

INFLUENCE OF UNEMPLOYMENT ON DRUG ADDICTION AMONG YOUTH IN KAWEMPE DIVISION, KAMPALA DISTRICT

AISHA NALUBEGA

S23B15/ 085

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



**UGANDA CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY**

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

DECLARATION

I, NALUBEGA AISHA, declare that this research dissertation is my original work and has never been submitted to any institution for any academic award. All sources of information have been duly acknowledged.

Signature: 

Date: 18/5/2026

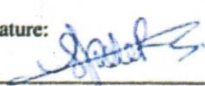
NALUBEGA AISHA

(STUDENT)

APPROVAL

This research dissertation titled "Influence of Unemployment on Drug Addiction among Youth in Kawempe Division, Kampala District" has been carried out by Nalubega Aisha reg no Nalubega Aisha S23B15/085 and submitted for examination with my approval as the University Supervisor.

Signature: _____



18/5/2026

Date: _____

DR. PETER NAREEBA
(SUPERVISOR)

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my family, friends, and all individuals who have supported me throughout my academic journey. Their encouragement, guidance, and prayers have made this achievement possible.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Almighty God for granting me life, strength, and wisdom throughout my academic journey. I also extend my heartfelt appreciation to my supervisor for the guidance, support, and constructive feedback provided during the preparation of this research proposal.

Special thanks go to my lecturers at Uganda Christian University for the knowledge and skills imparted to me. I am also grateful to my family and friends for their encouragement and support. Lastly, I appreciate all respondents who participated in this study for their valuable time and information.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	i
APPROVAL	ii
DEDICATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	v
ABSTRACT.....	ix
CHAPTER ONE	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.0 Introduction.....	1
1.1 Background of the study	1
1.2 Statement of the problem.....	3
1.3 Purpose of the study.....	4
1.4 Objectives of the research.....	4
1.5 Research questions.....	5
1.6 Scope of the Study	5
1.6.1 Geographical Scope	5
1.6.2 Content Scope	5
1.6.3 Time Scope	5
1.7 Significance of the study.....	5
1.8 Justification for the study.....	7
1.9 Conceptual framework.....	7

CHAPTER TWO	11
LITERATURE REVIEW	11
2.0 Introduction.....	11
2.1 Theoretical framework.....	11
2.2. Strain Theory	11
2.3 Social Learning Theory.....	12
2.4 To identify the level of unemployment amongst the youth.	12
2.5 To examine the level and patterns of drug addiction among youth.	15
2.6 To assess the relationship between unemployment and drug addiction among youth.	18
2.7 Chapter Overview of Literature Review.....	19
CHAPTER THREE	21
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....	21
3.0 Introduction.....	21
3.1 Research Design.....	21
3.2 Study Area	22
3.3 Sample Population	22
The population of interest was the youth population between 18-35 years old in Kawempe	22
3.4 Sample Size.....	23
Table 3.1: Sample Size Distribution	24
3.5 Sampling Techniques.....	25
3.6 Data Collection Methods	26
3.6.1 Primary Data	26
3.6.2 Secondary Data	27
3.7 Data Collection Instruments	28
3.8 Data Analysis	28

Table 3.2: Data Analysis per Objective	29
Bottom of Form.....	30
3.9 Validity of Instruments	30
3.10 Reliability of Instruments	30
3.11 Measurement of Variables	30
3.12 Data Presentation Methods	31
3.13 Ethical Considerations	31
CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND FINDINGS	33
4.0 Introduction.....	33
4.1 Response Rate	33
4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents	33
Table 4.1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents (n = 215)	33
4.3 Findings on the Extent of Unemployment among Youth (Objective 1)	35
Table 4.2: Extent of Unemployment among Youth in Kawempe Division (n = 215)	36
4.4 Findings on the Level and Patterns of Drug Addiction (Objective 2)	37
Table 4.3: Level and Patterns of Drug Addiction among Youth in Kawempe Division (n = 215)	37
4.5 Findings on the Relationship between Unemployment and Drug Addiction (Objective 3) ...	38
Table 4.4: Relationship between Unemployment and Drug Addiction (n = 215)	39
4.6 Drug Access and Environmental Factors.....	40
Table 4.5: Drug Accessibility and Environmental Factors (n = 215)	41
4.7 Pearson Correlation Analysis.....	42
To statistically test the relationship between unemployment and drug addiction, Pearson's	42
Table 4.6: Pearson Correlation Matrix between Key Study Variables (n = 215)	42
4.8 Qualitative Findings from Key Informant Interviews	43

Table 4.7: Qualitative Themes from Key Informant Interviews (n = 13).....	44
CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS	48
5.0 Introduction.....	48
5.1 To establish the level of unemployment among the youths in Kawempe Division.....	48
5.2 To investigate the prevalence and trends of drug addiction among young people in Kawempe Division.....	49
Table 5.1: Most Commonly Used Drugs among Youth in Kawempe Division (n = 215)	49
5.3 Relationship between Unemployment and Drug Addiction	50
5.4 Correlation Analysis	51
CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	53
6.0 Introduction.....	53
6.1 Summary of Findings.....	53
6.2 Conclusions.....	55
6.3 Recommendations.....	56
6.4 Areas for Further Research	58
REFERENCES	59
APPENDICES	61
Appendix i: Research Questionnaire	61
Appendix ii: Interview Guide	65
Appendix iii: Informed Consent Form.....	67
Appendix iv: Activity Work Plan	68
Activity Work Plan	68
Appendix V: Introductory Letter from The University	69

ABSTRACT

This study examined the influence of unemployment on drug addiction among youth in Kawempe Division, Kampala District. The study aimed to establish the relationship between unemployment and drug abuse among youth. A descriptive research design using both qualitative and quantitative approaches was adopted. Data was collected through questionnaires and interviews from selected youth and community leaders.

Findings revealed that unemployment contributes greatly to drug addiction due to idleness, stress, peer pressure, and lack of income opportunities. The study also found that drug addiction negatively affects youths' health, behavior, and productivity.

The study concluded that unemployment is a key factor influencing drug addiction among youth in Kawempe Division. It recommended increased job creation, vocational training, and sensitization programs to reduce drug abuse among unemployed youth.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This section covers the background to the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, research questions, and scope of the study and significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the study

Unemployment among youth is an old socio-economic phenomenon in the world particularly following economic shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic. According to the UN labor agency (ILO, 2024) the list of the number of young people in the world who had a high rate of unemployment has always been significantly much higher than the number of adult people and millions of young people remained unemployed, uneducated or untrained (NEET). The ILO also reported that the unstable labor markets mostly affected the young people hence they experienced psychological distress, social exclusion and dangerous coping mechanisms. Similarly, the World Bank (2023) has found that the relationship between poverty, marginalization, and vulnerability to antisocial behaviors in the youth had a direct connection with unemployment.

In this regard, there has been an increase in the international usage of drugs. The report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2023) claims that the total number of people who abused drugs in the year 2021 is more than 296 million people with a significant percentage of youths aged 15-35 years. The study indicated that unemployment, economic instability, and social isolation were effective predictors of substance abuse among the youths (Degenhardt et al., 2017; UNODC, 2023). Additionally, European and North American researches determined that the jobless youth in frustration and stress and hopelessness, were more likely to utilize drugs as a coping mechanism of frustrations (Henkel, 2011; Fergusson, Boden and Horwood, 2013). In such a way, the unemployment, as well as drug addiction on the international level, were increasingly seen as related social and social health crises.

Sub-Saharan Africa has identified youth unemployment as a structural development problem since the rate of population growth is at an accelerated rate, and there are limited formal employment opportunities (ILO, 2024; African Development Bank, 2022). Although there are

some young people who were said to be employed, many did not receive regular well-paying well sustained employment in the informal sector resulting in low paying precarious jobs. The African Development Bank (AfDB, 2022) has observed that underemployment and working poverty among the young people were so high that they resulted in social vulnerability and indulgence in risky activities.

Simultaneously, the issue of drug abuse has turned into a growing phenomenon in African urban areas in terms of population health. The World Health Organization (WHO, 2022) states that most probably, African youth abused alcohol and cannabis and the use of synthetic drugs was increasing. South African and Nigeria studies found that the unemployed youth were more likely to join drug consumers due to the economic force, peer influence, and the lack of social support (Morojele et al., 2012; Adebayo et al., 2016). The researchers also added that the long-term unemployment resulted in a lack of self-esteem and depression that predisposed individuals to drug abuse (Oshodi et al., 2010; WHO, 2022). Thus, Sub-Saharan Africa was slowly becoming associated with unemployment and the ever-increasing youth substance abuse.

The problem of youth unemployment in East Africa has been a priority agenda in the policy discussion due to the pressure of population and urbanization. The documents drawn up by the East African Community (EAC, 2023) revealed that the younger generation was the most significant workforce in the region yet there were no formal job opportunities. In the study of Kenyan and Tanzanian urban informal settlements, young individuals with no employment opportunities were significantly more likely to be attracted to drug-using peer networks and subcultures on the street (NACADA, 2022; Mbatia et al., 2009).

Similar to Kenya, it was observed by the National Authority to Campaign against Alcohol and Drug Abuse (NACADA, 2022) that alcohol, cannabis and prescription drug abuse prevalence among the unemployed and underemployed youth has been on the increase. A research in informal settlements in Nairobi has determined that unemployment was a significant predictor of substance use disorder (Kamau et al., 2019). Similarly, according to a Tanzanian study, economical poverty and unemployment made the youths engage in drug trafficking and abuse (UNODC, 2023). These findings meant that the youth of East Africa were addicted to drugs due to structural and psychosocial reasons.

Uganda is also one of the nations with the youngest populations globally with over three-quarters of the entire population being below the age of 30 (Uganda Bureau of Statistics, UBOS, 2022). The level of unemployment and under-employment among the youth has been high even with the rise in the economic growth, particularly in the urban centers such as Kampala (UBOS, 2022; World Bank, 2023). Uganda National Household Survey showed that many of the youths lacked employment and engaged in vulnerable informal jobs and had little income stability.

In the meantime, the substance abuse among young Ugandans has been on the increase. The Uganda Ministry of Health (MoH, 2022) states that the populations of adolescents and young adults have been facing increased cases of alcohol, marijuana, khat (mairungi), and synthetic drug abuse. According to a study conducted in Kampala, unemployment correlated with the use of drugs and alcohol to a large extent (Ssebunnya et al., 2020; Kaggwa et al., 2022). The researchers also found that adolescents in the informal settlements were particularly vulnerable due to poverty, inactivity and peer pressure (Nuwagira & Muwonge, 2019).

The five Kampala divisions include Kawempe Division and this division is characterized by high population, informal settlements and unemployment rates among the youth. Bwaise and Kazo are the regions already reported to have been deprived socio-economically and have no access to employment opportunities (KCCA, 2022). According to the reports of the community, there is an increase in the number of drug users in these neighborhoods, alcohol and cannabis, and the new synthetic drugs among unemployed young people (MoH, 2022; local NGO reports).

