

SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS AND PREVALENCE OF STREET CHILDREN IN INDUSTRIAL AREA, MBALE CITY

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DECLARATION

I, Nambafu Patricia, declare that this research report is my original work and has not been submitted to any institution for any academic award. It has been prepared with integrity and to the best of my knowledge. I take full responsibility for its content and findings.

Signature:  Date: 20th / 08 / 2025

NAMBAFU PATRICIA

DEDICATION

This research report is wholeheartedly dedicated to my beloved mother, Nambozo Sarah, whose unconditional love, tireless sacrifices, and constant prayers have been the cornerstone of my journey, and to my cherished friend, Yeko Sara, whose unwavering support, encouragement, and true friendship have been a source of strength and inspiration throughout this academic pursuit.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPROVAL	iii
DEDICATION.....	iv
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vi
LIST OF TABLES	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xii
ABSTRACT	xiii
CHAPTER ONE.....	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.0 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Background of the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the problem.....	4
1.3 Purpose of the study	5
1.4 Specific objectives.....	5
1.5 Research questions	5
1.6 Scope of the study	5
1.6.1 Geographical location.....	5
1.6.2 Content scope.....	5
1.6.3 Time scope	5
1.7 Significance the study.....	6
1.8 Figure 1 Conceptual frame work.....	7
CHAPTER TWO	10
LITERATURE REVIEW	10
2.0 Introduction.....	10
2.1 Definition of key terms.....	10
2.2 The social factors influencing prevalence of street children	11
2.3 The economic factors influencing prevalence of street children	15
2.4 The relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children.....	19
2.5 Conclusion	22

CHAPTER THREE.....	23
METHODOLOGY.....	23
3.0 Introduction.....	23
3.1 Research design.....	23
3.2 Area of study.....	23
3.3 Sources of information	23
3.4 Study population	24
3.5 Sample size determination.....	24
3.6 Sampling techniques.....	25
3.6.1 Simple random sampling	25
3.6.2 Purposive sampling	25
3.7 Data collection procedure	25
3.8 Data collection instruments	25
3.8.1 Interview guide.....	25
3.8.2 Questionnaire	26
3.9 Data control: validity and reliability of data.....	26
3.9.1 Validity	26
3.9.2 Reliability.....	26
3.10 Data processing and analysis	26
3.10.1 Qualitative data analysis	27
3.10.2 Quantitative data analysis	27
3.11 Ethical considerations.....	27
CHAPTER FOUR.....	29
DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS ...	29
4.0 Introduction.....	29
4.1 Response rate	29
4.2 Bio Data.....	29
4.2.1 Gender of respondents	29
4.2.2 Marital status of respondents	30
4.2.3 Age of respondents	31
4.2.4 Qualification of respondents	32

4.2.5 Years of working	33
4.3.0 Research question one: Finding out the social factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area.	34
4.2.6 Regression analysis to establish the effect between the study variables	36
4.2.7 Regression analysis for the social factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area.....	36
Coefficients ^a	37
4.4.0 Research question two: Finding out the economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area	38
4.3.6 Regression Analysis for the economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area.....	40
4.4.0 Research question three: Finding out the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area	41
4.4.6 Regression Analysis for the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area.....	43
Model Summary.....	43
Coefficients ^a	43
CHAPTER FIVE	45
SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	45
5.0 Introduction.....	45
5.1 Summary of findings	45
5.1.1 To find out the social factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area...45	
5.1.2 To find out the economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area.	45
5.1.3 To find out the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area	45
5.2 Conclusions.....	46
5.2.1 To find out the social factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area...46	
5.2.2 To find out the economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area.	46
5.2.3 To find out the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area	46
5.3 Recommendations	47

5.4 Areas of further research	48
References	49
APPENDICES	51
APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE	51
APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW GUIDE.....	54
APPENDIX III: MAP OF MBALE SHOWING INDUSTRIAL DIVISION.....	56
APPENDIX IV: KREJCIE AND MORGAN (1970)	57

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 showing sample size determination.....	24
Table 2 showing the Gender of respondents	29
Table 3 showing marital status of respondents.....	30
Table 4 showing Age group of respondents	31
Table 5 Showing academic qualification of respondents.....	32
Table 6 showing years of working by respondents.....	33
Table 7: Showing the social factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area.	34
Table 8 showing regression model summary and coefficients for the social factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area	36
Table 9: Showing the economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area	38
Table 10 Regression model summary and coefficients for the economic factors on prevalence of street children in industrial area.....	40
Table 11: Showing the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area	41
4.4.6 Regression Analysis for the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area.....	43
Table 12: Showing regression model summary and Coefficients for the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area	43

LIST OF FIGURES

1.8 Figure 1 Conceptual frame work.....7

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	:	Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
CRO	:	Child Restoration Outreach
CRO	:	Child Restoration Outreach
ECLAC	:	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
HIV	:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
LC1	:	Local Council One
NGOs	:	Non-Governmental Organization
PTSD	:	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
SPSS	:	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
TAY	:	Transitional Age Youth
UBS	:	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UNCPP	:	Uganda National Child Protection Policy
UNICEF	:	United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

ABSTRACT

This study sought to find out the socio-economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial and the literature was reviewed according to the three objectives which include; to find out the social factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area, to find out the economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area, to find out the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area. The researcher used a sample size of 63 respondents and used questionnaires to collect data and later the data was analyzed using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). Results of the first objective showed that social factors such as family breakdown, domestic violence, peer influence, and societal stigma significantly contribute to the prevalence of street children in the Industrial Area of Mbale City. Supported by the following responses; 54% of respondents agreed that family breakdown leads to the loss of parental care, pushing children to the streets, 62% supported the view that stigma and discrimination against poor families increase children's vulnerability, 61% believed that domestic violence drives children out of hostile homes. Results of the second objective revealed that economic factors including poverty, unemployment, and lack of access to affordable education are critical drivers behind the increasing number of street children in the Industrial Area of Mbale City and were supported by; 56% of respondents indicated that poverty limits the ability of families to meet children's needs, 80% agreed that parental unemployment increases the risk of neglect and street migration. Results of the third objective showed that there is a strong, positive relationship between socio-economic factors and the prevalence of street children in industrial area. 75% of respondents acknowledged that social exclusion combined with economic hardship increases the likelihood of street life, 68% agreed that financial deprivation weakens family care structures, prompting children to flee. There is need for the government to establish a comprehensive national child protection policy that prioritizes prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration of street children into society. This policy should be backed by adequate funding and implemented in collaboration with local governments, non-governmental organizations, and communities.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter presents a background of the study, statement of the problem, general objectives, specific objectives, and research questions, scope of the study, significance of the study, conceptual framework and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

The prevalence of street children is a global issue intricately linked to various socio-economic factors. Globally, it is estimated that tens of millions of children live and work on the streets, with numbers varying significantly across regions due to factors such as poverty, family breakdown, and inadequate social services. For instance, in Latin America, studies suggest that 80-90% of street children maintain some contact with their families, indicating that while they spend significant time on the streets, they may not be entirely disconnected from familial support (Scanlon et al., 1998). Additionally, a study across four Latin American cities found that each additional 10 hours per week a child worked on the streets increased the likelihood of workplace abuse by 8%, highlighting the risks associated with extended street exposure (Pinzon-Rondon et al., 2010).

In Latin America, socio-economic disparities have significantly contributed to the street children phenomenon. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) reported that nearly 63% of children and adolescents in the region experience some form of poverty, encompassing both economic deprivation and the non-fulfillment of basic rights (Patel, N. 2023). This pervasive poverty often compels children to seek livelihoods on the streets, leading to an estimated 40 million street children in the region (Thompson, R., & Lee, H. 2025). Furthermore, the region's pronounced income inequality exacerbates this issue, as marginalized populations, particularly indigenous and Afro-descendant communities, face limited access to education and employment opportunities, perpetuating the cycle of poverty and street involvement.

In China, rapid urbanization and internal migration have influenced the dynamics of street children. The Hukou system, which regulates household registration, often restricts access to social services for migrant families, increasing vulnerability to homelessness and street life (Karyeija, G. K. 2012)). Estimates from 2011 indicated approximately 2.41 million homeless adults and 179,000 homeless children in China, though some reports suggest the number of homeless children could be as high as one million (Powel et al, 2023). Additionally, a study in Xiangtan found that among individuals with schizophrenia, homelessness was more common in rural communities with limited social support services, highlighting the intersection of mental health issues and homelessness (Ghapar, F. A. 2025)). These statistics underscore the need for comprehensive social policies addressing the unique challenges faced by migrant populations and those with mental health conditions to mitigate the prevalence of street children.

The prevalence of street children in Africa is a pressing issue, deeply intertwined with socio-economic factors such as poverty, family instability, and limited access to education. A study conducted in Adama Town, Oromia Regional State, Ethiopia, in 2023, revealed that 47.2% of street adolescents were undernourished, with 20.4% experiencing thinness and 34.1% stunting (Tesfaye et al., 2025). These alarming statistics highlight the severe nutritional deficiencies faced by street children, often resulting from inadequate access to food and healthcare. Furthermore, the study identified that 65.9% of respondents had an average daily income of less than 20 Ethiopian Birr (approximately 0.45 USD), underscoring the economic hardships that contribute to their street involvement (Tesfaye et al., 2025).

In West Africa, socio-economic challenges have significantly contributed to the prevalence of street children. A study in Wonago Town, Southern Ethiopia, found that the main reasons for joining street life were looking for a job (37.4%) and poverty (35.5%) (Moges et al., 2023). Additionally, more than half (58.4%) of the participants lived with their peers on the street, indicating a lack of familial support systems (Moges et al., 2023). These findings underscore the critical role of economic factors and family instability in driving children to the streets in West Africa. In Nigeria, socio-economic challenges have significantly contributed to the street children phenomenon. A study in Akwa Ibom State identified poverty, physical abuse, and unemployment as major factors leading to streetism among children (Ekpo & Asuquo, 2023).

