	0		5	20	10	40
Experience age discrimination	0	0	0	0			5	20	20	80

The findings of the study on the effects of child neglect on the social wellbeing of children revealed that 60% of the respondent's strongly disagreed that child neglect affects peer relations with friends while the other 20 % strongly agreed and agreed respectively. This was associated with childish interaction with agreement through play and socialization as not being affected by neglect.

The findings of the study further revealed that child neglect did not hinder the child's ability to control emotion as children that are neglected where found to be stable mentally and emotionally. This was evident as 40% of the respondents strongly disagreed to the statement and 40% disagreed to the same statement.

Further the finding study revealed that neglected children developed avoidant attachment with their guardians. This was portrayed by the study were 80% of the respondents strongly agreed to the statement. Avoidant attachment was referred to were children grow up feeling deserted and don't want any association with the neglecting guardian.

The findings of the study further father revealed that children that were neglected did not experience high level of dissociation. This was portrayed by the study by the findings of the study whereby 40% of the respondents strongly disagreed to the statement while 20 % of the respondents disagreed.

#### **4.4 TO EXAMINE THE ROLES OF PROBATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE IN MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF CHILD NEGLECT ON CHILDREN’S SOCIAL WELL-BEING IN UPPER KAUGA.**

The findings of the study revealed that one of the role of PSWO was Monitoring and Supervision of neglecting families. Probation officers ensure that children in the legal system receive proper care and support. This was revealed by the first key informant who had this to say.

*“Monitoring is very important if we are to enforce and work out child neglect by parents and guardians. To enforce this we at the probation office take time to know if the children that we feel are neglect are at least are getting the basic needs from their guardian for example medical attention, education and food”*

Another role of the PSWO in upper Kauga was to initiate rehabilitation Programs. Implementing programs aimed at improving parenting skills and addressing the root causes of neglect. Enforcing court orders and ensuring compliance with child welfare laws to protect children's rights.

Understanding Child Neglect and child assessment. According to the findings of the study Child neglect involves the failure to provide necessary care, supervision, and protection, leading to potential harm or developmental issues. Neglect can cause emotional, psychological, and social challenges, hindering children's ability to form healthy relationships and function effectively in society. The finding of the study revealed that it was a paramount role of the PSWO to assess and understand if a child is neglected the second key informant had this to say.

*“Assessing child neglect in most cases is physical and through visual observation. Children seem to be neglected at a tender age if they are malnourished and are having diet deficiency diseases like marasmus and kwashiorkor”*

Lastly the findings of the study revealed that it an obligatory role in providing access to counseling, healthcare, and educational resources to support neglected children and their families. Educating communities about the signs of neglect and available resources to prevent and address neglect. Probation and social welfare offices in Kauga often work together to provide comprehensive support to neglected children. Engaging with schools, healthcare providers, and non-profits to create a support network for affected children

#### **4.5 TO ANALYZE THE CHALLENGES FACED BY THE PROBATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE OFFICE FULFILLING THEIR ROLES RELATED TO CHILD NEGLECT**

The findings of the study revealed that Resource Limitations was a major challenge at the PSWO Kauga. Insufficient funding can lead to understaffed offices and inadequate resources for effective intervention. High caseloads and burnout among probation and social welfare officers reduce the quality of care and attention each case receives as was the case in upper Kauga. This was portrayed by the one of the probation officers who had this to say

*“Shortage of monetary resources limits our ability to deal with child neglect for example transportation to monitor and supervise neglecting family and guardian, as well as going for court proceedings. Lack of funds also hinders our ability to provide the basic needs for neglected children especially those that we pick from the streets in our rehabilitation homes”*

The findings of the study revealed that in PSWO in Kauga there was a challenge of training and professional development and labor shortage. Limited access to ongoing training programs has resulted in officers not being up-to-date with the latest practices and policies in child welfare. Officer’s lack specialized skills needed to handle complex cases of neglect, including trauma-informed care and crisis intervention.

The findings of the study further revealed that there was Legal and Policy Challenges in upper Kauga Mukono. Variations in child welfare laws and regulations has create confusion and inconsistency in how cases are handled. Bureaucratic hurdles and lengthy legal processes have delayed intervention and prolonged the suffering of neglected children. Social welfare officers lack the legal power to enforce certain actions or interventions, limiting their effectiveness. This was revealed by our fourth key informant who said:

*“Bureaucracy in the legal proceeding especially in the judicial space of Mukono has been a major challenge in comprehend child neglect and abuser of the neglected children. For example some abuse of neglected children offer bribe to police upon arrest and are released without charge”*

The finding of the study revealed that Socioeconomic and Cultural Factors were a strong challenge in dealing with child neglect. High levels of poverty in Upper Kauga exacerbated the challenges of addressing child neglect, as families lack basic resources and support systems. The findings further revealed that cultural beliefs and practices can sometimes undermine efforts to recognize and address child neglect, making it harder to intervene effectively as stated by a key informant

*“Families may be reluctant to seek help or cooperate with authorities due to stigma and mistrust of social welfare systems.”*

The findings in the study still revealed that case management and documentation is a challenge at the PSWO. Excessive paperwork and bureaucratic processes take time away from direct service provision and case management. Poor data collection and management systems can hinder the ability to track cases, monitor progress, and make informed decisions.