Although other investigations have looked at the youth unemployment and substance abuse as independent variables, little empirical research has been done to assess the direct correlation between unemployment and drug abuse among the youth in the Kawempe Division. Therefore, this gap is set to be filled in this paper by exploring the socio-economic and psychosocial pathways through which unemployment resulted into drug addiction among the youths in Kawempe Division, Kampala District.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Youth unemployment remains a major global concern. According to the International Labour Organization (2024), the global youth unemployment rate is estimated at approximately 13%, which is about three times higher than that of adults. In addition, nearly 23% of young people are classified as Not in Employment, Education, or Training (NEET). At the same time, substance

abuse among youth continues to rise globally, with young people forming a large proportion of drug users. These trends indicate a growing link between unemployment and drug addiction, making it a critical social and public health issue.

The unemployment rate among young people in Sub-Saharan Africa became 12.15% on average, and vulnerable employment among the youth was above 60%, especially in the informal sectors (African Development Bank, 2022; ILO, 2024). In Uganda, according to the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2022) youth unemployment was at about 13.3% and urban youth unemployment was much greater as compared to the rural rates. Further, 41 percent of the Ugandan youths had been unemployed or underemployed. According to reports by the Uganda Ministry of Health (2022), close to 1 in 3 urban youths had drunk alcohol, with the rate of cannabis use among the young people in urban informal settlements standing at 10-15%. These statistics showed a worrying trend of weak economic prospects and rising substance abuse.

Kawempe Division, Kampala, youths make up more than 60 per cent of the population, and informal employment is the main economic activity in the area (KCCA, 2022). Reporting in the community showed that the youth unemployment levels in the informal settlements like Bwaise were higher than 20 percent and the local health checks showed that there were increasing cases of alcohol and marijuana misuse within the unemployed young males. Even with these statistics, scanty empirical studies have directly focused on the role of unemployment in causing drug addiction among the youth of Kawempe Division. Thus, the study aimed at examining the scale and the mechanisms by which unemployment affects drug addiction in young people within Kawempe Division, Kampala District.

1.3 Purpose of the study

To examine the influence of unemployment on drug addiction among youth in Kawempe Division in Kampala.

1.4 Objectives of the research

- i.** To determine the extent of unemployment among youth in Kawempe Division.
- ii.** To examine the level and patterns of drug addiction among youth in Kawempe Division.
- iii.** To assess the relationship between unemployment and drug addiction among youth in Kawempe Division.

1.5 Research questions

- i. What is the extent of unemployment among youth in Kawempe Division?
- ii. What are the levels and patterns of drug addiction among youth in Kawempe Division?
- iii. How does unemployment influence drug addiction among youth in Kawempe Division?

1.6 Scope of the Study

1.6.1 Geographical Scope

The study was conducted in Kawempe Division, one of the five administrative divisions of Kampala. The area is characterized by a high population density, a large proportion of youth, and widespread informal settlements. It has also been associated with relatively high levels of youth unemployment and substance abuse. The study will specifically focus on selected communities within the division where these challenges are more prevalent. There is extra space researcher to obtain detailed and context-specific data relevant to the study objectives.

1.6.2 Content Scope

The research mainly aimed at determining how unemployment affects drug addiction among the young people. In particular, the paper has discussed the level of youth unemployment, the level and trend of drug addiction among youth, and how unemployment is related to drug addiction in Kawempe Division. The paper also investigated the potential intervention and coping strategies that can be used to decrease drug addiction among unemployed young people.

1.6.3 Time Scope

The report concentrated on the information between the year 2019 and 2025. This was deemed the right time since it was able to reflect recent patterns regarding unemployment and drug abuse among the youth and other socioeconomic developments that came with the COVID-19 pandemic, which hit the job markets of most youth in cities like Kampala.

1.7 Significance of the study

This study can find application in the government of Uganda and specifically the Uganda Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development and the Uganda Ministry of Health by giving evidence on how unemployment has led to drug addiction among the youth. The research can assist policymakers in coming up with effective employment creation models, youth empowerment practices, and drug prevention models that would reduce the unemployment rate and the substance abuse issue among the youths.

Students

Students may be interested in this work particularly those studying other disciplines such as social sciences, public health, education, development studies. It provides empirical evidence on the relationship between unemployment and drug addiction among youths which can be used to help the students learn about the socio-economic reality in the real world, including the urban communities in Kawempe Division. The findings offer practical case-based facts that could be implemented in scholarly research, research, and dissertations, especially those individuals, who are interested in youth development, Labour market and substance abuse. Besides, the study exposes students to application of theoretical concepts of socio-economic vulnerable and behavioral outcomes in living conditions therefore boosting their analytical and critical thinking skills. It is also a guide to other researchers who may be interested in further developing the research in future by exploring similar issues in other contexts or using a different methodology.

Social Workers.

The study is very significant to social workers since it provides a deeper understanding of causal and dynamic issues of drug addiction among youths. The research presents evidence-based information, which can be utilized by social workers in coming up with intervention measures by highlighting unemployment as one of the structural factors contributing to substance abuse. It highlights the importance of holistic and integrated solutions that extend beyond individual counseling to encompass economic empowerment, development of skills and community-based support mechanisms.

To the researcher it will enhance my knowledge and skills in addressing social problems which is essential for future career in social work

The findings provide help social workers determine the key risk factors such as economic pressure, peer pressure, and access to drugs as an environmental factor to develop specific prevention and rehabilitation programs. The research also highlights the need of early intervention and the community in tackling substance abuse. Social workers can use this information to lobby more and better policies, better service delivery and more investment on youth employment programs. Altogether, the research improves the ability of social workers to

design effective, context-specific intervention capable of tackling the social as well as economic aspects of youth vulnerability.

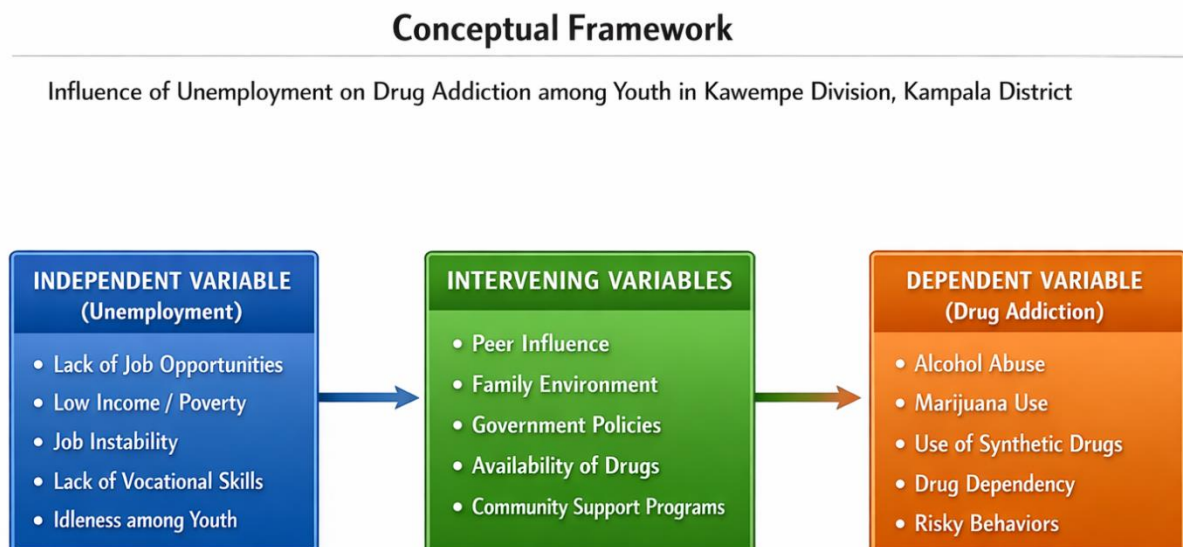
The study has shown will also be useful to local authorities and urban administrators especially the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA) as the information can be used to shape up community-based intervention to counter the abuse of drugs in the urban area. The findings might be utilized to assist KCCA and other stakeholders to come up with certain programs that will help the youth to get jobs, vocational training and rehabilitation services within the communities in Kawempe Division.

The research will be of benefit to the academic fraternity as it will add to the body of knowledge on the subject of youth unemployment and drug addiction. It will also be used in future researchers who may be interested in related study in social work, public health and youth development.

1.8 Justification for the study

The study sought to establish strategies and solutions that can be used to minimize unemployment and drug addiction rates among the youth in Uganda especially in Kawempe division.

1.9 Conceptual framework



The conceptual framework shows the association between the independent variable (unemployment) and dependent variable (drug addiction) in young people in the Kawempe Division in Kampala, taking into consideration the intervening variables.

Drug addiction among the young people is a direct result of unemployment. Unemployed youths are likely to lead an impoverished financial life becoming frustrated, idle and hopeless. These conditions may lead to psychological stress on them and eventually loss of purpose. Due to this, there are the potentials of unemployed youth resorting to drugs like alcohol, marijuana, or other drugs as a form of coping mechanism to stress, boredom and social pressures. In this manner, the level of unemployment among young people may increase to even greater levels, thereby exposing them to drug abuse, and subsequent drug addiction.

Such a relationship between unemployment and drug addiction is not always linear as there can be several intervening variables. Some factors that may either empower or undermine this relationship include peer influence, family environment, drug availability, government policies and community support program among others. Indicatively, unemployed young people, who relate with peer users of drugs, have higher chances of emulating them. Similarly, easy availability of drugs within societies could increase chances of drug consumption. On the other hand, the chances of the unemployed youth developing drug addiction can be alleviated through good family support, youth empowerment programs, vocational training programs and government employment programs. The possibilities of drug addiction outcome are high with unemployment and intervention that is supportive. The outcome of such may include alcohol abuse, marijuana use, dependency on artificial drugs and engaging in risky behaviors such as crime or violence. Therefore, the conceptual framework assumes that the reduction of the youth unemployment rates and the supporting social framework will contribute to the reduction of the drug addiction rates among the youth in the Kawempe Division to a considerable extent.

This study has its objectives based on the conceptual framework. The framework determines unemployment as an independent variable and drug addiction as the dependent variable, as the intervening factors include peer influence, family environment, and the availability of drugs, which affects the relationship. This framework will inform the development of the study objectives and general direction of the research.

Key Terms Definitions

Unemployment

Unemployment is a state of affairs where the individuals who are able, available, and willing to work cannot get gainful employment. In this research, unemployment is directly defined as the absence of formal or informal income generating activities among the youths in the Kawempe Division.

Drug Addiction

Drug addiction is a chronic disorder which involves compulsive drug seeking and use despite its destructive effects. It is physical and psychological dependence on drugs like alcohol, marijuana, and other illegal drugs which influence the behavior and the health of the person.

Youth

Youth are those who are in a particular age group. The definition of youth as used in the context of this study is 18-35 years old, which is in accordance with the generally accepted definitions in Uganda.