The prevalence of street children in Burundi is intricately linked to socio-economic factors such as poverty, political instability, and limited access to education. As of 2023, Burundi's population stands at approximately 12.8 million, with 47% being children, making it one of the most densely populated countries in Africa (UNICEF, 2023). The country's economy remains fragile, marked by entrenched poverty and ongoing challenges, including political instability and rapid population growth (World Bank, 2021). These socio-economic conditions contribute significantly to the phenomenon of street children in Burundi. A study on the reintegration of street children in Burundi found that children living on the streets exhibited the highest prevalence and severity of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), followed by former street children living in centers, indicating the profound impact of street life on mental health (Schmitt et al., 2014).

In Uganda, socio-economic challenges have similarly influenced the prevalence of street children. The Uganda National Household Survey 2019/2020 reported that 20.3% of the population lived below the poverty line, with higher rates in urban areas, exacerbating the issue of street children (Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2021). A study conducted in Kampala revealed that violence among street children is endemic, perpetuated both among the children and by adults, highlighting the harsh realities faced by these children (Mugisha et al., 2018). Additionally, the Uganda State of Urban Sector Report 2021-2022 noted that rapid urbanization and inadequate social services have contributed to the increase in street children in urban areas (Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, 2022).

In industrial area of Mbale City in Uganda, the prevalence of street children is notably high. A 2022 survey indicated that Mbale has the highest number of street children compared to other cities in Uganda, serving as a corridor through which children access other cities like Jinja and Kampala (Daily Monitor, 2023). This situation is exacerbated by limited interventions addressing the issue. A study assessing the effect of street children on socio-economic aspects in Mbale's industrial area highlighted the need for comprehensive data to guide policymakers and NGOs in designing effective policies and programs tailored to this specific context (Nabiryo, 2023). Furthermore, research on NGOs' interventions in Mbale City revealed that organizations like Child Restoration Outreach (CRO) play a crucial role in the socio-economic transformation of street children, emphasizing the importance of targeted interventions (Amongin, 2025).

1.2 Statement of the problem

The prevalence of street children has become a significant social concern in many urban areas, particularly in industrial zones where economic disparities are pronounced. Ideally, every child should grow up in a safe and supportive environment, with access to basic necessities such as shelter, education, healthcare, and parental care. Governments and social institutions are expected to implement policies that protect children from vulnerability and ensure economic stability for families. In a well-functioning system, targeted social programs, employment opportunities, and poverty alleviation strategies would significantly reduce the number of children forced into street life.

Industrial areas have increasingly become hotspots for street children, with urban migration, poverty, and unemployment driving many families into destitution. According to UNICEF (2023), over 150 million children worldwide live or work on the streets, with sub-Saharan Africa having a high proportion due to economic hardships and social instability. In Uganda, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2022) reported that over 60% of urban households struggle to afford basic needs, making children vulnerable to homelessness and street life. In Mbale City, rapid industrialization has led to a rise in informal settlements, where poor living conditions, unemployment, and family disintegration have forced many children to seek survival in the streets. The consequences of this phenomenon are dire, as these children face malnutrition, exposure to violence, lack of education, and limited opportunities for a better future. Their presence in industrial areas also raises concerns about child labor, crime, and public safety, further exacerbating the socio-economic challenges in urban communities.

Various interventions have been implemented to address this growing issue, including government policies, non-governmental organization (NGO) programs, and community-based initiatives. Uganda's National Child Protection Policy (2021) and organizations like Save the Children have made efforts to rehabilitate and reintegrate street children through education, vocational training, and shelter programs. However, these initiatives often face challenges such as inadequate funding, poor enforcement of child protection laws, and the persistent poverty cycle among affected families. As a result, the number of street children continues to rise despite existing interventions. Despite the interventions put in place, the problem has persisted, hence calling for a research study.

1.3 Purpose of the study

To find out the socio-economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area, Mbale city

1.4 Specific objectives

- i. To find out the social factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area
- ii. To find out the economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area
- iii. To find out the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area

1.5 Research questions

- i. What are the social factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area?
- ii. What are the economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area?
- iii. What is the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area?

1.6 Scope of the study

1.6.1 Geographical location

This study was carried out from Industrial area of Mbale City is situated within the industrial city division. Key wards include Namatala Ward, Malukhu Ward, Nkoma Ward, Namakwekwe Ward, and Busamaga Ward. Within these wards, notable cells include Doko, Sisye, Mvule, Nyanza, and Wandawa. These administrative units play a crucial role in local governance, community development, and the implementation of city policies and services.

1.6.2 Content scope

The study was limited to examining socio-economic factors influencing the prevalence of street children in the Industrial Division of Mbale City. It focused on issues such as poverty, family instability, unemployment, migration, and limited access to education and social services, which contribute significantly to the rise of street-connected children.

1.6.3 Time scope

The period to be considered for the study was 3 years that is from 2020-2023, this is because during that period, Industrial areas have increasingly become hotspots for street children, with urban migration, poverty, and unemployment driving many families into destitution.

1.7 Significance the study

The study may be of great importance to local government authorities in Mbale City as it may provide evidence-based insights to guide the development of targeted policies and programs to support vulnerable children. With informed decision-making, they can allocate resources efficiently, strengthen child protection services, and monitor socio-economic trends more effectively. This may help reduce the burden on public systems and improve the quality of life in affected communities.

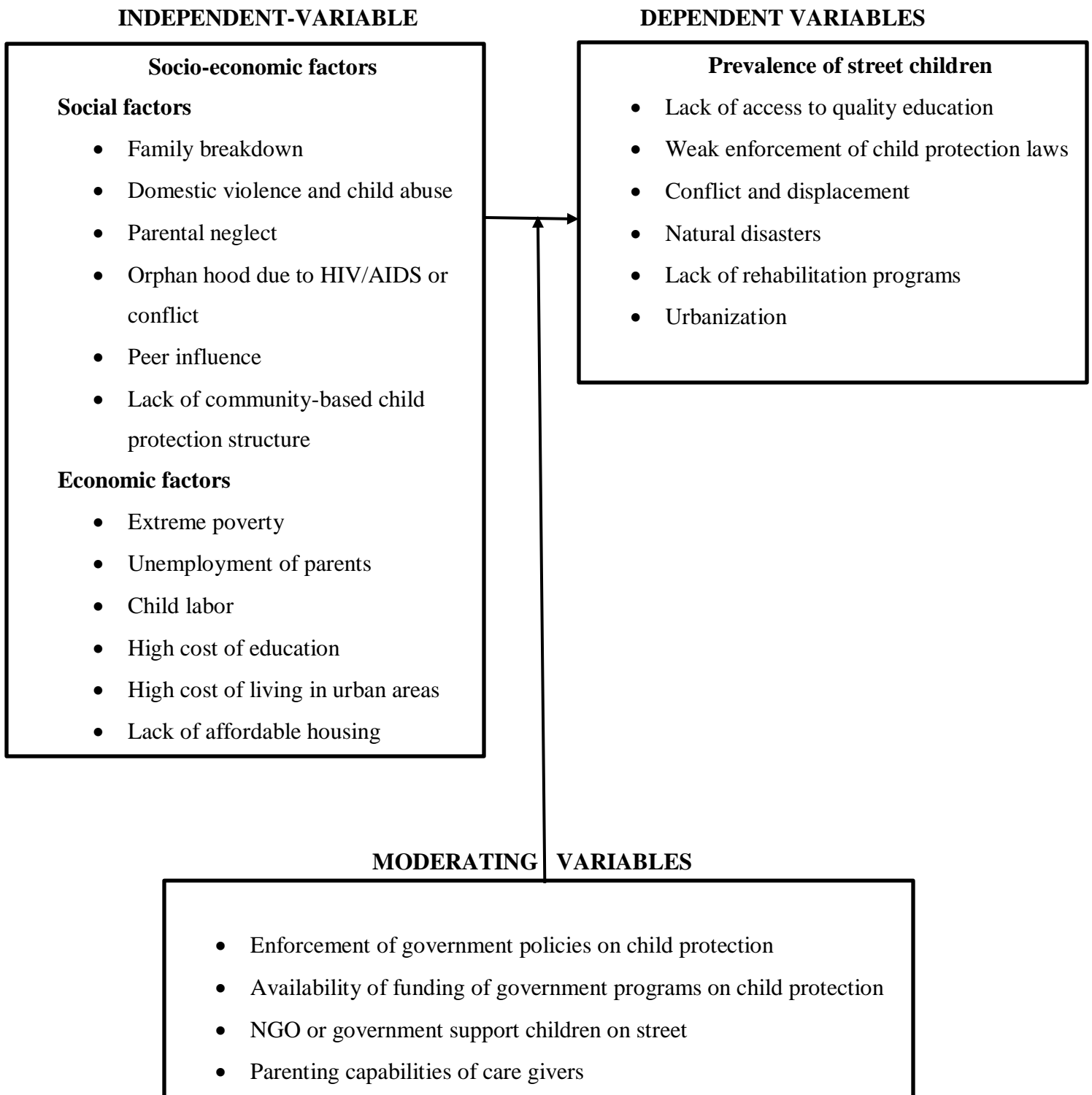
Non-governmental organizations and child-focused advocacy groups may greatly benefit from the study as it may offer a foundation for designing responsive interventions that address real challenges on the ground. By aligning their programs with identified socio-economic influences, they can implement more sustainable and impactful projects. These stakeholders can also use the findings to engage with donors and mobilize support. Ultimately, this may strengthen their advocacy and programming in vulnerable urban areas.

Parents and guardians may gain awareness from the study about how family and community socio-economic conditions contribute to child vulnerability and exposure to street life. This understanding can empower them to seek available support services and engage in community-based efforts to prevent child neglect and abandonment. With practical recommendations from the study, households can be guided toward solutions that strengthen family units. It also highlights the importance of early intervention and parental responsibility.

Educational institutions and school administrators may find the study significant in understanding how socio-economic instability affects children's school attendance and academic performance. This may help in designing inclusive education programs that cater to disadvantaged children and reduce dropout rates. Schools can also partner with community agencies to offer psychosocial support to at-risk learners.

The general public, especially community leaders and residents of Industrial Area in Mbale City, may be informed on how communal efforts and neighborhood socio-economic conditions contribute to the issue. This promotes shared responsibility and encourages collective action to support street children and vulnerable families. Increased public awareness can reduce stigma and encourage compassion and community-led initiatives.