Lastly the findings of the study revealed that there was a psychological impact on officers dealing with cases of severe neglect which has taken a significant emotional and psychological toll on probation and social welfare officers, leading to burnout and

compassion fatigue. Lack of mental health support and counseling for officers reduce their effectiveness and overall well-being

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## CHAPTER FIVE

### DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary and description of findings derived from the study. The chapter also provides discussion of the findings, conclusions and recommendations for policy as well as recommendations for further research

#### 5.1 DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

##### 5.1.1 The forms of child neglect faced by children in upper Kauga.

The findings of the study revealed that Physical neglect was the inability of a parent or guardian to take care of a child's basic needs, such as providing shelter, food, clothing, and the child's cleanliness and hygiene. This manifested itself in different ways. For example, not taking care of the body is like not giving warm clothes in winter. Ignoring education this is the condition that occurs when a parent or guardian denies their right to have a child. The findings showed that physical neglect was the most recognized form of neglect as it was seen in children's day-to-day lives. On education as a form of child neglect Children have a legal right to education, so not sending them to school regularly is an example of educational neglect that was highly evident within the society of Kauga. The findings further revealed that most of the respondents were not aware of emotional neglect as a form of child neglect. This can take the form of being ignored, humiliated, isolated or threatened. Emotional neglect affected a child's development. Some examples of emotional neglect include not providing human interaction with the child. Medication negligence can also take the form of ignoring the advice of medical professionals and skipping injections. This was in line with the findings of (India Bryce, Child Abuse and Neglect, 2019).

### **5.1.2 Effects of child on children's social well-being**

The findings of the study revealed that child care and attachment plays an important role in the social, emotional and psychological development of children. When children are exposed to stress, they form a secure attachment to parents who are attentive, caring, and positive. This was in alignment with the research of (Ainsworth, 1978). Child neglect and abuse hindered children's ability to control their emotions and make them dependent on their caregivers to help them cope as realized by the findings of the study (Tronick, 1989). Infants and children were highly sensitive to their parents' emotions and use their parents' emotional cues to guide their behavior. The findings of the study revealed that Child neglect and abuse affected relationships with friends that are important to a child's life. Maltreated and neglected children have high rates of peer problems. This was in line with the findings of (Kim & Cicchetti, 2010) and children with a history of institutional care (Almas et al., 2012). Higher scores on measures of dissociation are associated with externalizing behavior in children (Kisiel & Lyons, 2001; Shapiro et al., 2012; Yates et al., 2008).

### **5.1.3 Roles of the PSWO in mitigating child neglect**

The findings of the study revealed that once the agency receives a referral, probation officers begin contacting offenders, families and law enforcement assessment of child neglect was their first role as officers. They conduct home, school and workplace visits to gather information and implement family partnership models. Formulates and writes case management strategies based on assessments and information gathered to meet the inmate's specific needs. For example, treatment recommendations may be made, including inpatient rehabilitation. They use risk assessments during the engagement to determine how to negotiate, implement and update case plans for their clients. Sometimes face-to-face meetings are held in clients' homes or in various community settings

### **5.1.4 Challenges faced by PSWO in mitigating child neglect.**

The findings of the study revealed that Lack of transport affects the work of social workers. Transport is a challenge for service delivery by social workers. Child and family

life in Mukono region. (Strydom, 2010) Labor shortage has been identified as a problem where 60% of the respondents agreed to the statement. There are few social workers. There are too few social protection officers to carry out their duties of rehabilitating minor offenders. The Mukono Regional Probation and Welfare Department has a population of over 5,000 but only two welfare officers. The findings also revealed that the organization only has two welfare officers, but is supposed to have five welfare officers. The above means that the welfare officer cannot perform his duties to the best of his ability due to the duties assigned to him. Social workers have little knowledge of how to implement the program. Another challenge was the lack of knowledge among social workers. Due to the lack of care training of welfare officers, there is a lack of skills. Here are some of them: The lack of training in social work makes it difficult to carry out some jobs. Some social service officers don't know how to counsel and can't give inmates to victims.