Substance Abuse

Substance abuse is defined as the use of psychoactive substances, such as alcohol and illegal drugs, in a harmful or dangerous manner causing adverse health, social and economic consequences.

Economic Stress

Economic stress is the financial strain that people undergo because of income deficiency or unpredictable livelihood. In this paper, it is associated with the pressure that young people are under because of unemployment and it can affect their actions in regards to drug use.

Peer Influence

Peer influence describes the influence of friends or social groups on an individual in terms of attitudes, behaviors and choices. This paper incorporates the role played by peers in promoting or normalizing drug use among the unemployed young people.

Illicit Drugs

Illicit drugs are the drugs that are prohibited by the law to manufacture, sell, or use, including cocaine, heroin, and some of the synthetic drugs.

Employment

Employment can be defined as any legal income generating activity, formal or informal and which ensures the financial security of an individual.

Behavioral Outcomes

Behavioral outcomes are apparent behaviors or tendencies of behavior which are effects of some conditions or influences, e.g. more drug use because of unemployment.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter has discussed the literature on the subject of unemployment and drug addiction in the youth. It had both theoretical and empirical studies that were arranged based on the objectives of the study. This chapter considered the level of unemployment, the dynamics of drug addiction, and the correlation between the two. This was to set a base upon which the study would be carried out as well as to establish any gaps in knowledge.

2.1 Theoretical framework

This study came about due to The Strain Theory and Social Learning Theory which helped in explaining the correlation between unemployment and drug addiction among the young generation.

2.2. Strain Theory

In 1938, Robert K. Merton developed the Robert K. Merton Strain Theory that exposes how pressure created by society can force individuals to engage in deviant behavior whereby they can never achieve their socially acceptable goals in any other way other than using the legitimate path. According to Merton, the society encourages individuals to be successful, economically stable and socially recognized. However, in such a situation, when individuals lack a channel of access to the legal opportunities, such as to work, they may become frustrated, strained and stressed (Merton, 1938).

As I have mentioned within the context of this study, there is a possibility of economic hardship and psychological stress in unemployed youth in Kawempe Division because of the inability to find jobs or steady revenue. This pressure can compel other people as children towards maladaptive ways of coping like drug use and substance abuse. Using drugs may be a momentary escape of stress and disappointment and even social pressures associated with unemployment. Thus, Strain Theory assists in understanding how unemployment could precondition the further increase of the chances of drug addiction among young people.

2.3 Social Learning Theory

Human behaviors are learnt through the observations, imitations and interaction with other persons in the social environment as suggested in the Albert Bandura Social Learning Theory (1977). Bandura maintains that individuals learn through observation of the behavior of their colleagues, family or role model and they grow to reinforce the behavior.

With a reference to the current research, the unemployed youths are more likely to spend more time in social areas where peer pressure plays an important role. When the youths have friends who use drugs, they may observe them and imitate them especially when use of drugs is perceived as one way of dealing with boredom, stress or social pressures. Where drugs are readily available in communities, there are high chances of indulging in drug related activities. Therefore, the Social Learning Theory can be used to describe how peer networks, social interactions, and environmental exposure can be the basis of explaining how unemployment in young people, who are drug addicts, can be explained.

Theories Applicability of the Theories to the Study.

The two theories are complementary in that they portray the relations that are present between unemployment and drug addiction. Strain Theory provides an account of the psychological stress and frustration brought about by unemployment leading to the use of substances by youth and Social Learning Theory provides an account of how drug use behaviors are learned and reinforced in the social interaction and peer pressure. The theories have a combined effect of offering a holistic explanation to the reason why unemployed adolescents tend to be more susceptible to drug abuse in urban areas like Kawempe Division in Kampala.

2.4 To identify the level of unemployment amongst the youth.

Various researches have looked into the level of youth unemployment in the world and in Uganda where the unemployment has been identified as a major socio-economic issue which influences the economic productivity, social stability as well as development of youth. In Uganda, policymakers as well as researchers have paid much attention to the situation due to the fact that the youth form the biggest percentage of the population. Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS, 2021) shows that despite the moderately increasing economy, the nation has an average youth unemployment. The national statistics indicate that the youth unemployment rate is approximately 13.3% among individuals aged 18-30 years, exceeding the national level of

unemployment (UBOS, 2021; World Bank, 2023). This has been in part attributed to the population make up of Uganda in which more than 75 percent of the population are aged below 30 years old which has led to high competition between the few jobs available in the state and corporate world. Consequently, a number of the youths find it difficult to get stable jobs after school education and therefore they are prone to economic deprivation and social ills.

In addition, the magnitude of the youth unemployment in Uganda is even greater considering the other indicators in the Labour market such as underemployment and idleness among the youth. Many of the youths may not be counted as unemployed according to conventional definition but instead they are engaged in low-paid, unstable or interim jobs that are unable to keep them afloat. It is observed that the percentage of young people aged between 15-24 years who fall under the NEET (Not in Employment, Education, or Training) is approximately 42.6 percent, which is very large percentage of young people whose economical and productive value in the society is not exploited (UBOS, 2022). This situation has structural Labour market weaknesses such as low job creation, low vocational and technical skills of the graduates and low integration of education systems with the Labour market requirements. Therefore, a lot of youths are stuck in ruts of idleness or unskilled jobs that do not offer them a chance to grow in careers or financial growth.

The recent statistics of the labor market show that youth unemployment in Uganda has been relatively apparent over the years, in terms of the extent of the issue. The available data demonstrates that the youth unemployment rate did not change significantly, with the youth unemployment rate standing at 6.54 in 2021 and at 6.58 in 2022, meaning that even though the governments have tried to encourage the youth to engage in employment by providing various forms of entrepreneurship programs, and other types of vocational training programs, the pressure on the labor market is still felt (World Bank, 2022). The scholars attribute such a long period of unemployment to skills that do not correspond to the needs of the labor market, slow industrial growth, insufficient investments in labor intensive industries and presence of informal sector that occupies a good portion of the youth population yet offers low paying and unstable employment. Therefore, youth unemployment in Uganda is an urgent development issue that must be tackled on a policy front in the long-term, particularly in rapidly growing urban areas where the youth are pooled.

The level of youth unemployment in cities such as Kampala will be relatively high compared to rural areas because there is high rate of rural-urban migration, population growth as well as presence of working opportunities in the formal sector. A lot of the youngsters immigrate out of the rural areas to Kampala in pursuit of improved economic opportunities, higher living conditions, education and services. However, the number of young job seekers fly into the city typically outnumber the available jobs to the job seekers, which increases competition on the jobs resulting in high unemployment rates among the youths in the city. It has been revealed that the rate of youth unemployment in Kampala can reach up to approximately 21 percent, which is an indicator of the challenges the youths in the city face in their quest to secure decent sources of employment despite the presence of economic activities in the city (World Bank, 2023; Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2022; KCCA, 2022). This has seen many youths getting involved in unstable and informal forms of employment which provide them with minimum wages and stability.

The fact of unemployment is especially clear in the urban divisions which have a high population density e.g. Kawempe Division where many young people live in informal settlements and experience many socio-economic limitations. The study carried out in Kawempe Division has shown that youth unemployment depends on a number of structural and individual outcomes, such as ineffective access to vocational and technical skills, ineffective access to financial capital to start a business, and inefficient employment at both the government and business spheres (Nabaasa, 2021; UBOS, 2022). In most cases young people who lack adequate skills or financial resources cannot open up their own business or compete fairly in the labor industry. Besides, the prevalence of the informal economy in Kawempe usually leads to unstable and poorly paid employment opportunities that cannot sustain an economic security of youth in the long term (World Bank, 2023; KCCA, 2022).

These results indicate that unemployment among young people is still a widespread issue within the urban population with a bias toward low-income localities where the lack of economic prospects and disadvantages in the community are present. The fact that the youth unemployment has continued to persist in regions like the Kawempe Division points out the necessity of conducting more empirical research to get the answer to the causal factors and effects of unemployment among the youths. The scholars state that the poverty and social

vulnerability of the urban youth may be caused by the high level of unemployment, which unless addressed adequately, may lead them to engage in risky behaviors (ILO, 2023; World Bank, 2023). It is therefore important to know how big and what young unemployment in the Kawempe Division is in order to inform policy interventions, youth empowerment programs including community development programs that may be applied to improve access to employment opportunities and socio-economic wellbeing of the youth in Kampala.

2.5 To examine the level and patterns of drug addiction among youth.

Drug addiction among the young population has been a national and societal menace that is on the increase in most cities in the world. Young people also fall prey to substance abuse because they are at such stage in life that they are known to be full of experimentation, identity and they are highly exposed to peer pressure. Studies have postulated that curiosity, peer influence, psychological stress, family instability and exposure to a risky social environment are among the factors that can play significant role in initiating use of drugs among adolescents and young adults. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2023) estimates that 5.8% of the world population aged 15 to 64 years used the drug in 2021, with a big percentage of the users being young individuals between the age of 15 to 35. The report also indicated that cannabis is the most commonly used illicit drug in the world with the other drugs used being opioids, amphetamines, and cocaine. On the same note, the World Health Organization (WHO, 2022) stated that alcohol use is the most abused psychoactive drug among the youth around the world, which is a major cause of health issues, risky sexual behaviors, accidents, and violence. It is also noted that the onset of drug use among the youths tends to follow a certain pattern, where the initiation of drug use begins as an experimentation and recreational use and then gradually turns into a habitual use and dependence, in particular, where drugs are readily available and there is no social control (Degenhardt et al., 2017; UNODC, 2023). These tendencies demonstrate that drug addiction among youths is not only a health issue but also a socio-economic and behavioral issue to the societies of the world.

Drug abuse among the youths in Uganda has now become a major social and health problem of the people particularly in the rapidly growing urban centers where the youths are exposed to the problems of unemployment, social strains and absence of recreational amenities. As per the reports made by the Uganda Ministry of Health (MoH, 2022), alcohol, marijuana (cannabis),

khat (also known as mairungi), inhalants, and new synthetic drugs are among the most abused drugs by the youth in the state. These drugs are easily accessible in most urban centers, informal settlements and entertainment centers and hence the young people are more prone to experimenting and heavy usage. The Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS, 2022) nationwide surveys indicate that many young people in Uganda are engaged in alcoholic beverages, with an estimated one out of three of the urban youths suspected to have been exposed to alcohol at one time or another. Additionally, the study estimated that the rate of cannabis use among the young adults in some of the cities has been at 10-15 percent particularly among the young males in the low-income settlements (Ssebunnya et al., 2020). These statistics show the increased consumption of substances by the youth in Uganda and justify the need to create special prevention and intervention programs.