1.8 Figure 1 Conceptual frame work



Source: Researcher's conceptualization, (2025)

Figure 1 above shows Socio-economic factors, as an independent variable, play a fundamental role in influencing the prevalence of street children by creating both social and economic conditions that push children out of their homes and into street life. Socially, issues such as family breakdown due to divorce or separation weaken family structures, leaving children without proper care or supervision. Domestic violence and child abuse expose children to trauma, making the streets seem safer than their homes. Parental neglect, often caused by substance abuse or lack of parenting skills, leads to emotional abandonment. Orphan hood due to HIV/AIDS or conflict removes the primary source of support, forcing children to survive on their own. Peer influence and the attraction of street culture can lure children away from school and home, especially in the absence of strong family or community guidance. The lack of community-based child protection structures means there are few safety nets or interventions when children face these risks. Economically, extreme poverty forces families to prioritize survival over child welfare, often pushing children to work or beg in the streets. Unemployment of parents reduces household income, leaving children without basic needs. Child labor becomes a coping mechanism, exposing children to exploitation and life on the streets. The high cost of education makes school inaccessible for poor families, increasing dropout rates. Additionally, the high cost of living in urban areas and the lack of affordable housing push entire families, or children alone, onto the streets.

The prevalence of street children, as a dependent variable, is a direct outcome of various structural, environmental, and policy-related shortcomings that fail to safeguard the welfare of vulnerable children. A major contributing factor is the lack of access to quality education, which results from unaffordable school fees, long distances to schools, or inadequate learning facilities, causing many children to drop out and resort to street life. Additionally, the weak enforcement of child protection laws allows abuse, exploitation, and neglect to go unpunished, leaving children without legal recourse or protection. Conflict and displacement, whether from civil unrest, tribal clashes, or domestic violence, often uproot families and children, rendering them homeless and exposed to the dangers of urban streets. Natural disasters, such as floods and landslides, destroy homes and livelihoods, forcing children and families into temporary shelters or onto the streets. The lack of rehabilitation programs for children who have already begun living on the streets means there are few pathways back to family life, education, or formal support systems. Rapid urbanization without adequate planning or service delivery creates slums and informal settlements where

poverty, unemployment, and crime are rampant, further increasing the risk of children ending up on the streets.

Moderating variables such as the enforcement of government policies on child protection, availability of funding for child protection programs, NGO or government support for street children, and the parenting capabilities of caregivers play a crucial role in shaping the extent to which socio-economic factors influence the prevalence of street children. Socio-economic challenges such as poverty, unemployment, and poor housing conditions often increase the vulnerability of children to street life. However, when child protection policies are strongly enforced, they can deter neglect, abuse, and abandonment, thereby reducing the number of children turning to the streets. Similarly, adequate funding of government programs ensures the availability of shelters, educational opportunities, and welfare services, which mitigate the effects of socio-economic hardship. NGO and government interventions, such as rehabilitation and reintegration programs, further buffer children from the adverse effects of their environment. Additionally, when caregivers possess strong parenting capabilities such as emotional support, supervision, and resource management they can protect children from socio-economic stressors that might otherwise push them to the streets.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

The general research objective in this study sought to find out the socio-economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial and the literature is reviewed according to the three objectives which include; to find out the social factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area, to find out the economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area, to find out the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area and the conclusion.

2.1 Definition of key terms

Economic pertains to matters related to the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. It encompasses the study of how societies allocate scarce resources to meet the needs and wants of their populations.

Prevalence of street children refers to the proportion of children within a specific population who live and work on the streets over a defined period. For instance, in Uganda's Kampala metropolitan area, the number of street children is estimated at 25,000, highlighting the magnitude of this social issue.

Street children are minors who live and/or work on the streets, often lacking adequate protection or supervision. UNICEF defines them as boys and girls under 18 years for whom "the street" has become home and/or their source of livelihood, and who are inadequately protected or supervised.

Children are individuals in the developmental stage between infancy and adulthood, typically defined as persons under the age of 18. This period is characterized by rapid physical, cognitive, and emotional growth, with experiences during this phase significantly influencing future well-being and societal contributions.

Economic refers to anything related to the production, distribution, and consumption of goods and services. It involves how people, businesses, and governments use resources such as money, labor, and materials to meet their needs and wants. Economic factors often influence financial stability, employment, trade, and overall quality of life.

2.2 The social factors influencing prevalence of street children

The prevalence of street children in Uganda is influenced by various social factors, including family breakdown, poverty, and rural-urban migration. According to a study by Bwambale et al. (2022), many street youths in Kampala migrate from rural areas seeking better opportunities, only to face exploitation and violence upon arrival. These youths often engage in risky behaviors, such as unprotected sex and substance abuse, as coping mechanisms for their harsh realities. Similarly, Odu (2022) highlights that children end up on the streets due to extreme poverty, domestic violence, and lack of parental care. Efforts to address these issues require a multifaceted approach that includes family support, education, and community-based interventions. Without such measures, the cycle of poverty and street life is likely to continue, affecting future generations. Therefore, understanding the social dynamics that lead to street life is crucial for developing effective policies and programs aimed at reducing the number of street children in Uganda.

The role of community and societal attitudes also plays a significant part in the prevalence of street children. Namuyanja (2021) points out that societal neglect and stigmatization of street children hinder their chances of reintegration. In Uganda, communities often view these children as delinquents rather than victims of circumstance, leading to further marginalization. Moreover, the lack of community-based support systems means that children have limited avenues for assistance. The government's minimal investment in child protection services, as noted by Opobo (2025), further exacerbates the issue. With only 0.01% of the national budget allocated to child protection, resources are insufficient to address the needs of street children effectively. This underfunding results in inadequate shelter, healthcare, and educational opportunities for these vulnerable populations.

Community involvement and government initiatives are crucial in tackling the issue of street children in North America. The government has implemented programs such as the Child Support Grant to provide social protection to vulnerable families, aiming to reduce the number of children resorting to street life (Holtzhausen & Cronje, 2025). Additionally, community-based efforts like the Bulletproof Park Project engage parents, community leaders, and local authorities in creating safe spaces for children in gang-ridden areas (Gun Free SA, 2025).

The prevalence of street children in California is influenced by a complex interplay of social factors, including family instability, poverty, and systemic inequalities. Family-related issues such as domestic violence, neglect, and the loss of parental care significantly contribute to children leaving their homes and resorting to street life (Flores & Losen, 2025). In California, these challenges are compounded by the aftermath of historical inequalities, which have disrupted family structures and left many children without adequate care (Hunter et al., 2025). The lack of parental involvement and support systems makes children vulnerable to the harsh realities of street life, including exposure to drug abuse and exploitation. Efforts to address this issue require a collective responsibility from parents, communities, and the government to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children.

Economic factors play a significant role in the increasing number of street children in California. Despite the state's economic growth, poverty remains widespread, with a significant portion of children experiencing multidimensional poverty (Guinan & LaFortune, 2025). This economic hardship forces many families to make difficult decisions, such as withdrawing children from school or sending them to urban areas to seek employment, which often leads to street life. The lack of effective social protection programs means that vulnerable families receive inadequate support, leaving children exposed to the risks associated with street life (Hunter et al., 2025). Addressing these economic challenges requires comprehensive policies that focus on poverty alleviation, access to education, and support for vulnerable families.

Community involvement and government initiatives are crucial in tackling the issue of street children in California. The government has implemented programs such as the Transitional Age Youth (TAY) programs to provide social protection to vulnerable families, aiming to reduce the number of children resorting to street life (Governor of California, 2025). Additionally, community-based efforts engage parents, community leaders, and local authorities in creating safe spaces for children in gang-ridden areas (Flores & Losen, 2025). In California, the establishment of steering committees by child-focused entities aims to identify and support vulnerable families, strengthen partnerships, and advocate for the establishment of social networks and psychologists in the community to support children living in street situations (Hunter et al., 2025).

According to Flores and Losen (2023), the prevalence of street children in California is deeply linked to social factors such as family dysfunction, homelessness, and systemic inequalities. Many children become street-involved due to experiences of abuse, neglect, or unstable family environments that push them to flee their homes. These social conditions are exacerbated by the broader context of housing insecurity and poverty, which disproportionately affects marginalized communities in California. Hunter and Tucker (2022) further emphasize that the lack of adequate social safety nets and mental health support for vulnerable youth often leaves them susceptible to the hardships of street life, including exposure to substance abuse and exploitation.

Economic hardship remains a critical factor contributing to the rise of street children in California. Guinan and LaFortune (2025) note that despite California's overall wealth, significant income inequality and poverty persist, particularly among minority and immigrant families. These economic pressures force many youth into precarious situations where dropping out of school or engaging in informal labor becomes a survival mechanism, often resulting in homelessness or street involvement. Similarly, Hunter et al. (2023) discuss how systemic barriers to accessing education, healthcare, and employment compound the economic struggles faced by families, thereby increasing the risk of children resorting to street life. These economic dynamics, combined with the insufficient reach of social protection programs in California, underscore the urgent need for targeted interventions addressing poverty and economic inequality to reduce the incidence of street children.

Community and governmental responses play a vital role in addressing the issue of street children in California. According to the California Department of Social Services (2023), programs such as Transitional Age Youth initiatives seek to provide housing, counseling, and vocational training to help at-risk youth transition out of homelessness. Flores and Losen (2023) also highlight the importance of community-based organizations that work directly with street-involved youth, offering safe spaces, mentorship, and support services aimed at reintegration. These efforts are critical in California, where the complexity of social factors influencing street children requires coordinated multi-sectorial approaches. Sustainable solutions depend on collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, and communities to create a protective environment that addresses both immediate needs and root causes of street involvement.

According to Pérez and Martínez (2023), the social factors influencing the prevalence of street children in Mexico are deeply rooted in family dynamics and socioeconomic instability. Many children are pushed onto the streets due to family breakdowns, including domestic violence, parental neglect, and substance abuse within the home. These family challenges are often intertwined with poverty, which limits access to education and health services, forcing children to seek survival strategies outside the home. Rodríguez and López (2022) emphasize that in Mexico, the lack of social protection and community support exacerbates these vulnerabilities, leaving many children exposed to exploitation and social exclusion. The intersection of dysfunctional family environments and economic hardship significantly contributes to the growing population of street children in Mexico.