## **5.2 CONCLUSION.**

The following were the conclusions the researcher came up with after carrying out the study;

1. The study revealed that child neglect in Upper Kauga indeed manifests in physical, emotional, and educational forms, with severe consequences on children's social well-being.
2. The study also revealed that these various forms of child neglect indeed affect the peer relations of children and friends, children develop avoidant attachment with their guardians, hinders child's ability to control their emotions, and increases dissociation among children.
3. The study revealed that Probation and social welfare office Mukono district indeed play a crucial role in mitigating child neglect's effects through support services, counseling, resource connection, case managements and attending court cases involving children.

4. The study also revealed that despite the efforts, probation and social welfare officers in Upper Kauga face challenges that hinder their effectiveness in mitigating the effects of child neglect on children. These challenges include limited resources, labor shortage, lack of transport and limited knowledge of how to implement the program.

### **5.3 RECOMMENDATION.**

Child neglect is a critical issue that has long-term consequences on the physical, emotional, and cognitive development of children. It is imperative to address this issue through comprehensive and strategic recommendations that involve families, communities, legal systems, and policymakers. This essay delves into detailed recommendations to avert child neglect, highlighting the importance of prevention, intervention, and continuous support systems.

1. Addressing the forms of child neglect: Establish comprehensive support services addressing physical, emotional, and educational neglect. Raising community awareness about child neglect and its various forms is essential for early identification and intervention. This can be achieved through public education campaigns which involve launching campaigns to educate the public on the signs of neglect and the importance of reporting it.

2. Provision of support services: Child support services should be put in place to mitigate the effects of child neglect on children's well-being in upper Kauga. This can be through providing individualized support services such as counseling, therapy and mentoring. Develop targeted interventions focusing on peer relations, attachment styles, emotional regulation, and dissociation. Family support services should also be provided such as parent-child therapy, parenting classes and this will mitigate the effects of child neglect on the children

3. Enhancement and improving the role of probation and social welfare officers: Support should be provided to enhance the roles played by probation and social welfare officers in mitigating the effects of child neglect in Upper Kauga. This can be through increasing resources by allocating sufficient resources including funds, personnel and

infrastructure. Training and capacity building by providing regular training and capacity-building programs for probation and social welfare officers to enhance their skills and knowledge and encouraging community engagement to foster collaboration with local community leaders, schools and health care providers to identify and support neglected children.

4. Addressing the challenges faced by probation and social welfare officers in mitigating the effects of child neglect: Targeted interventions should be tailored towards addressing the various challenges faced by probation and social welfare officers. These can be through training and capacity-building for the officers by providing regular training and capacity-building programs for probation and social welfare officers in order to enhance their skills and knowledge, allocating sufficient resources including funds, personnel and infrastructure to provide support, staff support and well-being to address

#### **5.4 AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH.**

Addressing child neglect is a complex and ongoing challenge that requires continuous research to develop more effective prevention and intervention strategies. The following areas present opportunities for further research:

**Understanding the Root Causes.** Research should delve deeper into how poverty, unemployment, and economic instability contribute to child neglect. Understanding these links can help in designing targeted interventions.

**Parental Mental Health.** Studying the impact of parental mental health disorders, such as depression, anxiety, and substance abuse, on child neglect can lead to better support systems for affected families.

**Cultural and Societal Influences.** Investigating how cultural beliefs, societal norms, and community structures influence neglect can provide insights into culturally sensitive prevention strategies.

Improving Identification and Reporting. Detection Tools: Developing advanced tools and technologies for early detection of neglect, including predictive analytics and machine learning models, can enhance the accuracy and speed of identification.

Researching the effectiveness of various reporting mechanisms, such as hotlines, online platforms, and community networks, can help optimize these systems for better responsiveness.

Assessing the impact of different training programs for professionals (teachers, healthcare providers, social workers) on the identification and reporting of neglect can inform the development of more effective training modules.

Evaluating the long-term effectiveness of home visiting programs in preventing neglect can identify best practices and areas for improvement



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APPENDICES

Appendixi

school

introductory

letter



**UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

July 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

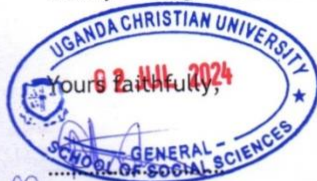
Dear Sir/Madam

Re: INTRODUCTORY LETTER FOR RESEARCH

This is to introduce to you **MINAIDA Janet Bondo** Registration number **S21B15/103**, 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 Role of Probation and Social Welfare Office in Mitigating the Effects of Child Neglect on Children's Wellbeing in Upper Kauga."

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.



Doreen Kukugiza  
Coordinator, Research & Fieldwork Programmes  
Tel: 0773395349  
Email: dkukugiza@ucu.ac.ug

## Appendix ii agency introductory letter

TELEPHONE: 0414697450

IN ANY CORRESPONDENCE ON  
THIS SUBJECT, PLEASE QUOTE

Our Ref: **ADM/MKN/220/01**

Your Ref: .....