Researchers have gone ahead to propose that drug use amongst the youths in Uganda is directly correlated to various socio-economic and environmental factors. They include unemployment, poverty, peer pressure, family breakdown, parental checks, and availability of social networks that consume drugs (Kaggwa et al., 2022; Ssebunnya et al., 2020). Young individuals in most of the urban societies who are not well employable at times become frustrated, idle and psychologically stressed and this may lead to them taking drugs as a form of coping. In addition, peer groups also play a role in behavior development of the young people, as young people can share behaviors and attitudinal orientation towards drug use due to observation and association with their peers who indulge in the same behaviors. The absence of information about the health risk of drug use and access to counseling or rehabilitation services are further worsening the situation. Youth drug addiction has as a result, become a major social health issue in Uganda that would have to be dealt with at policy level, youth empowerment programs, community based education and increased access to treatment and rehabilitation programs.

In certain urban areas such as Kawempe Division in Kampala, the prevalence rate of drug addiction among the youths has been reported to be very high due to a combination of both the socio-economic and environmental factors. Kawempe Division is a highly populated area with high youth unemployment rate and low access to recreational and economic opportunities that predisposes the youth to substance abuse. Research carried out in Kampala has also shown that drugs are highly accessible and easy to access in the urban informal settlements, which is a key

factor leading to increased substance use among the youth (KCCA, 2022; UBOS, 2022; Ssebunnya et al., 2020). The most common drugs among the youth living in these communities have been reported to be alcohol, marijuana (cannabis), khat (mairungi), and emerging synthetic drugs (Nuwagira & Muwonge, 2019; Kaggwa et al., 2022; MoH, 2022). These types of drugs are also found in small retail outlets, bars, and even in the streets and all these are very readily available to adolescents and young adults who may be interested in dabbling in the drug, peers may socialize them into it, or they may be pressured into it by their social environment.

They have discovered that the dynamics of drug use by the youth in the Kawempe Division are usually initiated by the experimentation of drugs during adolescence in their lifetimes and can continue with time to become a habitual use. The youths initially use drugs during group gatherings during social events, thus establishing a culture of group-consumption and rendering drug-taking behavior normal and peer-pressured (Ssebunnya et al., 2020; Degenhardt et al., 2017; UNODC, 2023). As a result, frequent exposure to such environments results in the emergence of additional opportunities to use it further and become dependent on drugs. The socio-economic factors including unemployment, poverty, and inability to obtain education or vocational opportunities also add to these trends in drug use since young individuals can resort to substances as a stress reliever, source of frustration, and boredom (Kaggwa et al., 2022; WHO, 2022; UNODC, 2023). Second, weak parental control, family discord, and community support systems are also present in some informal settlements and have been identified to lead to the heightened vulnerability to substance abuse (UBOS, 2022; Ssebunnya et al., 2020).

It has also been established that, there are gender differences in prevalence and trends of drug addiction among youths in Kawempe Division and other urban societies in Kampala. Male young people are more likely to report using drugs than their female counterparts partially due to the fact that the social norm that condones or even promotes the use of substances may be found in men (Nuwagira & Muwonge, 2019; MoH, 2022). Nevertheless, according to recent research, the drug consumption among female youths has been on a slow rise, especially in cities where economic pressure, and social transformation influence both sexes (Kaggwa et al., 2022; WHO, 2022). It is an increasing trend that is raising social, health and economic issues of drug addiction among the youths in Kawempe Division. Therefore, the reported findings imply that the issue of drug addiction among youth in Kawempe is yet high and growing and requires further empirical

investigation to see the scale, tendencies, and causes of this problem to create the necessary prevention and intervention strategies (UNODC, 2023; UBOS, 2022; KCCA, 2022).

2.6 To assess the relationship between unemployment and drug addiction among youth.

Studies are also done to determine the relationship between unemployment and drug addiction among youth whereby it was reported that without jobs, there will be high probabilities of substance abuse. The outcome of unemployment in the youth might be poverty and frustration of the youth and the perception of social rejection and this can make the youths enter into dysfunctional modes of coping with the condition like drug abuse and alcohol abuse. One of the socio-economic reasons that are enumerated in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC, 2023) when addressing the relationship between the problem and substance abuse, among the youth in the cities, is unemployment. Equally, even World Health Organization (WHO, 2022) found out that the youngsters who had lost their employment were more likely to participate in risky behaviors like using drugs due to the existence of a considerable level of psychological strain, self-devaluation and deficiency of beneficial pursuits. Research studies, which have been conducted in various countries, have also proven that long-term unemployment exposes individuals to addiction to the drugs, as they can use substances as a way of coping with stress, frustration, and emotional problems that come with unemployment (Henkel, 2011; Degenhardt et al., 2017; UNODC, 2023).

The connection that exists between unemployment and drug addiction among the young people in the developing world, especially in Sub-Saharan Africa is slowly being determined by the absence of employment, the increased urbanization, and the increased urban poverty. The majority of the unemployed youths in the urban Centre note the fact that they are social outcasts and economically unsafe as the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2023) reveals the factor that predisposes them to substance abuse and other risky behaviors. In research related to urban locations in Africa, it has been discovered that the unemployed and underemployed youths tend to spend a prolonged period in social places where the drugs and alcohol are easily accessible and consequently, they are more likely to be experimented with and readily use the drugs (Morojele et al., 2012; Oshodi et al., 2010; WHO, 2022). In addition, joblessness can lead to laziness and joining peer groups who promote drug consumption and this factor once again creates the linkage between joblessness and substance abuse among the youths. The unemployed

youths are likely to establish peer groups in most of the informal settlements in the city that legitimize the use of drugs as a way of eliminating boredom, frustrations and social pressures and thus promote addiction in the long term (UNODC, 2023; ILO, 2023).

2.7 Chapter Overview of Literature Review

It has been possible to use the chapter to review literature that is connected with effect of unemployment on drug addiction among youth in consideration of three important themes in accordance with the objectives of the study. The level of youth unemployment has been the introduction to the analysis which has indicated that the problem of youth unemployment is one of the greatest socio-economic problems in the world and in Uganda. Literature demonstrated that despite the economic development, the fact remains that many youths are unemployed or underemployed due to the high population growth, skills imbalance, inability to create new jobs, and rural-urban migration (Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2022; World Bank, 2023). It was also observed that there is an increased rate of youth unemployment in urban cities like Kampala due to the rate of migration of young individuals in search of job opportunities.

In the second part, the literature explored the level and trends of drug addiction among the youths. The results revealed that drug abuse has emerged to be an increasing health issue in the society especially among the youths residing in urban societies. Alcohol, marijuana, khat, and others were the most abused drugs amongst the youths in Uganda. It was also found that young people tend to experiment with drugs under the influence of peers and that they become habitual, or even addicted to substance use over time (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2023; World Health Organization, 2022). Drug use among youth is even more eminent among urban populations (high population of individuals such as Kawempe Division) due to the availability of unemployment, poverty and easy access to drugs among others.

The third section talked about the relationship between unemployment and substance abuse among youth. The studies reviewed indicated that unemployment is strongly linked with escalated drug abuse since it results in economic stress, psychological frustration and idleness in the youth. The analyses have revealed that youths who are not employed have a higher tendency of identifying themselves with drug users and may engage in the same stress management and social strain management patterns (International Labor Organization, 2023; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2023). Overall, it was observed that unemployment and drugs

addiction are socially-related problems that are intertwined with each other in metropolitan areas, based on the reviewed literature. However, the existing empirical data does not include a particular study on the relationship that concentrates on the youth in Kawempe Division, hence the need to carry out the current study.

Although there is a substantial literature on the issue of youth unemployment and drug addiction, very little empirical evidence exists which could examine the correlation between the two variables on a local level. The majority of the research has been on either unemployment or substance abuse alone. In addition, few studies have focused on Kawempe Division despite its unique socio-economic challenges. Thus, this paper aims at filling this research gap by offering some localized evidence that can be used to understand the effects of unemployment on drug addiction among young people.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the methodology applied to carry out the study on the effect of unemployment on drug addiction among the youth in the Kawempe Division, Kampala was presented. The chapter outlined the research design, location of study, sample size, sampling methods, data collection methods, data collection tools, data analysis methods and ethical issues that informed the research.

3.1 Research Design

The research design used in the study was descriptive. The design enabled the researcher to gather the information of respondents and clarify the connection between unemployment and drug addiction among the youth. It allowed the researcher to have both quantitative and qualitative data on the level of unemployment, patterns of drug addiction and the correlation between the two variables among young people in Kawempe Division, Kampala. The descriptive research design was appropriate as it enabled the researcher to provide descriptions of the nature of the population and test connections between variables without controlling them.

The descriptive design was especially useful in the social science studies as it gave a clear image of what was going on, what people were doing or what conditions were taking place in a natural environment. John W. Creswell (2018) argues that descriptive research designs allowed a researcher to describe a situation, problem, or phenomenon systematically by gathering both quantitative and qualitative data of a particular population. On the same note, C. R. Kothari (2019) explained that descriptive research design was suitable whenever a research wanted to explain the properties of individuals, groups or situations, and or determine the relationship between variables.

The design of this study enabled the researcher to obtain in-depth information regarding the extent of unemployment among youth, the rate of drug addiction, and how these variables were related. This study used the descriptive research design since it was based on a particular population (youth in Kawempe Division) and aimed at getting to know their experiences and

behaviors as far as unemployment and drug use are concerned. It enabled the researcher to collect data through questionnaires and interviews, analyze the data through descriptive statistics and present the finding in the form of tables and narratives. Thus, the descriptive research design was deemed to be appropriate in this study since it offered a systematic method of investigating the relationship between unemployment and drug addiction among young people.

3.2 Study Area

The research was done in the chosen regions of Kawempe Division namely, Bwaise I, Bwaise II and Kazo. These communities have been chosen because of their high unemployment rate among youths and incidences of drug abuse have been reported. The subdivision was home to a large number of youths who had left the countryside in search of job opportunities. Nevertheless, there were fairly high rates of youth unemployment and rising cases of substance abuse among the youth in the area. These features resulted in Kawempe Division being a suitable place to explore the impact of unemployment on youth drug addiction.

3.3 Sample Population

The population of interest was the youth population between 18-35 years old in Kawempe Division, Kampala. These youths were deemed to be fit in the research as they represented the most affected group in society in terms of unemployment and drug abuse. In the cities, low employment, poverty and exposure to social environments that expose them to risks were some of the problems that many young people were exposed to and this increased their susceptibility to substance abuse. As a result, the target population of the study (youth) allowed receiving the appropriate information on the rates of unemployment and the dynamics of drug addiction in the division.

Besides the youth respondents, the study also involved local leaders and community stakeholders such as Local Council leaders and Community Development Officers as they also had the relevant information on the issue of youth employment and substance abuse in the community. These key informants were significant because they helped to give more insight on the causes, trends and potential solutions to unemployment and drug addiction among the youth in Kawempe Division.

3.4 Sample Size

A sample is defined as a reduced number of people who are chosen among a large population to take part in a study. C. R. Kothari (2019) also argues that a sample helped the researcher to gather data of a controllable number of respondents and at the same time, guarantee that the research was representative of the whole population. The respondents used in this research were chosen based on the youth population and the relevant stakeholders at the Kawempe Division to get information about how unemployment affects the drug addiction among the youth.