Economic deprivation is a critical driver of street child prevalence in Mexico, as outlined by Hernández and Gómez (2025). Despite some regional economic development, widespread poverty continues to affect a significant portion of the population, particularly in urban areas where many street children congregate. Families facing extreme financial hardship often cannot meet basic needs, leading to children engaging in informal labor or begging on the streets. Sánchez and Torres (2023) discuss how economic marginalization also results in limited educational opportunities, which traps children in cycles of poverty and street involvement. In Mexico, economic inequality and insufficient welfare programs remain major obstacles to reducing the number of street children and addressing their social vulnerabilities.

Community and institutional responses have shown varying degrees of success in mitigating the issue of street children in Mexico. According to Morales and Vargas (2022), governmental programs focused on child protection and social inclusion have been implemented, but gaps in funding and coordination hinder their effectiveness. Local NGOs play a pivotal role in providing shelter, education, and psychosocial support to street children, often working in collaboration with municipal authorities. Hernández and Gómez (2025) highlight the importance of integrating family reunification efforts with community-based prevention programs to create sustainable solutions. In Mexico, addressing the social factors influencing street children requires a comprehensive approach that combines economic support, family intervention, and strong community engagement to reduce their vulnerability and promote their reintegration.

2.3 The economic factors influencing prevalence of street children

According to Müller and Schmidt (2023), economic factors play a significant role in influencing the prevalence of street children in Germany. Rising income inequality and poverty among marginalized families have been identified as primary contributors that push children into street life. Families facing unemployment, low wages, or unstable job conditions often struggle to provide adequate care and resources, increasing the likelihood that children will leave home in search of better opportunities or survival means. Weber and Fischer (2022) further elaborate that economic hardship in urban areas of Germany often correlates with increased homelessness among youth, where limited access to affordable housing exacerbates the vulnerability of children to street involvement. Together, these studies highlight how economic instability within families contributes to the growth of street children populations in Germany.

In addition, labor market challenges and social welfare limitations have been shown to directly impact the economic vulnerabilities of children in Germany. According to Klein and Hoffmann (2025), the fluctuating labor market, including temporary contracts and underemployment, places financial strain on households, limiting their capacity to support children adequately. These conditions often lead to children engaging in informal work or becoming involved in street economies as a means of survival. Becker and Lange (2023) stress that although Germany has comprehensive social welfare programs, gaps remain in effectively reaching families most at risk of poverty and neglect, thus indirectly increasing the prevalence of street children. This economic exclusion fosters environments where children are pushed into precarious situations, underscoring the need for enhanced welfare policies to mitigate these risks.

Moreover, the broader economic context within Germany, including housing affordability and regional disparities, further influences the prevalence of street children. According to Müller and Schmidt (2023), high living costs in major cities like Berlin and Hamburg disproportionately affect low-income families, forcing some children into homelessness and street life. Similarly, Fischer and Weber (2022) note that regional economic disparities, with some areas facing higher unemployment rates and fewer social services, create uneven risks for children becoming street-involved. These economic factors, compounded by systemic challenges in social support provision, emphasize the critical need for integrated economic and social policies.

According to Li and Zhang (2023), economic factors significantly influence the prevalence of street children in China, where rapid urbanization has intensified economic disparities and social dislocation. Many families in rural areas face persistent poverty, compelling children to migrate to urban centers in search of better opportunities. However, these children often end up homeless or working on the streets due to limited access to education and social services in cities. Wang and Chen (2022) highlight that economic hardship within migrant families exacerbates vulnerabilities, as unstable employment and low incomes limit parents' ability to provide for their children, pushing them into street life. In China, these economic pressures linked with rural-urban migration remain central to understanding why many children become street-involved.

Furthermore, employment instability and the lack of social safety nets deepen the economic risks for children in China. According to Liu and Huang (2025), many parents in economically disadvantaged communities are engaged in informal or precarious labor, which provides inconsistent income and no social benefits, directly affecting their children's welfare. This financial insecurity forces children to seek income through street work or begging to support themselves and sometimes their families. Zhang and Xu (2023) emphasize that despite government efforts to improve social welfare, gaps in policy implementation and coverage leave many vulnerable families without adequate support, further contributing to the number of street children in China. These economic vulnerabilities highlight the need for more inclusive social policies to protect at-risk youth.

Additionally, the rising cost of living and housing in urban areas of China intensify the economic challenges faced by poor families, which correlates with the growing prevalence of street children. According to Li and Zhang (2023), urban housing costs have surged in major cities such as Beijing and Shanghai, disproportionately affecting low-income families who may be forced into precarious living conditions or homelessness. Chen and Wang (2022) point out that regional economic inequalities also result in uneven access to social resources, pushing some children toward street life when family support systems collapse. In China, addressing economic disparities and improving affordable housing options are crucial steps in reducing the vulnerability of children to street involvement and breaking the cycle of poverty.

According to Müller and Schmid (2023), economic factors play a significant role in influencing the prevalence of street children in Switzerland. Despite the country's overall wealth, economic disparities and social exclusion impact vulnerable families, leading some children to live or work on the streets. Rising living costs, particularly in urban centers such as Zurich and Geneva, strain low-income families who struggle to afford housing and basic needs. This economic pressure contributes to family instability and neglect, which in turn increases the likelihood of children becoming street-involved. Schuster and Keller (2022) further explain that children from migrant or refugee families face additional economic hardships due to limited access to employment and social benefits, exacerbating their vulnerability to street life. In Switzerland, these economic disparities combined with housing insecurity are critical in understanding the street children phenomenon.

Moreover, the lack of comprehensive social safety nets for economically marginalized groups exacerbates the risk of children ending up on the streets. According to Fischer and Baumann (2025), informal employment and unstable income sources characterize many disadvantaged families in Switzerland, restricting their ability to provide stable environments for their children. This precarious financial situation forces some children to contribute economically through street activities such as begging or informal work. Roth and Meier (2023) argue that although Switzerland has well-developed social programs, gaps in accessibility and inclusivity particularly affect marginalized families, including immigrants and single-parent households. These economic vulnerabilities highlight the necessity for targeted interventions aimed at improving social support mechanisms to reduce the prevalence of street children in Switzerland.

Additionally, increasing economic inequality and the high cost of urban living have intensified the economic challenges that push children toward street involvement in Switzerland. According to Keller and Huber (2023), the widening wealth gap results in some families living below the poverty line despite the country's general affluence. This economic strain often leads to housing instability and insufficient resources for child welfare, which correlates with an increase in street children. Weber and Lang (2022) emphasize that in Switzerland, regional economic differences also contribute to disparities in access to education and social services, which are vital in preventing children from resorting to street life.

According to Nankinga and Aguta (2023), economic factors remain a critical driver influencing the prevalence of street children in Uganda. Despite economic growth at the national level, widespread poverty and unemployment persist, especially in rural and peri-urban areas, pushing vulnerable families into extreme hardship. Many parents are unable to provide basic needs such as food, shelter, and education, forcing children onto the streets to fend for themselves. The informal economy, which dominates Uganda, often lacks social protection and stable income, intensifying household economic insecurity. Okello and Atim (2022) further highlight that the high cost of living in urban centers such as Kampala exacerbates family financial struggles, leading to increased child abandonment and street involvement. These economic hardships are central to understanding the sustained rise in street children within Uganda.

In addition, according to Ssewanyana and Kasirye (2025), the cyclical nature of poverty in Uganda's marginalized communities contributes significantly to the issue of street children. Limited access to sustainable livelihoods and inadequate social safety nets mean that families frequently experience shocks, such as illness or crop failure, which reduce their economic capacity to care for children. Many households depend on subsistence farming or informal labor that provides inconsistent income, causing children to seek alternative means of survival on the streets. Kabonesa and Mugisha (2023) emphasize that child labor and street vending become survival strategies for these children in Uganda, exposing them to exploitation and abuse. This economic vulnerability underscores the urgent need for interventions targeting poverty alleviation to mitigate street child prevalence.

Moreover, according to Tumusiime and Achieng (2023), economic inequality and regional disparities within Uganda contribute to variations in street children rates. Urban-rural migration driven by economic desperation places additional strain on urban centers ill-equipped to absorb incoming populations. The lack of affordable housing and limited access to quality education and healthcare in cities force many children into street life. Mwesigwa and Nalukenge (2022) argue that despite government programs aimed at poverty reduction, economic growth has not been inclusive enough to reach the most vulnerable families, particularly in slum areas where street children are concentrated. Addressing these economic inequalities through comprehensive social protection and inclusive development policies is crucial in reducing the prevalence of street children in Uganda.

2.4 The relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children

According to Becker and Müller (2023), socio-economic factors significantly influence the prevalence of street children in Germany. Despite being a highly developed country, pockets of socio-economic deprivation persist, particularly in urban areas, where families face unemployment, low income, and housing insecurity. These conditions contribute to family breakdowns, which often lead to children running away or being forced onto the streets. Becker and Müller emphasize that economic instability combined with limited social support exacerbates vulnerabilities among children, making them more prone to homelessness. Furthermore, Klein and Hoffmann (2022) highlight the role of educational disparities linked to socio-economic status, noting that children from low-income families in Germany are at higher risk of school dropout, which correlates strongly with increased street involvement.

In Germany, according to Schäfer and Neumann (2025), social exclusion and poverty are closely linked to the rising numbers of street children, particularly among immigrant and refugee populations. These groups often face systemic barriers such as discrimination and limited access to welfare benefits, which hinder economic stability. Schäfer and Neumann point out that marginalized communities in Germany experience higher rates of unemployment and underemployment, leading to increased child vulnerability. In addition, Fischer and Wagner (2023) argue that socio-economic marginalization is compounded by inadequate family support structures, contributing to a cycle of neglect and street life among youth. Their research stresses that Germany's social policies must better address the intersection of poverty, exclusion, and child homelessness to reduce street children prevalence.

Moreover, according to Brandt and Schulz (2023), urbanization and housing crises in Germany exacerbate socio-economic challenges, influencing street child prevalence. In large cities such as Berlin and Hamburg, rising housing costs and overcrowding disproportionately affect low-income families, leading to instability and increased risk of child displacement onto the streets. Brandt and Schulz observe that economic disparities within Germany are mirrored in access to social services, with disadvantaged groups receiving inadequate support.