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

OFFICE OF THE  
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
MUKONO DISTRICT  
P. O. BOX 110  
MUKONO  
Email: [caomukono@yahoo.com](mailto:caomukono@yahoo.com)

Date: **July 22, 2024**

Ms. Doreen Kukugiza,  
Coordinator, Research & Fieldwork Programmes,  
Tel: 0773 395349  
**Uganda Christian University**

### INTRODUCTORY LETTER FOR RESEARCH

This office is in receipt of your letter dated **2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2024**, of the above subject matter.

The purpose of this communication is to grant **Ms. Minaida Janet Bondo** permission to conduct research with a topic; ***“The Role of Probation and Social Welfare Office in Mitigating the Effects of Child Neglect on Children’s Wellbeing in Upper Kauga.”***



Tekisooka Margaret Nkata  
**For. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER  
MUKONO DISTRICT**

#### Copies to:-

- *The District Chairperson, Mukono*
- *The Resident District Commissioner, Mukono*

#### Mission:

*To provide coordinated services for poverty reduction and attainment of sustainable economic development to the community by focusing on the National Policies and local priorities.*

### Appendix iii: Questionnaire

Dear sir/madam,

I am MINAIDA JANET BONDO a student at Uganda Christian University conducting research on **“Role of probation and social welfare office in mitigating the effects of child neglect on children’s social well-being in upper Kauga Mukono district”** .will ensure total confidentiality of the information given to me during this research. This research will contribute to the award of my bachelor’s degree in Social Work and Social Administration so I humbly ask you for your cooperation. Thank you very much.

#### Section A: Bio Data

Please tick the most appropriate answer

1. Gender?

a) Male

b) Female

2. Age?

a) 10-14 years

b) 15-18 years

c) 18-30 years

c) above 30

3. What is your level of education?

a) Primary

b) Secondary

c) Tertiary

d) others specify.....

## SECTION B: FORMS OF CHILD NEGLECT FACED BY CHILDREN IN UPPER KAUGA

Rate your degree of agreement of 5(Strongly Agree), 4(Agree), 3(Not sure), 2(Disagree) and 1(Strongly Disagree).

s. no	forms of child neglect faced by children in upper Kauga	SA	A	NS	D	SD
1	Education neglect					
2	Emotional neglect					
3	Medical neglect					
4	Physical neglect					

## SECTION C: EFFECTS OF CHILD ON CHILDREN'S SOCIAL WELL-BEING

Rate your degree of agreement using a scale of 5(Strongly Agree), 4(Agree), 3(Not sure), 2(Disagree) and 1(Strongly Disagree).

s. no	Effects of child on children's social well-being	SA	A	NS	D	SD
1	Affects peer relations with friends					
2	Children develop avoidant attachment with their guardians					
3	Neglect hinders child's ability to control emotions					
4	High measures of dissociation					
5	Experience age discrimination					

**SECTION D: ROLES OF PSWO IN MITIGATING CHILD NEGLECT**

Rate your degree of agreement using a scale of 5(Strongly Agree), 4(Agree), 3(Not sure), 2(Disagree) and 1(Strongly Disagree).

s. no	Roles of pswo in mitigating child neglect	SA	A	NS	D	SD
1	Carry out child assessment					
2	Conduct case management					
3	Feature in social work court proceedings					
4	Engage in interventions and supervision					
5	Undertake records management					

**SECTION E: CHALLENGES FACED BY PSWO IN MITIGATING CHILD NEGLECT**

Rate your degree of agreement using a scale of 5(Strongly Agree), 4(Agree), 3(Not sure), 2(Disagree) and 1(Strongly Disagree).

s. no	Challenges faced by pswo in mitigating child neglect	SA	A	NS	D	SD
1	Lack of transport facilitation in carrying out roles					
2	There is a problem of alcoholism in child offenders					
3	Labor shortage in executing duties					
4	Some Social workers have little knowledge of how to implement the program.					
5	The criminal proceedings of child offenders are always postponed.					

**Appendix IV: INTERVIEW GUIDE**

I am MINAIDA JANET BONDO a student at Uganda Christian University conducting research on **Role of probation and social welfare office in mitigating the effects of child neglect on children’s social well-being in upper Kauga Mukono district**” “I will ensure total confidentiality of the information given to me during this research. This research will contribute to the award of my bachelor’s degree in Social Work and Social Administration so I humbly ask you for your cooperation. Thank you very much.

WHAT FORMS OF CHILD NEGLECT ARE PREVALENT IN THIS COMMUNITY?

.....  
.....

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE EFFECTS OF CHILD NEGLECT YOU ARE AWARE OF?

.....

WHAT ROLES HAS PSWO PLAYED IN MITIGATING CHILD NEGLECT?

.....

WHAT CHALLENGES ARE FACED BY PSWO IN MITIGATING CHILD NEGLECT?

.....

Thank you for your cooperation