The sample size was determined using the formula developed by Taro Yamane (1967), which provided a simplified method for calculating sample sizes.

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

Where:

n = Sample size

N = Total population

e = Level of precision (sampling error), usually set at 0.05 (5%)

Sample Size Calculation

$$n = \frac{530}{1 + 530(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{530}{1 + 530(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{530}{1 + 1.325}$$

$$n = \frac{530}{2.325}$$

$$n \approx 228$$

Table 3.1: Sample Size Distribution

Category of Respondents	Total Population	Sample Size	Sampling Technique	Type of Data
Youth (18–35 years)	500	215	Simple Random Sampling	Quantitative
Local Council Leaders	20	9	Purposive Sampling	Qualitative
Community Stakeholders (e.g., youth leaders, CDOs)	10	4	Purposive Sampling	Qualitative
Total	530	228		

Qualitative Data Sample Size and Determination.

The qualitative data sample was of key informants, such as Local Council leaders and community stakeholders (youth leaders and Community Development Officers). In the research study, 13 qualitative respondents were sampled, 9 leaders of Local Councils and 4 community stakeholders as shown in the sample distribution table.

The qualitative sample size was determined based on the principle of data saturation and using Taro Yamane (1967) formula, which is the recognized standard for social science research at Uganda Christian university when the population size is known and recognized Data saturation was the stage at which the data collected did not reveal any new information, themes, or insights (Guest, Bunce, and Johnson, 2006). This implied that the researcher would keep gathering qualitative data until they got repetitive and no other meaningful information is acquired.

Purposive sampling was used to select the sample as it entailed the selection of participants that were knowledgeable and experienced on the topic under study. Purposive sampling was the right choice of sampling in the study by John W. Creswell (2014) as it allowed the researcher to get rich, relevant and detailed data on people who have first-hand experience with the phenomenon under study.

Thus it was assumed that the qualitative sample size of 13 respondents was sufficient, as it enabled the exploration of the issue, in depth, without having to worry that the data saturation was reached and meaningful insights were obtained.

3.5 Sampling Techniques

In the study, simple random sampling and purposive sampling were used to choose the respondents. The various sampling techniques were used to assist in ensuring the research got the necessary and valid information of various groups of respondents. Sampling methods were significant in research as they enabled the researcher to select a smaller group of respondents that represented the larger population being studied, as noted by C. R. Kothari (2019).

The sampled respondents were the youth who are aged between 18 and 35 years and living in Kawempe Division, Kampala. Simple random sampling was employed to select them. This approach meant that the youth in the target population were all given equal opportunity to be chosen to take part in the study hence the bias reduced and the sample became more representative. The respondents were selected through systematic random sampling to ensure that every youth in selected parishes had an equal probability of inclusion, thereby reducing selection bias and enhancing validity of the results. This approach was suitable since the number of young people was comparatively huge and heterogeneous, and random sampling contributed

to the fact that various experiences connected with unemployment and drug addiction could be considered.

Moreover, purposive sampling was also employed to find some of the key informants that include Local Council leaders, youth leaders, and Community Development Officers. This approach helped the researcher to purposely sample those who had pertinent knowledge, experience, and comprehension of problems concerning youth unemployment and drug addiction in society. These respondents were significant owing to their close contact with the youth and as such, they were in a better position to offer precise information on the causes, trends and effects of drug addiction amongst the unemployed youth. Thus, the purposive sampling was used to supplement the information gathered with youth respondents as it offered expertise views and contextual interpretation.

3.6 Data Collection Methods

Primary and secondary data collection methods were employed in the study to ensure that all the information about the effect of unemployment on the drug addiction among the youth was acquired. The various data collection strategies helped the researcher in getting grounded data as well as contextual information that improved the quality and reliability of the study findings.

3.6.1 Primary Data

Primary data was collected by use of questionnaires and interviews of respondents. The significance of primary data collection was that it offered first hand data of people who were directly impacted by the problem being studied.

Youth respondents living in Kawempe Division were given questionnaires. The questions in the questionnaires were structured questions which allowed the respondents to give information about their employment status, experiences of unemployment and drug use or substance abuse in their localities. The use of questionnaires in this study was suitable since it allowed the researcher to interview a rather large number of the respondents in a limited time. In addition, the questionnaires offered standardized responses, thus simplifying the analysis of statistical data.

The main informants that were interviewed were Local Council leaders, youth leaders and community development officers. Interviews assisted the researcher to get more precise and detailed information about the causes of unemployment and drug addiction among the youth in Kawempe Division. They also gave the respondents a chance to voice their views, experiences and observations regarding the relationship between unemployment and drug abuse in the community. The interviews also produced qualitative data and these complemented the quantitative data collected using questionnaires.

3.6.2 Secondary Data

In order to provide a background information to support the study findings on the issue of youth unemployment and drug addiction, secondary data were used, which were obtained through respectable published sources. It was analyzed using the reports provided by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, namely, the Uganda National Household Survey (2019/2020) and the Labour Force Survey (2021), which contained certain information about the unemployment of young people and labor market dynamics.

It also used the publications by the World Health Organization, such as the Global Status Report on Alcohol and Health (2018, updated in 2022), to present the information on substance use and its impact on health among young people. Additionally, the study relied on the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime World Drug Report (2023) to give an insight on both the global and regional trends of drug use.

There was also a consultation of government reports and documents, such as the Uganda National Drug Policy and Authority Act (2015) and reports on the substance abuse and mental health provided by the Ministry of Health. Furthermore, in addition to the analysis, peer-reviewed journal articles that were of interest were determined and found in databases such as Google Scholar and Research Gate. These sources were credible, current, and context-specific, allowing the researcher to juxtapose the primary data with the existing evidence and place the study in a wider context, both on the national and global levels.

3.7 Data Collection Instruments

The research instruments in use were the questionnaires and interview guides. These instruments helped the researcher to obtain both quantitative and qualitative data on respondents. The combination of the various tools helped the researcher to get rich and valid data on the impacts of unemployment on drug addiction among the youths in the Kawempe Division, Kampala.

The questionnaires were used to gather quantitative data that were conducted to youth respondents. The questionnaire was structured with a set of questions in various parts which were founded on the research objectives. There were some predefined answers to certain questions, and others were filled in on a Likert scale to determine the opinion and experience of the respondents towards unemployment and drug addiction. The questionnaire was appropriate since it allowed the researcher to get data of a large number of respondents in a few temporary time and the responses were similar to one another so that the researcher would easily analyze the data.

An interview guide was used to collect qualitative data by interviewing key informants such as Local Council leaders, youth leaders and community development officers. The interview guide included open-ended questions which gave the respondents an opportunity to elaborate on youth unemployment and drug addiction in the community. Interviews helped the researcher to gain more information on the causes, trends, and potential solutions to the problem being investigated.

3.8 Data Analysis

Data obtained were analyzed using both quantitative and qualitative data analysis techniques. Questionnaire data were used to obtain quantitative data coded and inputted into statistical packages and programs like SPSS or Microsoft excel. The characteristics and main variables of interest among the youth like the levels of unemployment and patterns of drug addiction were summarized and described using descriptive statistics like frequencies, percentages and averages. Moreover, they compared and contrasted using cross-tabulation and percentages to determine the correlation between unemployment and drug addiction. Tables, bar charts, and pie charts were used to present the results so that they can be easily interpreted.

Thematic analysis was employed in analyzing qualitative data collected in the form of interviews. The researcher perused through the key informant responses, sorted the data into themes that are meaningful and came up with recurring themes in terms of unemployment, drug addiction and the relationship between the two variables. These themes were then read and given in a narrative format with direct quotes of the respondents to give more explanations and reinforce the quantitative results. The combination of both quantitative and qualitative analysis made the study findings richer in terms of validity.

Table 3.2: Data Analysis per Objective

Objective	Variables	Method of Data Analysis	Data Presentation
To determine the extent of unemployment among youth in Kawempe Division	Employment status, duration of unemployment, income level	Quantitative: Descriptive statistics (frequencies and percentages) using SPSS or Microsoft Excel	Tables and bar charts
		Qualitative: Thematic analysis of interview responses on causes and experiences of unemployment	Narratives and verbatim quotes
To examine the level and patterns of drug addiction among youth in Kawempe Division	Type of drugs used, frequency of drug use, level of addiction	Quantitative: Descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages, and averages)	Tables and pie charts
		Qualitative: Thematic analysis of perceptions and experiences related to drug use patterns	Narratives and verbatim quotes
To assess the relationship between unemployment and drug addiction among youth in Kawempe Division	Unemployment and drug addiction	Quantitative: Cross-tabulation and percentage comparison using SPSS	Tables and charts
		Qualitative: Thematic analysis to explain the link between unemployment and drug addiction	Explanatory narratives

Bottom of Form

3.9 Validity of Instruments

Validity was the degree to which a research instrument measured what it was supposed to measure. The research instruments employed in this study were checked in terms of their validity by means of expert review and pre-testing. The researcher sent the questionnaires and interview guides to supervisors and other experts in the research field to review and provide advice. Their feedback and recommendations assisted in making the questions clear, relevant, and appropriate.

Moreover, a pilot study was carried out by the researcher using a small sample of respondents who were part of a similar population but not included in the actual study. The pilot study aimed at identifying ambiguous questions and making the necessary adjustments to the instruments prior to the actual data collection.

3.10 Reliability of Instruments

The reliability was the capacity of a research instrument to yield the same results when applied under the same conditions. To establish reliability of the questionnaire, the researcher pilot-tested it on a small number of respondents as well. The pilot study was used to check the reliability of the instrument by analyzing the responses that were obtained.

To test the internal consistency of the questionnaire items, the researcher used the Alpha coefficient through Cronbach's method. A reliability coefficient of 0.7 and higher was taken to be acceptable meaning the instrument was acceptable in collecting data. In situations where reliability proved to be less than anticipated, the questionnaire was modified.

3.11 Measurement of Variables

Two variables were used in the study: unemployment as the independent variable and drug addiction as the dependent variable. Structured questions in the questionnaire were used to measure these variables.

The measures of unemployment were in terms of employment status, unemployment duration, income level and access to employment opportunities. In the assessment of drug addiction, the indicators were the frequency of drug use, type of drugs used, exposure to drug-related

situations, and drug dependency. The responses of the respondents were captured using Likert scale measurements with strongly agree to strongly disagree as the scale.

3.12 Data Presentation Methods

The data that was analyzed was presented in tables, charts, and descriptions. The frequencies and percentages of the questionnaires were used to summarize numerical data in the form of tables. Patterns and relationships between variables were also represented using charts and graphs.

The qualitative results of the interviews were interpreted as narratives with some statements of the respondents selected to illustrate the major themes. These presentation methods helped to interpret and understand the study results concerning the effects of unemployment on drug addiction among the youth in Kawempe Division.