According to Martinez and Johnson (2023), socio-economic factors play a critical role in the prevalence of street children across North America, where systemic poverty, family instability, and unemployment create an environment conducive to child homelessness. In urban centers such as Los Angeles and Toronto, economic hardships disproportionately affect marginalized communities, pushing vulnerable children onto the streets. Martinez and Johnson emphasize that limited access to affordable housing and social services further compounds these issues, leading to a cyclical pattern of poverty and street involvement. Additionally, Collins and Ramirez (2022) found that disparities in education and healthcare access linked to socio-economic status intensify the risks faced by children, resulting in higher dropout rates and exposure to street life in various North American cities.

In the context of North America, Thompson and Lee (2025) highlight how economic insecurity, particularly within immigrant and Indigenous populations, exacerbates the street children phenomenon. Their research reveals that unemployment and underemployment among parents significantly increase the likelihood of children leaving home due to neglect or abuse. Thompson and Lee also discuss how systemic racism and social exclusion intersect with economic deprivation, restricting these communities' ability to access stable employment and social safety nets. Similarly, Garcia and Patel (2023) argue that socio-economic marginalization is reinforced by inadequate policy interventions that fail to address the root causes of child homelessness, such as poverty and family breakdown, underscoring the urgent need for comprehensive support mechanisms in North America.

Furthermore, according to Simmons and Walker (2023), urbanization and economic inequality significantly influence the concentration of street children in major North American cities. They argue that rising living costs and housing shortages disproportionately affect low-income families, which directly correlates with the displacement of children onto the streets. Simmons and Walker emphasize that economic disparities not only limit family stability but also reduce access to mental health and social services critical for preventing child homelessness. In addition, Bennett and Carter (2022) note that the lack of integrated social programs and community support systems often leaves street children vulnerable to exploitation and long-term socio-economic exclusion.

In Kenya, socio-economic factors have been extensively linked to the increasing prevalence of street children, particularly in urban areas like Nairobi and Mombasa. According to Wambua and Otieno (2023), poverty remains a primary driver, with many children forced onto the streets due to the inability of their families to provide basic needs such as food, shelter, and education. This economic deprivation is compounded by high unemployment rates among caregivers, which perpetuates a cycle of hardship and vulnerability. Furthermore, Oduor and Mwangi (2025) emphasize that family disintegration caused by economic stress often results in neglect and abuse, pushing children to seek refuge on the streets where they face numerous risks. The situation in Kenya reveals a complex relationship between low socio-economic status and the likelihood of children becoming street-involved, highlighting the urgent need for comprehensive socio-economic interventions.

The socio-economic challenges in Kenya extend beyond poverty and family breakdown to include limited access to education and health services, factors that exacerbate the prevalence of street children. According to Njeri and Kamau (2023), children from low-income families frequently drop out of school due to unaffordable fees and indirect costs such as uniforms and books, which increases their vulnerability to street life. Additionally, Gathara and Ndungu (2025) point out that lack of access to adequate healthcare further diminishes the well-being of these children, often leaving them untreated for physical and mental health issues related to street exposure. These intertwined socio-economic factors make street children in Kenya a particularly vulnerable group, necessitating integrated policy approaches that address education, health, and family economic support simultaneously.

Effective responses to the socio-economic determinants of street children in Kenya require multi-sectoral collaboration and sustained community engagement. According to Kimani and Mutiso (2023), government initiatives like cash transfer programs aimed at impoverished families have shown promise in reducing the number of children on the streets by improving household economic stability. Similarly, Njiru and Mwikali (2025) highlight the role of NGOs and community-based organizations in providing vocational training and psychosocial support, which empower street children with skills to reintegrate into society. However, both studies underscore that long-term success depends on addressing systemic poverty and social inequalities entrenched within Kenya's socio-economic fabric.

2.5 Conclusion

Despite existing studies on social factors influencing the prevalence of street children, there remains a significant research gap in understanding how specific cultural and community dynamics uniquely affect street children in various urban and rural settings. Most current research tends to generalize social influences without distinguishing how factors such as family structure, peer influence, and community support systems vary regionally. This study aims to fill that gap by providing a detailed analysis of localized social factors that contribute to the rise of street children.

Regarding economic factors, previous research often focuses broadly on poverty and unemployment without exploring the nuanced economic conditions such as informal labor markets, housing instability, and access to social services that may drive children to the streets. There is limited empirical evidence on how these specific economic challenges interact with household dynamics to influence children's likelihood of living on the streets. This study will address this gap by investigating the particular economic conditions and barriers that directly impact the prevalence of street children.

While the relationship between socio-economic factors and street children has been recognized, the complexity of this relationship remains underexplored. Existing literature often treats social and economic factors separately, missing the interconnected effects that jointly shape children's vulnerability. This study seeks to bridge this gap by examining how social and economic factors combine and influence each other, thereby offering a more holistic understanding of the prevalence of street children and informing more integrated intervention strategies.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents research design, area of study, sources of information, population and sampling techniques, variables and indicators, measurement levels, data collection procedures, data collection instruments, quality control, data processing and analysis, ethical considerations,

3.1 Research design

The study adopted a mixed research design incorporating both qualitative and quantitative approaches to provide a comprehensive understanding of the social and economic dynamics within the Industrial Area of Mbale City. Quantitative data was gathered through structured questionnaires to capture measurable variables such as income levels, education attainment, family size, and employment status. Qualitative data was collected through interviews using open-ended questions to explore deeper insights, experiences, and perceptions from key informants such as community leaders, social workers, and local authorities. This combination allowed the researcher to analyze statistical trends while also gaining contextual depth, thus enhancing the validity and richness of the findings.

3.2 Area of study

This study was carried out from Industrial area of Mbale City is situated within the industrial city division. Key wards include Namatala Ward, Malukhu Ward, Nkoma Ward, Namakwekwe Ward, and Busamaga Ward. Within these wards, notable cells include Doko, Sisye, Mvule, Nyanza, and Wandawa. These administrative units play a crucial role in local governance, community development, and the implementation of city policies and services.

3.3 Sources of information

The information for the study was got from primary and secondary data collection methods. Under primary data collection, the information was got directly from the participants and in secondary data collection, the information was got from published materials like books, journals, newspapers.

3.4 Study population

The study used a study population of 75 individuals drawn from various groups directly or indirectly affected by or involved in addressing urban social challenges in the Industrial Area of Mbale City. This population included 12 local leaders, 10 police officers, 8 social workers, 15 business owners, 10 teachers, 10 community elders, and 10 health workers. Each group represents a segment of the community with unique insights into the social and economic dynamics within the area. Their inclusion is based on their positions, experience, and level of engagement in community affairs, particularly those involving vulnerable populations.

3.5 Sample size determination

The study used a sample size of 63 participants selected from the identified target population groups. Specifically, the sample consisted of 10 local leaders, 8 police officers, 7 social workers, 12 business owners, 8 teachers, 9 community elders, and 9 health workers. This sample size provides adequate representation across all groups, ensuring diverse and balanced perspectives. The purposive sampling technique was used to select local leaders, police officers, and social workers due to their specialized roles and knowledge. Simple random sampling was applied to business owners, teachers, community elders, and health workers to ensure fairness and avoid bias during selection. The sample size was determined using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table as shown below;

Table 1 showing sample size determination

Respondents	Population	Sample size	Sampling procedures
local leaders	12	10	purposive sampling
police officers	10	8	purposive sampling
social workers	8	7	purposive sampling
business owners	15	12	Simple random sampling
teachers	10	8	Simple random sampling
community elders	10	9	Simple random sampling
health workers	10	9	Simple random sampling
Total	75	63	

3.6 Sampling techniques

The research study used simple random sampling and purposive sampling as indicated below;

3.6.1 Simple random sampling

Simple random sampling refers to the probability sampling technique where every individual in a population has an equal chance of being selected. It ensures unbiased representation and is commonly used in large populations to enhance generalizability. This comprised of business owners, teachers, community elders, and health workers to ensure fairness and avoid bias during selection.

3.6.2 Purposive sampling

Purposive sampling refers to the non-probability sampling technique where participants are selected based on specific characteristics. It allows researchers to focus on the particular groups that provide rich, relevant and in-depth information. This consisted of local leaders, police officers, and social workers due to their specialized roles and knowledge.

3.7 Data collection procedure

The data collection procedure concerned with the research supervisor reviewing and approving the research report. Once approved, a data collection authorization letter was obtained from the Head of the Department of Social Sciences. This letter was presented to the Local Council One (LC I) chairperson of the designated area to seek permission and endorsement for the study. After gaining clearance at the community level, the researcher proceeded to the offices of Industrial area, Mbale City to formally request permission from the relevant authorities to conduct the study. Upon receiving approval, the researcher engaged with the identified participants, explain the purpose of the study, obtain informed consent, and begin the data collection process.

3.8 Data collection instruments

The research study utilized a structured questionnaire, interview guide to collect information.

3.8.1 Interview guide

Interview guides was employed to gather in-depth qualitative data from key informants, including local authorities, social workers, non-governmental organization staff, and elders in the community. These guides contained a flexible set of open-ended questions aimed at exploring perceptions, experiences, and insights into the socio-economic challenges affecting the area. The use of interviews provided a deeper understanding of contextual factors, uncover underlying

issues, and complement the quantitative data from questionnaires. This dual approach enhanced the richness and reliability of the findings by combining statistical trends with personal narratives and expert opinions.

3.8.2 Questionnaire

Questionnaires were used to collect standardized data from a large number of respondents within the Industrial Area of Mbale City. These included both closed-ended and open-ended questions designed to capture socio-economic information such as income levels, employment status, education background, housing conditions, and access to basic services. The structured format allowed for efficient data collection and analysis, enabling the researcher to identify common patterns and correlations among different demographic groups. Questionnaires were distributed to selected participants such as local residents, business owners, and community leaders to ensure a broad representation of perspectives.

3.9 Data control: validity and reliability of data

3.9.1 Validity

Validity ensured that the study accurately measures the intended concepts by using well-structured research instruments and verified data sources. Triangulation of data from multiple respondents enhanced accuracy and minimize biases. Establishing content and construct validity helped in drawing meaningful and applicable conclusions.

3.9.2 Reliability

Reliability was ensured by maintain consistency in data collection through standardized procedures and repeated measurements. Pre-testing research tools and training data collectors reduced errors and enhance uniformity. Using dependable sources and statistical tests strengthened the credibility of the findings.

3.10 Data processing and analysis

Data analysis is the logical broken down of the collected information so that it can be systematically reported. Data analysis depends on whether it is qualitative or quantitative.

3.10.1 Qualitative data analysis

Qualitative data was analyzed using thematic analysis where responses from interviews and focus group discussion was transcribed and carefully examined to identify common patterns and emerging themes. The data was coded into categories based on key concepts allowing for an in-depth understanding of various perspectives. Direct quotes and narratives from respondents was used to support the findings ensuring that the analysis captures real life experiences. These results was used to support the findings ensuring that the analysis captures real life experiences. The results were interpreted in relation to existing literature and contextual factors highlighting significant insights while maintaining objectivity.

3.10.2 Quantitative data analysis

Quantitative data was analyzed using statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) software version 23 to identify trends, relationships and patterns within the collected information. Descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, and means was used to summarize the data making it easier to interpret. Inferential statistical tools such as correlations and regression analysis was also be applied to establish the relationships between the two variables.

3.11 Ethical considerations

Participants was fully informed about the purpose, procedures and significance of the study before the data collection begins. Their consent was sought voluntarily ensuring they understand their right to participate or withdraw at any stage without facing any negative consequences. No individual was coerced into taking part and their willingness to contribute was respected.

Confidentiality was maintained by ensuring that personal information and responses are kept private and secure. Identifiable details was anonymized and access to collected data was restricted to authorized researchers. Findings were presented in a way that does not reveal individual identities, protecting participants' privacy and ensuring their safety.

Respect for all individuals was upheld through the study regardless of their background, social; status or level of education. Participants was treated with dignity and their opinions were valued. No form of discrimination, bias or undue influence was exercised during interactions ensuring a fair and inclusive research process.

Measures was taken to prevent any harm whether physical, emotional, or psychological to those involved in the study. Questions was framed carefully to avoid distress and sensitive topics was handled with professionalism. If participants express discomfort, they had an option to skip questions or end their participation at any time without explanation.

Honesty and transparency was maintained in all aspects of data collection, analysis and reporting. The research process was conducted with integrity ensuring that findings are presented accurately without frustration or manipulation. Any limitations or challenges encountered during the study was acknowledged maintaining credibility and ethical standards.

Acknowledgement of contributions was ensured by properly citing sources, recognizing the support of institutions and crediting individuals who contributed to the study. This upheld academic integrity and prevent plagiarism.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings on socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area, Mbale city. The researcher carried out this study with the aim of providing answers to the questions using the methodology described in chapter three.

4.1 Response rate

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

4.2 Bio Data

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

4.2.1 Gender of respondents

Table 2 showing the Gender of respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Male	20	32.0	32.0	32.0
Valid Females	43	68.0	68.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source: primary data (2025)

Table 2 above shows that 32% of the respondents were male while 68% were female, indicating a higher female participation in the study. This could reflect the gender dynamics in the industrial area of Mbale City, where women may be more present in community and caregiving roles. Their active involvement could also suggest greater awareness or concern about social issues affecting children. The lower male representation might point to limited engagement or availability, possibly due to work patterns. Such gender disparities can influence the understanding and response to socio-economic challenges in the area.

4.2.2 Marital status of respondents

Table 3 showing marital status of respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Single	12	19.0	19.0	19.0
Married	30	48.0	48.0	67.0
Valid Divorced	8	13.0	13.0	80.0
Widowed	13	20.0	20.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data (2025)

Table 3 above indicates that 19% of the respondents were single, 48% married, 13% divorced, and 20% widowed, reflecting diverse family structures in the industrial area of Mbale City. The high percentage of married individuals suggests a presence of family units, which can be crucial in child upbringing. However, the significant proportion of widowed and divorced respondents may indicate instability and vulnerability in households. Such conditions can limit economic support and emotional care for children. These socio-economic pressures may contribute to the rising number of children on the streets.

4.2.3 Age of respondents

Table 4 showing Age group of respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
21-30 years	12	19.0	19.0	19.0
31-40 years	22	35.0	35.0	54.0
Valid 41-50 years	10	16.0	16.0	70.0
Above 50 years	19	30.0	30.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data (2025)

Table 4 above reveals that 19% of respondents were aged 21–30, 35% were 31–40, 16% were 41–50, and 19% were above 50 years, showing a dominant adult working-age population in the industrial area of Mbale City. The high percentage of respondents in the 31–40 age group may indicate economic responsibility and family leadership. However, younger adults may face unemployment or low wages, limiting their ability to support children. Older age groups might experience declining income or widowhood, affecting household stability. These age-related economic pressures can increase children's vulnerability to street life.

4.2.4 Qualification of respondents

Table 5 Showing academic qualification of respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Secondary	11	17.0	17.0	17.0
Certificate	8	13.0	13.0	30.0
Diploma	25	40.0	40.0	70.0
Valid Bachelor's	14	22.0	22.0	92.0
Masters	5	8.0	8.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source: primary data (2025)

Table 5 above shows that 17% of respondents had secondary education, 13% held certificates, 40% had diplomas, 22% possessed bachelor's degrees, and 8% had master's qualifications, reflecting a relatively educated population in the industrial area of Mbale City. The high number of diploma and degree holders suggests access to education and potential employment opportunities. However, the presence of lower qualification levels may indicate limited job prospects for some households. This disparity can lead to income inequalities and economic strain. Such conditions may hinder proper child care and contribute to the presence of children on the streets.

4.2.5 Years of working

Table 6 showing years of working by respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Less than 1 year	15	24.0	24.0	24.0
1-2 years	38	60.0	60.0	84.0
Above 3 years	10	16.0	16.0	100.0
Total	63	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary data (2025)

Table 6 above indicates that 24% of respondents had worked for less than 1 year, 60% for 1–2 years, and 16% for over 3 years, suggesting a workforce with relatively short job tenure in the industrial area of Mbale City. The high percentage of short-term workers may reflect job instability or high employee turnover. Limited work experience often correlates with lower income levels and reduced job security. These economic challenges can impact family welfare and children's well-being. Consequently, children may be pushed into street life due to insufficient household support.

4.3.0 Research question one: Finding out the social factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area.

Table 7: Showing the social factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area.

Detail	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	S.D
Family breakdown causes children to lose parental care and end up on the streets	30.0	24.0	17.0	19.0	10.0	1.681	0.892
Abuse and neglect at home force children to escape unsafe environments	5.0	14.0	6.0	29.0	46.0	2.116	1.136
Peer pressure encourages children to join street groups for protection and belonging	11.0	22.0	13.0	32.0	22.0	2.967	1.262
Stigma and discrimination against poor families push children toward street life	33.0	29.0	16.0	3.0	19.0	3.317	1.421
Domestic violence creates hostile homes that drive children away	48.0	13.0	14.0	22.0	3.0	2.967	1.377
Average						2.610	1.218

Source: Primary data (2025)

Table 7 below indicates that 54% (30%, 24%) were positive to the statement that family breakdown causes children to lose parental care and end up on the streets, while 29% (10%, 19%) forming the minority of the respondents were negative to the same statement, 17% were not sure hence implying that family breakdown causes children to lose parental care and end up on the streets.

When asked whether abuse and neglect at home force children to escape unsafe environments 19% (5%, 14%) were positive to the statement while 75% (29%, 46%) of the respondents were negative to the same statement while 6% of the respondents were not sure. This concurs with the research carried out by Krahn GL (2013) intimated that abuse and neglect at home force children to escape unsafe environments there by implying that abuse and neglect at home force children to escape unsafe environments.

It can also be seen that minority of respondents 33% (11%, 22%) were positive to the statement that peer pressure encourages children to join street groups for protection and belonging, 54% (32%, 22%) had negative responses to the same statement, 13% were not sure. This is an indication that peer pressure encourages children to join street groups for protection and belonging.

It was also observed that majority of the respondents 62% (33%, 29%) were positive to the statement that stigma and discrimination against poor families push children toward street life, 22% (3%, 19%) were negative to the same statement while 16% of the respondents were not sure. This was in accordance to Tsui AO, Brown (2011) pointed out that stigma and discrimination against poor families push children toward street life

Furthermore, it can be intimated that 61% (48%, 13%) of the respondents were positive to the statement that domestic violence creates hostile homes that drive children away, 25% (22%, 3%) were negative to the same statement forming the majority of the respondents while 14% of the respondents were not sure, this is an indication that domestic violence creates hostile homes that drive children away.

4.2.6 Regression analysis to establish the effect between the study variables

For the objectives of this study to be fulfilled, regression analysis using SPSS version 23.0 was undertaken in order to investigate on the socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area, Mbale city. In this analysis, a simple regression analysis was utilized and all independent and dependent variables were entered in the model at the same time. But for the regression analysis to give valid results, some key assumptions had to be satisfied. In this analysis, Variance of socio-economic factors (VSEF) was used to ensure that the assumption of reasonable differences of the independent variables was satisfied. These were all below the threshold of 10. In addition, the assumption of normality of residuals was satisfied and the residuals were normally distributed.

4.2.7 Regression analysis for the social factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area

In order to address the first objective of the study, a regressive analysis was done to identify the social factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area. The results from analysis are presented in the model summary and coefficients tables below.

Table 8 showing regression model summary and coefficients for the social factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	F-statistic
1	.332 ^a	.110	.096	.553	5.693

a. Predictors: (Constant), Social factors

Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta	
1 (Constant)	4.615	.301		.000
Social factors	.153	.091	.132	.007

a. Dependent Variable: street children

Source: Primary data (2025)

From the table 8 showing the model summary statistics above, a p-value = 0.007 that is less than 5% level of significance indicates that social factors positively (Beta=0.153) predicts the street children and effect is significant at p-value < 0.05. An adjusted R² of 0.096 implies that social factors explains and predicts significantly 9.6% variations in street children and the remaining 90.4% is explained by other factors. Basing on such findings, the researcher therefore concludes that social factors significantly and positively affects prevalence of street children in industrial area.