3.13 Ethical Considerations

The research process was conducted with great care towards ethical considerations to guarantee that their rights, dignity and welfare were not violated. The research was conducted in accordance with the existing ethical principles of research, such as respect towards persons, beneficence, and justice. The study was purely voluntary, and the respondents were made well aware of the purpose, objectives, and importance of the study, which they then consented to participate. The researcher did not coerce or pressure anyone to take part in the research and allowed them to refuse participating or pull out of the research at any point without any repercussions. (Informed consent form see Appendix III)

The study was based on informed consent. The researcher clarified to the participants the nature of the research, the process and the anticipated length of participation before the questionnaires were given out and interviews were conducted. Any risks or discomforts were also explained to the respondents, but there was little risk in the study. The consent was either verbal or written, according to the setting, and only those gave their consent willingly took part in the study. In cases where the respondents needed explanations, the researcher gave them other explanations to be able to understand everything fully before giving consent.

The researcher guaranteed anonymity and strict confidentiality of all the participants. The research instruments and final report did not include any personal identifiers, including names, contact information, and other personal features. The responses obtained through the respondents were coded and kept in a safe place as to avoid unauthorized access. The results were discussed in a general manner, so that it was impossible to trace the individual answers to the particular respondents. The respondents were assured that the information given would be applied in an academic context and would not be disclosed to third parties without their permission.

Also, the researcher was very sensitive and respectful, especially considering the fact that the study was on unemployment and drug addiction, which could be sensitive issues. Caution was observed not to be judgmental and to provide a relaxed atmosphere that would enable respondents to speak openly. Data collection was done in a private manner, particularly in the interviews, to foster truthful and candid responses.

Lastly, the researcher-maintained integrity and transparency in the research. The data were gathered, processed and presented without any fabrication, falsification or misrepresentation. Adequate referencing of the sources was done to prevent any instances of plagiarism as well as all the findings were reported in a manner which would reflect the opinions and experiences of the respondents. These ethical considerations increased the credibility, reliability and validity of the study as well as protecting the wellbeing of every participant.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND FINDINGS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the study on the influence of unemployment on drug addiction among youth in Kawempe Division. Findings are organized according to the three study objectives and are presented through descriptive statistics from 215 questionnaire responses and qualitative themes from 13 key informant interviews.

4.1 Response Rate

All 228 questionnaires distributed were returned fully completed, representing a 100% response rate. All 13 key informant interviews were successfully conducted. This was attributable to the researcher's physical presence during questionnaire administration and prior rapport-building with community gatekeepers.

4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 4.1 presents the demographic characteristics of the 215 youth questionnaire respondents.

Table 4.1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents (n = 215)

Characteristic	Category	Frequency (n)	Percentage (%)	Cumulative (%)
Gender	Male	126	58.6	58.6
	Female	86	40.0	98.6
	Prefer not to say	3	1.4	100.0
Age Group	18-24 years	98	45.6	45.6
	25-29 years	75	34.9	80.5
	30-35 years	42	19.5	100.0
Education	Primary	31	14.4	14.4
	Secondary	88	40.9	55.4
	Tertiary	64	29.8	85.1

	University	32	14.9	100.0
Employment Status	Employed	34	15.8	15.8
	Self-employed	42	19.5	35.3
	Unemployed	139	64.7	100.0
Duration of Unemployment (n=139)	Less than 6 months	28	20.1	20.1
	6-12 months	41	29.5	49.6
	1-2 years	45	32.4	82.0
	Above 2 years	25	18.0	100.0
Monthly Income	No income	101	47.0	47.0
	Less than UGX 100,000	62	28.8	75.8
	UGX 100,000- 300,000	38	17.7	93.5
	Above UGX 300,000	14	6.5	100.0
Total Respondents		215	100.0	

Most of the respondents were males (58.6%), and females (40.0%), implying that the research was a little male dominated. The age structure indicated that the group of 18-24 years was the largest group (45.6%), then the 25-29 years (34.9%), and 30-35 years (19.5%). This implies that the analysis largely represented the view of the young youths who are more likely to be unemployed and substance abusers. With regard to education, most of the respondents attended secondary education (40.9%), tertiary education (29.8%), university education (14.9%), and primary education (14.4%). The fact that the majority of the respondents were relatively educated and jobless is consistent with the existing information on graduate unemployment in

Uganda, as well as OnBase (2021) and the data presented by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2022) that indicate the growing gap between the educational levels and the labor market opportunities.

The most important result of the study is that 64.7% of the respondents were unemployed during the study, which validates the ubiquity of youth unemployment in Kawempe Division. The rate of unemployment of those who are unemployed is 32.4 and 18.0 years of unemployment respectively indicating that unemployment is not only rampant but also chronic and long-term. This means that many youths are living in constant unemployment, which limits their economic effectiveness and social development.

There were also serious economic precarity measures signaled in economic data about the respondents. Almost half (47.0) of the people had no income at all and 75.8% had less than UGX 100,000 per month, which is very low earning levels. A small percentage (6.5) identified themselves as having earned over UGX 300,000, an indicator that there is low accessibility of stable and adequate income by the youths in the area. This has shown that although the employed are those who are working in the informal sector, many are in low paying and insecure jobs. These situations of economic disadvantage pose a great economic strain and insecurity.

These findings are agreeable with more general theoretical and empirical accounts of the relationships between economic deprivation and risky behavior. Although previously theoretical explanations like strain perspectives placed the importance of economic pressure on the development of deviant behavior, more recent research supports this perspective as well, showing that financial instability enhances susceptibility to substance use. The relative high unemployment rates, extended unemployment periods and low income rates in the Kawempe Division present a viable platform enabling psychological stress, frustration, and social exclusion, which subsequently augment the chances of youths using drugs.

4.3 Findings on the Extent of Unemployment among Youth (Objective 1)

Table 4.2 presents respondents' perceptions of the extent of youth unemployment in Kawempe Division across seven Likert-scale items.

Table 4.2: Extent of Unemployment among Youth in Kawempe Division (n = 215)

Statement	SD%	D%	N%	A%	SA%	Mean	S.D
Job opportunities for youth in Kawempe are limited	4.2	6.5	8.8	38.1	42.3	4.08	0.97
Many youth remain unemployed despite having qualifications	3.7	5.1	10.2	40.9	40.0	4.09	0.93
Lack of practical skills contributes to youth unemployment	2.3	4.7	12.1	39.1	41.9	4.13	0.90
Corruption and favoritism affect access to employment	2.8	4.2	9.8	35.3	47.9	4.21	0.93
Youth unemployment is increasing in Kawempe Division	1.9	3.7	8.4	37.7	48.4	4.27	0.88
Youth lack access to information about job opportunities	3.3	5.6	11.2	38.6	41.4	4.09	0.96
There are limited vocational training opportunities	2.8	4.7	9.8	36.3	46.5	4.19	0.94

The overall mean scores of all the seven statements (4.08-4.27) are high, meaning that they were agreed upon. The most consistent response was on the Youth unemployment in Kawempe Division (Mean = 4.27, SD = 0.88), where the majority (86.1 percent) agreed with it, which is a direct reflection of the emerging unemployment crisis, as reported by KCCA (2022) and UBOS (2022). Corruption and favoritism influence access to work is also recorded Mean = 4.21 (83.2% agreement) which means that the youth feel that the labor market is not only limited but also proactive in the exclusionary process (through patronage networks). The psychological strain under Strain Theory intensifies this perception of systemic exclusion, which causes deviant coping behaviors.

Both 'Limited vocational training opportunities' (Mean = 4.19, 82.8% agreement) and Lack of practical skills (Mean = 4.13, 81.0% agreement) were strongly supported, which confirms the structural education-employment gap found in the literature (World Bank, 2023). The lack of information on job opportunities (Mean = 4.09, 80.0%) brings out an information asymmetry barrier which further marginalizes the youth against employment opportunities. The high level of agreement in all the items confirms the fact that unemployment is widespread, endemic and multi-causal in Kawempe Division.

4.4 Findings on the Level and Patterns of Drug Addiction (Objective 2)

Table 4.3 presents findings on drug addiction levels and patterns across nine Likert-scale items.

Table 4.3: Level and Patterns of Drug Addiction among Youth in Kawempe Division (n = 215)

Statement	SD%	D%	N%	A%	SA%	Mean	S.D
Drug use is widespread among the youth in Kawempe	3.3	5.1	7.9	39.1	44.7	4.17	0.95
Alcohol is commonly used among the youth	2.3	3.7	6.5	36.3	51.2	4.30	0.89
Marijuana and other drugs are easily accessible	2.8	4.2	8.8	35.8	48.4	4.23	0.93
Peer pressure contributes to drug use among youth	1.9	3.7	9.3	38.1	47.0	4.25	0.88
Youth use drugs to cope with frustration	3.7	4.7	11.2	37.7	42.8	4.11	0.98
Youth use drugs to cope with stress	3.3	4.2	10.2	38.6	43.7	4.15	0.95
Drug addiction among youth is increasing	2.3	3.3	8.4	37.2	48.8	4.27	0.89
Youth use drugs frequently (daily or weekly)	4.7	6.5	12.6	35.3	40.9	4.01	1.06
Youth begin using drugs at an early age	3.3	4.7	9.8	36.3	45.6	4.17	0.97

Mean scores of all nine items were good (4.01-4.30). The highest agreement was found with alcohol is commonly used among the youth (Mean = 4.30, SD = 0.89; 87.5% agreement), which is expected to be the case given the status of alcohol as the most normalized and accessible substance in Uganda (MoH, 2022; WHO, 2022). Drug addiction is on the rise in the community' (Mean = 4.27, 86.0%) and peer pressure promotes drug use (Mean = 4.25, 85.1) both obtained high endorsement, which validates directly the Social Learning Theory developed by Bandura; drug behaviors are learned and strengthened by observing and being observed by peers.

The ease of access to marijuana and other drugs was strongly supported (Mean = 4.23, 84.2) and structural facilitation of drug use based on the availability of the environment was confirmed. The direct support of the Strain Theory presented by Merton is in Youth use drugs to cope with stress' (Mean = 4.15, 82.3) and Youth use drugs to cope with frustration (Mean = 4.11, 80.5): young people are exposed to psychosocial strain, which causes them to use drugs as a way of coping with it. The use of drugs at a young age is particularly worrying, with the mean of 4.17, 81.9% being alarming since early use is strongly linked to increased dependency and worse outcomes of addiction (Degenhardt et al., 2017).

4.5 Findings on the Relationship between Unemployment and Drug Addiction (Objective 3)

Table 4.4 presents findings on the relationship between unemployment and drug addiction across six Likert-scale items.