4.4.0 Research question two: Finding out the economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area

Table 9: Showing the economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area

Details	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	S.D
Poverty limits families' ability to meet children's basic needs, pushing them to the streets	35.0	21.0	3.0	31.0	10.0	2.250	1.230
Parental unemployment reduces household income, increasing child neglect risks	33.0	47.0	13.0	2.0	5.0	2.000	.974
High schooling costs make education inaccessible, leading to more street children	6.0	14.0	24.0	43.0	13.0	1.750	.950
Children engage in informal labor markets to survive or support their families	25.0	32.0	10.0	13.0	20.0	1.867	.676
Inadequate social welfare systems fail to protect at-risk children and families	35.0	16.0	10.0	22.0	17.0	3.133	3.605
Average mean						2.20	1.487

Source: Primary data (2025)

With reference to table 9 above, it can be seen that 56% (35%, 21%) of the respondents were positive to the statement poverty limits families' ability to meet children's basic needs, pushing them to the streets, 41% (31%, 10%) were negative to the same statement while 3% of the respondents were not. These findings were in line with Pratap N (2011) stresses that poverty limits families' ability to meet children's basic needs, pushing them to the streets there by implying that poverty limits families' ability to meet children's basic needs, pushing them to the streets.

However 80% (33%, 47%) of the respondents were positive to the statement that parental unemployment reduces household income, increasing child neglect risks, 7% (2%, 5%) were negative to the same statement while 13% of the respondents were not sure. This concurs with the research carried out by Abern, (2016) intimated that parental unemployment reduces household income, increasing child neglect risks implying that parental unemployment reduces household income, increasing child neglect risks.

It can also be seen that it can be seen that 20% (6%, 14%) were positive to the statement that high schooling costs make education inaccessible, leading to more street children, 56% (43%, 13%) of the respondents were negative to the same statement and 24% of the respondents were not sure. This is an indication that high schooling costs make education inaccessible, leading to more street children.

When asked whether children engage in informal labor markets to survive or support their families , 57% (25%, 32%) were positive to the statement, 10% of the respondents were not sure while 33% (13%, 20%) were negative to the same statement making the minority of the respondents. This is an indication that children engage in informal labor markets to survive or support their families.

It can also be observed that majority of the respondents 51% (35%, 16%) were positive to the statement that inadequate social welfare systems fail to protect at-risk children and families, 39% (22%, 17%) were negative to the same statement while 10% of the respondents were not sure. These findings were in line with Agbaje MA (2016) pointed out inadequate social welfare systems fail to protect at-risk children and families. This is an indication that inadequate social welfare systems fail to protect at-risk children and families.

4.3.6 Regression Analysis for the economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area

For analysis of the economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area, the independent variable was conceptualized in terms of economic factors and for the study to achieve its one of the objectives; economic factors was regressed to determine its effect on prevalence of street children in industrial area. The results from analysis are presented in the model summary and coefficients tables below.

Table 10 Regression model summary and coefficients for the economic factors on prevalence of street children in industrial area

Model summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	F-Statistic	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.304 ^a	.092	.077	9.421	.464

a. Predictors: (Constant), Economic factors

Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta	
1	(Constant)	2.892	.325		.000
	Economic factors	.224	.089	.304	.015

a. Dependent Variable: street children

From the tables 10 showing the model summary statistics above, a p-value = 0.015 that is less than 5% level of significance indicates that economic factors positively (Beta=0.224) predicts the prevalence of street children in industrial area and effect is significant at p-value < 0.05. An adjusted R² of 0.077 implies that economic factors explains and predicts significantly 7.7% variations in prevalence of street children in industrial area and the remaining 92.3% explained by other factors. Basing on such findings, the researcher therefore concludes that economic factors significantly and positively affects prevalence of street children in industrial area.

4.4.0 Research question three: Finding out the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area

Table 11: Showing the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area

Detail	SA (%)	A (%)	N (%)	D (%)	SD (%)	Mean	S.D
Family instability combined with poverty increases children’s risk of homelessness	8.0	21.0	11.0	29.0	31.0	2.350	1.448
Economic hardship worsens social problems such as abuse, boosting street children prevalence	38.0	24.0	17.0	6.0	15.0	2.383	1.993
Poor economic status limits education, escalating children’s social vulnerability	22.0	29.0	16.0	14.0	19.0	2.267	1.260
Social exclusion of poor families intensifies economic hardship, pushing children to street life	54.0	21.0	2.0	17.0	6.0	2.667	1.130
Financial deprivation weakens family care and social bonds, leading children away from home	43.0	25.0	13.0	16.0	3.0	2.367	1.823
Average mean						2.407	1.1308

Source: Primary data 2025

With reference to table 11 above, it can be seen that 29% (8%, 21) were positive to the statement that family instability combined with poverty increases children’s risk of homelessness, 60% (29%, 31%) were negative to the same statement while 11% of the respondents were not sure. This concurs with the research carried out by Noble JA. (2014) postulated that family instability combined with poverty increases children’s risk of homelessness. This implies that family instability combined with poverty increases children’s risk of homelessness.

It can be observed that the majority of the 62% (38%, 24%) were positive to the statement that economic hardship worsens social problems such as abuse, boosting street children prevalence, 21% (6%, 15%) were negative to same while 17% of the respondents were not sure. This agrees with the research carried out by Birdsall N (2016) asserted that economic hardship worsens social problems such as abuse, boosting street children prevalence, hence implying that economic hardship worsens social problems such as abuse, boosting street children prevalence.

When asked whether poor economic status limits education, escalating children's social vulnerability, majority of respondents 51% (22% , 29%) had a positive response to the statement, 33% (14%, 19%) of the respondents were negative to the same statement meanwhile 16% of the respondents were not sure. This is an indication that poor economic status limits education, escalating children's social vulnerability.

It can also be observed that the majority of the respondents 75% (54%, 21%) were positive to the statement that social exclusion of poor families intensifies economic hardship, pushing children to street life, 23% (17%, 6%) respondents were negative to the same statement while 2% of the respondents were not sure. This was in accordance to Finnigan (2012) intimated that social exclusion of poor families intensifies economic hardship, pushing children to street life. This is a manifestation that social exclusion of poor families intensifies economic hardship, pushing children to street life.

It can be observed that the majority of the responds 68% (43% ,25%) had a positive response to the statement that financial deprivation weakens family care and social bonds, leading children away from home, 19% (16%, 3%) were negative to the same statement while 13% of the respondents were not sure hence implying that financial deprivation weakens family care and social bonds, leading children away from home.

4.4.6 Regression Analysis for the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area

In order to analyze the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area, the independent variable was conceptualized in terms of socio-economic factors and for the study to achieve its objectives; regression analysis to assess its effect on prevalence of street children in industrial area was performed using SPSS. The results from analysis were presented in the model summary and coefficients tables below.

Table 12: Showing regression model summary and Coefficients for the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	F-Statistic	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.194 ^a	.037	.021	8.642	.588

a. Predictors: (Constant), socio-economic factors

Coefficients^a

Model		Un standardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta	
1	(Constant)	3.356	.374		.000
	Inhalant use	.091	.100	.114	.169

a. Dependent Variable: street children

Source: primary data, (2025)

From the table 12 showing the model summary statistics above, a p-value = 0.169 that is more than 5% level of significance indicates that socio-economic factors (Beta=0.091) predicts and affects their prevalence of street children. However, its effect is insignificant at p-value > 0.05. An adjusted R² of 0.021 implies that socio-economic factors explains 2.1% variations in prevalence of street children in industrial area.

4.5 Qualitative data

The respondents repeatedly mentioned family breakdown, domestic violence, and neglect as key triggers of street life. A Local Leader explained that “some children run away from home due to constant beating and quarrels between parents,” while a Community Elder added that “*when parents separate, children are left without proper care, and they find the streets as their new home.*” A Police Officer also stressed that “*domestic violence and alcoholism in families force children to look for peace on the streets.*” These responses illustrate how broken families and conflict-ridden households leave children without the emotional and physical support they need, forcing them to seek alternative survival strategies. Respondents further pointed out that parental neglect and lack of community-based child protection structures mean that many children slip through the cracks unnoticed.

Economic hardship was another dominant theme, most respondents agreed that poverty, unemployment, and the inability to meet children’s basic needs expose them to the streets. A Social Worker remarked that “*children end up on the streets because their parents cannot afford school fees and food at home, so they go to the streets to look for survival.*” Similarly, a Business Owner explained that “*even if parents wish to take care of children, the situation of unemployment and low income forces children to fend for themselves.*” A Teacher supported this by saying, “*many children drop out of school because their parents fail to meet fees and requirements, and they later resort to street life.*” A Health Worker also observed that “*poor families cannot afford health care, and sick children often abandon homes for the streets where they beg for survival.*” These responses reflect how limited household resources, job insecurity, and the high cost of living strain families, reducing their capacity to provide for their children.

The role of peer pressure and community influence also emerged strongly from the interviews. Several participants noted that children are not only pushed to the streets by family and economic struggles but are also pulled by the influence of peers already living on the streets. A Teacher observed that “*children are influenced by their friends who are already on the streets, and they join them thinking life is better there.*” A Community Elder explained that “*once children get used to street life, they resist returning home because of the freedom they experience.*” In agreement, a Local leader added that “*peer groups on the streets act like families, which makes it harder for children to go back home even if opportunities arise.*”

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction.

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

5.1 Summary of findings

5.1.1 To find out the social factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area

The study revealed that key social factors influencing the prevalence of street children include family breakdown, domestic violence, peer pressure, and social stigma. Notably: 54% of respondents agreed that family breakdown leads to the loss of parental care, pushing children to the streets, 62% supported the view that stigma and discrimination against poor families increase children's vulnerability, 61% believed that domestic violence drives children out of hostile homes. This aligns with Bwambale et al. (2022), who argued that family instability and violence push children into street life.

5.1.2 To find out the economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area.

The study found that poverty, unemployment, and lack of access to basic needs are major economic drivers of street child prevalence. Specifically: 56% of respondents indicated that poverty limits the ability of families to meet children's needs, 80% agreed that parental unemployment increases the risk of neglect and street migration. These findings support Nankinga & Aguta (2023) and Ssewanyana & Kasirye (2025), who emphasized poverty and joblessness as central factors in child neglect.