Table 4.4: Relationship between Unemployment and Drug Addiction (n = 215)

Statement	SD %	D %	N %	A %	SA %	Mean	S.D
Unemployment increases the likelihood of drug use	2.3	3.7	6.5	35.8	51.6	4.31	0.88
Lack of income contributes to drug-related activities	2.8	3.3	7.9	36.3	49.8	4.27	0.91
Drug addiction reduces employment opportunities	3.3	4.7	9.8	37.7	44.7	4.16	0.97
There is a relationship between unemployment & drug addiction	1.9	2.8	6.5	34.9	53.5	4.36	0.85
Creating employment can reduce drug abuse among youth	1.4	2.3	5.6	33.5	57.2	4.43	0.81
Drug addiction reduces productivity among youth	2.3	3.7	8.4	36.3	49.3	4.27	0.91

The greatest mean scores were obtained in Table 4.4, with all the six items having a range of 4.16 to 4.43, which was a very high degree of agreement among the respondents of the relationship between unemployment and drug addiction. The most popular statement with the greatest mean score (Mean = 4.43, SD = 0.81; 90.7% agreement) and great policy implications is the statement that the creation of employment opportunities can reduce drug abuse. This observation indicates that respondents consider employment creation as the best single intervention that can be used to counter substance abuse among youths. It builds upon existing policy advice by the World Bank (2023) and the International Labour Organization (2023) that highlight job creation and economic inclusion as important measures to decrease social vulnerability and risky behaviors in youth.

The significant consistency with the statement that there is a correlation between unemployment and drug addiction (Mean = 4.36; 88.4% agreement) is a good primary evidence proving the main hypothesis of the study. Correspondingly, answers to unemployment rises the chances of using drugs (Mean = 4.31; 87.4) and a lack of income to substance abuse (Mean = 4.27; 86.1) are

clear indications of the economic route between unemployment and substance abuse. These results indicate that financial deprivation is a key element driving the youth to use drugs as an adaptive behavior and this is in line with the recent empirical evidence on socio-economic determinants of substance use.

There was a strong agreement among the respondents that drug addiction leads to reduced productivity (Mean = 4.27; 86.1) and drug addiction leads to reduced employment opportunities (Mean = 4.16; 80.5), which underscores the cyclical and self-reinforcing relationship between unemployment and drug addiction. It means that, although unemployment makes people more vulnerable to substance abuse, drug addiction destroys the chances of getting and keeping a job. These results are consistent with evidence on a global level including Degenhardt et al. (2017) and reports by the International Labour Organization (2023) that indicate how substance abuse leads to long-term economic marginalization and labor market involvement.

On balance, the findings of Table 4.4 prove that the respondents are well aware of the interdependence and mutuality of the linkage between drug addiction and unemployment. The results are very strong in the argument that employment creation is not only an economic area of focus but a vital intervention in substance abuse that should be integrated with other policy areas that incorporate the economic and social aspects of youth vulnerability.

4.6 Drug Access and Environmental Factors

Table 4.5 presents findings on drug accessibility and environmental conditions facilitating drug use.

Table 4.5: Drug Accessibility and Environmental Factors (n = 215)

Statement	SD %	D %	N %	A %	SA %	Mean	S.D
Drugs are easily available in the community	2.3	3.7	7.9	35.3	50.7	4.29	0.90
There are many places where youth can access drugs	2.8	4.2	9.3	36.3	47.4	4.21	0.94
Law enforcement against drug use is weak	3.3	5.1	11.2	34.9	45.6	4.14	1.01
Community programs to prevent drug abuse are limited	2.3	4.7	8.8	37.2	47.0	4.22	0.92

The average score of all the four environmental items were high (4.14-4.29) and this indicates that the level of consent amongst the respondents that the local environment in Kawempe Division has been actively engaged in promoting drug use was high. The assertion that drugs are readily accessible in the community (Mean = 4.29; 86.0% agreement) is true evidence that the facility of drugs is a significant structural influence of substance use. This means that the susceptibility induced by unemployment and the widespread presence of drugs interact to encourage drug use among the young. These results agree with the recent evidence of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2023), which highlights that the availability of drugs and the accessibility of the market can considerably affect trends of use, especially in low-income, urban environments.

The results also revealed that, there are limited community programs to prevent drug abuse (Mean = 4.22; 84.2) and there are numerous places where drugs can be acquired (Mean = 4.21; 83.7) meaning a gaping gap in the institutional and community response. This means that Kawempe Division has not adequate preventive facilities including the creation of awareness programs, rehabilitation facilities and youth engagement programs to mitigate the permeation of drugs. The results obtained are in line with the findings of the Ministry of Health Uganda (2022) who indicate gaps in community-based prevention and treatment of substance abuse in Uganda. Also, according to the data provided by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2023), a considerable

number of urban communities have insufficient access to social services, which further puts young people at risk of engaging in risky behaviors.

Furthermore, the fact that the law enforcement against drug use is weak (Mean = 4.14; 80.5%) proves the lack of strong regulatory and deterrent measures. The laxity in enforcement allows the drug markets to operate with minimal or no control whatsoever, thereby continuing to feed the supply, and desensitize consumption within the society. The observation also correlates with the existing publications, including the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2023) that underlines the contribution of the ineffective regulatory frameworks and enforcement gaps to the existence of the illicit drug markets.

On the whole, these results indicate that the use of drugs in Kawempe Division is not just a personal or socio-economic problem but a phenomenon that is heavily supported by environmental and institutional factors. The availability of drugs is high, there are minimal prevention programs and weak law enforcement, which creates an enabling environment to continue and worsen substance abuse among the youth. This promotes the need to improve institutional reactions, improve community-based interventions and increase enforcement of regulations to address the issue holistically.

4.7 Pearson Correlation Analysis

To statistically test the relationship between unemployment and drug addiction, Pearson's Product-Moment Correlation was conducted. Table 4.6 presents the correlation matrix.

Table 4.6: Pearson Correlation Matrix between Key Study Variables (n = 215)

Variable	1. Unemployment	2. Drug Addiction	3. Economic Stress	4. Peer Influence
1. Unemployment (IV)	1.000	—	—	—
2. Drug Addiction (DV)	.743**	1.000	—	—
3. Economic Stress	.681**	.629**	1.000	—
4. Peer Influence	.512**	.601**	.448**	1.000

**** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).**

The results of the analysis indicated that the correlation between unemployment and drug addiction is strong, positive and statistically significant ($r = .743$, $p < .01$) which confirms the central hypothesis of the research. The strength of this association suggests that unemployment explains around 55.2 percent of the difference in drug addiction ($r^2 = .552$) and thus it is a strong predictor of youth substance abuse. This observation highlights the structural character of the issue, in which economic exclusion can influence behavioral results to a great extent.

Additional findings revealed that economic stress has a strong association with unemployment ($r = .681$) and drug addiction ($r = .629$), which situates it as a significant mediating variable in the association. This suggests that unemployment is also a factor contributing to financial strain, which in turn makes the use of drugs as a coping mechanism more probable. These results are aligned with the recent empirical data, such as Ssebunnya et al. (2020) and Kaggwa et al. (2022), which indicate that economic hardship is one of the factors affecting substance use in youth. On the same note, other reports by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2023) highlight the relationship between socio economic vulnerability and higher drug use, especially in urban areas.

Moreover, peer influence was also observed to correlate significantly with unemployment ($r = .512$) and drug addiction ($r = .601$) indicating that peer environments are critical factors in influencing the behavior of the youth. This means that young people who are not employed have a higher likelihood of being attracted to peer groups that tolerate substance use which supports addictive behaviors. These results confirm the theoretical basis of the study and show that the correlation between unemployment and drug addiction is multi-dimensional, with economic stress and social influence being two important mediating variables. In general, the findings are consistent with existing literature and highlight the importance of comprehensive interventions that focus not only on economic situations but also social processes.

4.8 Qualitative Findings from Key Informant Interviews

Semi-structured interviews were conducted with 9 Local Council leaders and 4 CDOs and youth leaders across Bwaise I, Bwaise II, and Kazo. Thematic analysis yielded six principal themes, presented in Table 4.7 with supporting narrative and illustrative verbatim quotations.

Table 4.7: Qualitative Themes from Key Informant Interviews (n = 13)

Theme	Key Sub-Findings	Illustrative Quote
1. Economic Despair & Hopelessness	Unemployment creates financial helplessness and loss of purpose; youth turn to drugs to numb psychological pain	<i>"When you have nothing to do and no money, drugs become the only comfort" (KI-3, LC Leader)</i>
2. Peer Networks & Social Norms	Unemployed youth cluster in drug-using spaces; peer modelling is the primary gateway to drug initiation	<i>"Most of my friends started using alcohol because we had nothing to do after failing to get jobs" (R-47, Male, 23)</i>
3. Idleness as Risk Factor	Extended idleness correlates with drug exposure; absence of structured activity enables drug network integration	<i>"Idleness is the devil's workshop. Boys who do not work end up at drug spots" (KI-7, CDO)</i>
4. Family Breakdown	Absent or overwhelmed parents reduce protective function; street socialization fills the guidance vacuum	<i>"Many youth here have no parental guidance. The street becomes their family" (KI-1, LC Leader)</i>
5. Weak Institutional Response	Ineffective law enforcement, absent rehabilitation services, and inadequate youth programmed enable drug market persistence	<i>"We have reported drug dens to authorities, but nothing changes" (KI-9, Youth Leader)</i>
6. Drug Accessibility	Drugs sold openly throughout the community; multiple procurement points with no effective barriers to access	<i>"You can buy marijuana here like buying bread — it is everywhere" (R-89, Female, 27)</i>

Theme 1: Economic Despair and Hopelessness.

Economic despair as a result of unemployment was identified by all 13 key informants as the main factor that drives drug addiction. Informants reported a trend where lack of job results in the gradual erosion of hope and meaning, and drugs become an alternative to meaning. One LC Leader (KI-3) explained:

“When you do not have any job, no money, it's the only thing that makes you feel better. You meet young men here who have no jobs and feel useless, they see no future. Drugs provide them with a short-lived respite of that emptiness.”

This rings loudly with the Strain Theory of Merton: when people cannot attain goals of social value in a legitimate way, the strain arises that leads them to deviant coping. Informants observed that the trend was strongest in the case of educated unemployed young people, as the frustration of the qualification-without-opportunity was especially high in their case.

Theme 2: Peer Networks and Social Norms.

The peer influence was reported by 12 out of 13 informants as the main social drug initiation mechanism. Unemployment leads to youths gathering in areas where street corners, bars, video halls where drug use is legalized and rewarded by society. One male respondent (R-47, age 23) explained:

“My friends are the ones who got me into drinking: I had nothing to do, as I could not get jobs, and when you hang around people, who drink all day, you will be drinking, too. It is normal.”

This clearly represents the Social Learning Theory of Bandura: the behaviors of drug use are modeled by the members of the group, the behavioral norms are accepted in the group, and the social identity is strengthened by the belonging to the group. The social attraction of drug-using groups is increased by the lack of alternative prosaically activities.

Theme 3: Idleness as a Risk Factor.

Prolonged inactivity was always found to be one of the main contextual risk factors. A CDO (KI-7) said:

“Idleness is a workshop of the devil. The idle boys find themselves in drug spots. There is no place to go, nothing to do. The drug dealers understand that and they are targeting them.”