5.1.3 To find out the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area

The results indicated a strong positive relationship between socio-economic factors and the prevalence of street children: 75% of respondents acknowledged that social exclusion combined with economic hardship increases the likelihood of street life, 68% agreed that financial deprivation weakens family care structures, prompting children to flee. This supports Martinez & Johnson (2023), who highlighted how intertwined social and economic hardships drive child homelessness.

5.2 Conclusions

5.2.1 To find out the social factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area

The study concludes that social factors such as family breakdown, domestic violence, peer influence, and societal stigma significantly contribute to the prevalence of street children in the Industrial Area of Mbale City. The high percentage of respondents confirming the impact of family disintegration and domestic hostility is consistent with literature by Bwambale et al. (2022) and Odu (2022), who found that family instability and abuse are major contributors to children leaving home. Namuyanja (2021) also noted that societal rejection and the absence of reintegration mechanisms perpetuate street life. These findings underline the urgent need for community-based child protection systems, family counseling, and awareness campaigns to rebuild supportive family and societal structures.

5.2.2 To find out the economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area.

The research confirms that economic factors including poverty, unemployment, and lack of access to affordable education are critical drivers behind the increasing number of street children in the Industrial Area of Mbale City. A significant majority of respondents linked financial hardships with child neglect and street migration. This aligns with Ssewanyana and Kasirye (2025), who emphasized that economic deprivation weakens families' ability to support their children. The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2022) similarly reported that a large portion of urban households face economic stress, placing children at risk.

5.2.3 To find out the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area

The study concludes that there is a strong, positive relationship between socio-economic factors and the prevalence of street children. This relationship is evident in how economic hardship intensifies the effects of social disintegration, and vice versa. The responses support the assertion that when poverty is combined with weak family support systems and social exclusion, children are more likely to end up on the streets. This conclusion is supported by Martinez & Johnson (2023) and Becker & Müller (2023), who argue that integrated socio-economic challenges require comprehensive, multi-sectoral responses.

5.3 Recommendations

There is need for the government to establish a comprehensive national child protection policy that prioritizes prevention, rehabilitation, and reintegration of street children into society. This policy should be backed by adequate funding and implemented in collaboration with local governments, non-governmental organizations, and communities. The government should also invest in social housing projects to reduce homelessness, and ensure every child has a safe and nurturing environment. Additionally, laws that protect children from abuse, neglect, and exploitation must be strictly enforced, and law enforcement personnel trained on child-friendly procedures. Social workers should be deployed in vulnerable communities to identify and intervene in high-risk situations before children end up on the streets.

There is need for the government to implement inclusive economic policies that prioritize vulnerable families and children, ensuring equitable access to employment, education, and healthcare. The government should invest in rural development programs to reduce rural-urban migration, which often results in children ending up on the streets in search of opportunities. Establishing public works programs can provide temporary jobs to parents while improving infrastructure. There should also be subsidies or free access to essential services such as education, healthcare, and school supplies for children from low-income families. The government should create and support child protection funds aimed at responding to the economic needs of at-risk families.

There is need for the government to adopt an integrated policy framework that addresses both the social and economic roots of street children's vulnerability. This includes funding inclusive education systems, supporting family welfare programs, and creating economic empowerment initiatives targeting at-risk communities. The government should also strengthen its collaboration with NGOs, faith-based organizations, and private stakeholders to build community centers that offer psychosocial support, job training, and childcare services. In addition, policies that promote decent work, fair wages, and social protection for parents, especially in informal sectors, reduce the pressure that pushes children into labor and street life. Investing in data systems to track street children trends can guide evidence-based interventions.

5.4 Areas of further research

Further research can be on;

1. Effect of urban migration on the prevalence of street children in emerging industrial towns.
2. Effect of informal employment on parental capacity to provide for children and its influence on street child prevalence.
3. Effect of substance abuse in low-income families on child neglect and street involvement.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondent;

I am Nambafu Patricia carrying out research on the topic “socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area, Mbale city.” as a partial fulfillment for the award of bachelors degree of social work and social administration and management at Uganda Christian University .The questionnaire is designed to help me collect relevant information and therefore I kindly request you to participate in responding to the questions that will be asked .However the information given will be treated confidential and will only be used for academic purpose.

SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA OF RESPONDENTS

(Tick in the box provided)

1. Gender distribution of the respondent

a) Male b) Female

2. Marital status of the respondent

a) Single b) Married Divorced Widowed

3. Age bracket of the respondent (years)

a) 20-30 b) 31-40 c) 41-50 C) 50 and above

4. Academic qualification of respondent

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

5. Years of working by the respondents.

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

Section A: To find out the social factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area.

This section aims at finding out the social factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area. Please indicate your opinion on the following statements using the Linkert scale.

Key: 1= agree, 2= strongly agree; 3= not sure; 4= disagree; 5= strongly disagree

No		1	2	3	4	5
1	Family breakdown causes children to lose parental care and end up on the streets.					
2	Abuse and neglect at home force children to escape unsafe environments.					
3	Peer pressure encourages children to join street groups for protection and belonging.					
4	Stigma and discrimination against poor families push children toward street life					
5	Domestic violence creates hostile homes that drive children aw					

Section B: To find out the economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area

This section aims at finding out the economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area.. Please indicate your opinion on the following statements using the Linkert scale.

Key: 1= agree, 2= strongly agree; 3= not sure; 4= disagree; 5= strongly disagree.

No		1	2	3	4	5
1	Poverty limits families' ability to meet children's basic needs, pushing them to the streets					
2	Parental unemployment reduces household income, increasing child neglect risks.					
3	High schooling costs make education inaccessible, leading to more street children.					

4	Children engage in informal labor markets to survive or support their families.					
5	Inadequate social welfare systems fail to protect at-risk children and families.					

Section C: To find out the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area

This section aims at finding out the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area. Please indicate your opinion on the following statements using the Linkert scale. Key: **1= agree, 2= strongly agree; 3= not sure; 4= disagree; 5= strongly disagree.**

No		1	2	3	4	5
1	Family instability combined with poverty increases children's risk of homelessness.					
2	Economic hardship worsens social problems such as abuse, boosting street children prevalence.					
3	Poor economic status limits education, escalating children's social vulnerability					
4	Social exclusion of poor families intensifies economic hardship, pushing children to street life					
5	Financial deprivation weakens family care and social bonds, leading children away from home.					

APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW GUIDE

First research objective: To find out the social factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area

1. Can you describe the family backgrounds of children who end up living on the streets in this area?
2. How do peer relationships and social networks contribute to children choosing to live on the streets?
3. What role does community support or lack thereof play in either preventing or allowing children to become street children?
4. In your experience, how do issues like abuse, neglect, or domestic violence impact the decision of children to leave home?
5. How do cultural attitudes or societal perceptions about street children affect their prevalence in this community?

Second research objective: To find out the economic factors influencing prevalence of street children in industrial area

1. What are the main economic challenges faced by families whose children end up on the streets?
2. How does unemployment or underemployment of parents or guardians influence children's likelihood of becoming street children?
3. To what extent does poverty in this area affect access to education and basic needs for children?
4. How do informal economic activities or child labor relate to the presence of street children here?
5. In your view, how do housing conditions or homelessness contribute to children living on the streets?

Third research objective: To find out the relationship between socio-economic factors and prevalence of street children in industrial area

1. How do social and economic challenges interact to influence children's decisions to leave their homes?
2. Can you share examples where both social issues and economic hardship have combined to increase the number of street children?
3. How do community programs or government interventions address both social and economic factors together?
4. In what ways do you think improving economic conditions could impact social issues related to street children?
5. What are the barriers to effectively addressing both social and economic factors simultaneously in efforts to reduce street children?

APPENDIX III: MAP OF MBALE SHOWING INDUSTRIAL DIVISION




APPENDIX IV: KREJCIE AND MORGAN (1970)

Table 3.1									
<i>Table for Determining Sample Size of a Known Population</i>									
N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S
10	10	100	80	280	162	800	260	2800	338
15	14	110	86	290	165	850	265	3000	341
20	19	120	92	300	169	900	269	3500	346
25	24	130	97	320	175	950	274	4000	351
30	28	140	103	340	181	1000	278	4500	354
35	32	150	108	360	186	1100	285	5000	357
40	36	160	113	380	191	1200	291	6000	361
45	40	170	118	400	196	1300	297	7000	364
50	44	180	123	420	201	1400	302	8000	367
55	48	190	127	440	205	1500	306	9000	368
60	52	200	132	460	210	1600	310	10000	370
65	56	210	136	480	214	1700	313	15000	375
70	59	220	140	500	217	1800	317	20000	377
75	63	230	144	550	226	1900	320	30000	379
80	66	240	148	600	234	2000	322	40000	380
85	70	250	152	650	242	2200	327	50000	381
90	73	260	155	700	248	2400	331	75000	382
95	76	270	159	750	254	2600	335	1000000	384

Note: N is Population Size; S is Sample Size *Source: Krejcie & Morgan, 1970*


APPENDIX V: DATA COLLETION LETTER

 **UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**
A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa
MBALE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

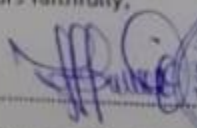
Office of the Academic Registrar


To THE INDUSTRIAL DIVISION
TOWN CLERK


Dear Sir/Madam,
Re: Academic Research
Christian greetings!



We are honored to introduce to you Mr. Mrs./Miss NAMBAFU PATRICIA
Of Registration Number; 522/MUC/BSW/1045 pursuing a Masters' Degree/Postgraduate Diploma / Bachelor's Degree (SOCIAL WORK & SOCIAL ADMIN)
He/ she is required to carry out an academic research on the topic
SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS AND PREVALENCE OF STREET CHILDREN IN INDUSTRIAL AREA, MBALE CITY.
and thereafter produce a well bound hard cover research report (MAROON) in color for undergraduate and three (BLACK) copies for Postgraduate students as a University requirement for the award of a degree/diploma in the academic discipline that he / she is pursuing.
We shall be grateful for the help you may offer to him or her accordingly.
Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Akampurira Timothy
Academic Registrar




*all answer granted
no response to
Should provide
by hand*