Informants explained that unemployed youth, who have no organized daily activities, fall into drug-using meeting places. This organized idleness is the psychosocial process whereby the structural state of unemployment is converted into behavioral consequence of drug addiction.”

Theme 4: Family Breakdown

Ten out of thirteen informants cited weakened family structures as increasing the relationship between unemployment and drug addiction. A LC Leader (KI-1) observed:

“There is a lot of youth here who are not parented. They are raised on the streets, no one knows where they go or who they are with. The street is their family, the street will teach them the drugs.

With parents in economically deprived households in Kawempe in a difficult position themselves, there is little protective role of the family, youth are unfixed to with to resist the pressures of drug use.”

Theme 5: Weak Institutional Response.

All the 13 informants complained of poor responses by the government. Police were seen as ineffective; they said there were no rehabilitation services. One of the youth leaders (KI-9) said:

“We have reported drug dens to the police, yet nothing is done, the same places continue to sell drugs, the police arrive, bribe and go, young people who seek help with their addiction have nowhere to turn.”

According to informants, as key structural shortcomings that allow the continuation of the drug crisis, they named the near-total lack of funded youth employment programs, vocational training centers, and rehabilitation services in Kawempe Division.

Theme 6: Drug Accessibility

The 12 out of 13 informants affirmed that drugs are freely sold within Kawempe Division. An impressive description was given by one female respondent (R-89, age 27):

“You can get marijuana here like you can get bread everywhere. The marijuana sellers are at the entrance of the market.”

The accessibility to drugs is an enabling structural condition with a synergistic interaction with the vulnerability caused by unemployment. Elimination of accessibility barriers by enforcing and regulating and mobilizing communities is equally important as creation of employment to control drug addiction in Kawempe Division.

CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

5.0 Introduction

The chapter presents the results within the theoretical frameworks and literature of the study, and combines both quantitative and qualitative data to come up with a coherent explanation of how unemployment has contributed to drug addiction in Kawempe Division.

5.1 To establish the level of unemployment among the youths in Kawempe Division

This research affirms that youth unemployment is rampant and deeply rooted in Kawempe Division in a structural nature. The data which showed that 64.7% of sampled youths were unemployed and that most of them had been unemployed over a year indicate a community where economic exclusion is the rule and not an exception among the youths. This observation is in line with KCCA (2022) estimates of over 20% unemployment in informal settlements, and UBOS (2022) data on NEET. The high favoritism of corruption as a hindrance (83.2) shows that the youth perceive the employment sector in a proactively involving way and has severe repercussions in terms of mental health and inspirational drive.

The almost universal recognition of low vocational training (82.8%) and skills shortage (81.0) as the factors of unemployment are consistent with the structural argument of the education-employment gap in Uganda (World Bank, 2023). The phenomenon of educated unemployment is emphasized by the educational profile of the respondents who have mostly completed secondary or tertiary education but are still unemployed. By the Strain Theory of Merton, the gap between education-fostered expectations and the realities of unemployment creates exactly the type of strain that pre-disposes young people to deviant adjustment such as drug use. This is further increased by the income results: 47.0% of the respondents report no income, and 75.8% of respondents earn less than UGX 100,000 per month, leading to material deprivation and psychological poverty.

5.2 To investigate the prevalence and trends of drug addiction among young people in Kawempe Division

Drug addiction in Kawempe Division is widespread, multi-substance, and normalized. Alcohol (72.6%), marijuana (61.4%), khat (41.4%), and synthetic drugs (31.2%) are the most common substances consistent with WHO5 (2022) and Ssebunnya et al. (2020). Table 5.1 provides a comparative summary of drug types identified.

Table 5.1: Most Commonly Used Drugs among Youth in Kawempe Division (n = 215)

Type of Drug / Substance	Frequency (n=215)	Percentage (%)	Rank
Alcohol (waragi, beer, spirits)	156	72.6	1st
Marijuana (cannabis)	132	61.4	2nd
Khat (mairungi)	89	41.4	3rd
Synthetic drugs (Kuber, shisha)	67	31.2	4th
Prescription drug misuse	43	20.0	5th
Inhalants / glue	28	13.0	6th
Cocaine / heroin	11	5.1	7th

The dominance of alcohol (72.6) indicates its strong cultural embed and legal, affordability, and ubiquity in the community. Its normalization makes it less socially tabooed to use and a typical entry point to substance use among youth in informal settlements. The result aligns with the recent reports by the World Health Organization (2022) and the Ministry of Health Uganda (2022) that have cited alcohol as the most available and socially acceptable drug that leads to early onset of drug use. Moreover, the statistics of the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2023) also indicate that the rates of unemployment among youth and their vulnerability are high in cities, which also indirectly expose them to substance use. The high prevalence of marijuana (61.4) is in line with the fact that it is the most commonly used illicit drug in Uganda, especially among the youth in urban areas, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2023). Equally, the khat prevalence (41.4) indicates its increased adoption in urban trading community

contexts in Kampala whereby khat is now being used recreationally, particularly by the unemployed youth.

The high consensus that peer influence leads to drug consumption (85.1%, Mean = 4.25) is in line with the current behavior research in which social contexts are known to influence the behavior of the youth. Recent literature indicates that substance use is a behavior that is frequently acquired and strengthened in peer networks, and group norms and social approval are often influential factors in shaping individual decisions. This implies that drug use in young people is more a social issue than a personal one and thus the interventions ought to focus on peer persuasion, social values and community systems.

Moreover, the discovery that 81.9% of the respondents supported the fact that young people start to use drugs early makes serious health concerns. Early introduction into drug use has been closely related to increased dependency, longer addiction cycles, and worse long-term health and social impact. Recent world statistics by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2023) that early exposure puts one at a high risk of chronic substance abuse and long-term socio-economic difficulties support this observation. Also, the reports by Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2023) highlight that young people in urban informal settlements are especially vulnerable due to socio economic factors, lack of supervision and being exposed to risky conditions.

In general, these results demonstrate the necessity of prevention measures at an early age, the tight control of the availability of substances, and community-based interventions that will focus on both the social determinants and the economic predisposition of youth to use drugs.

5.3 Relationship between Unemployment and Drug Addiction

The study observed high positive and statistically significant relationship between drug addiction and unemployment among the youth in Kawempe Division ($r = .743$, $p < .01$). The difference in the drug addiction outcome of approximately 55.2 per cent is attributed to the association and this implies that unemployment is a strong predictor of substance abuse. This relationship is strong and it implies that the association between unemployment and drug addiction is structural in the realities that are lived by the youth. This finding is consistent with the recent literature,

such as Ssebunnya et al. (2020) and Kaggwa et al. (2022) that have established significant associations between socio economic vulnerability and substance use among young people in Uganda. This supports strain theory that argues that stress leads to deviant behavior such as drug use and also consistent with UNODC (2023) which found that unemployment increases substance abuse.

The study further revealed that the relationship is multi-path and that the relationship occurs in many ways which are interconnected. Unemployment has an economic impact, leading to financial deprivation that leads to greater susceptibility to the use of drugs as young people look to other ways of coping. Psychologically, unemployment is also a factor of stress, frustration and hopelessness that have widely been reported to be the cause of substance abuse in recent studies in the sphere of public health. Unemployment socially causes idleness and more exposure to peer networks that reinforce addictive behaviors by normalizing drug use. The recent empirical literature may support such results by emphasizing that the social environments and economic conditions are crucial in influencing the substance use of youth.

The results also indicated that employment is viewed as not only an income generating factor but also a very important protective factor against drug abuse. A huge percentage of the respondents concurred that the provision of jobs would go a long way to decrease substance use. This is in tandem with the recent reports by the International Labour Organization (2023) that underscores the role of decent work in promoting social stability and risky behaviors among the youth. Moreover, the relationship was also determined to be cyclical by determining that drug addiction is another factor that reduces employability by affecting health, productivity and social functioning. This may be related to recent global research such as by Degenhardt et al. (2017) and updated reports by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (2023), suggesting that substance abuse contributes to the social and economic marginalization in the long term.

5.4 Correlation Analysis

The Pearson correlation test ($r=.743$, $p<.01$) provided plenty of quantitative information in demonstrating that there was indeed any significant relationship between unemployment and drug addiction among young people in Kawempe Division. This finding confirms the main

hypothesis of the research and is consistent with recent empirical evidence that shows a high correlation between economic disadvantage and substance abuse.

The discussion which followed revealed that there is a strong correlation between economic stress and unemployment and drug addiction, showing that economic stress is mediating the correlation. This confirms recent studies that point to the fact that financial strain is also a major avenue by which unemployment affects behavioral consequences, such as drug use. Similarly, the social network of peers also came out to be in close relationship with unemployment along with drug addiction that demonstrates that social networks are highly significant in the behaviors of the youth.

These findings are in line with the existing literature such as Ssebunnya et al. (2020) and the publications of the International Labour Organization (2023) that also refer to the synergistic effects of the two economic pressures and social environments on substance use among the youth. Thus, the correlation analysis confirms not only the statistical correlation between unemployment and drug addiction but also supports the existing literature and proves that the problem is multi-dimensional and the intervention should be integrated to cover economic, psychological, and social aspects.

CHAPTER SIX: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.0 Introduction

The last chapter gives conclusions made based on the findings of the study, presents practical evidence-based recommendations to key stakeholders and sets areas of priority that should be considered in any further research.

6.1 Summary of Findings

Objective 1: To establish the level of unemployment among the youths in Kawempe Division

The study established that unemployment among the youth in Kawempe Division is rampant and endemic as it was established that majority of the youth in the locality were unemployed. High percentage of the respondents were unemployed and a good number of them reported that they did not have any reliable source of income signifying a high level of economic vulnerability. Along with the statistics, the findings revealed that unemployment is very structural and not merely an outcome of personal inadequacies. It is driven by structural issues of poor job creation in the formal sector, high competition in the few jobs created and an unstable fit of education outcomes to labor market needs. They also found that corruption and favoritism in systems of recruitment compromised on access to jobs based on merit, and poor vocational and technical training systems limit the employability of youth. The majority of the youths were also trapped in the informal sector jobs that are inconsistent and provide minimal security and earnings. Overall, the study found that unemployment among the young people in the Kawempe Division is an expression of a broader urban livelihood crisis whereby institutional and policy deficiencies play a role in the economic marginalization.

Objective 2: To research on drug addiction prevalence and trends among the youth in Kawempe Division.

The researchers discovered that drug addiction in young people in Kawempe Division is rampant, growing, and becoming more intricate. Alcohol, marijuana and what were identified as the most taken substances, mainly because it is cheap and readily available in the community. The results also indicated that drug consumption has a tendency to start early in life, indicating that there is a strong exposure in the early years and that the prevention measures are weak both

at family and community levels. Among all the trends, the transformation to habitual and dependent use was also prominent, which suggests that addiction becomes more dangerous with time. Peer networks had a very strong impact on drug use, which is normalized and even promoted as a social belonging. Moreover, a significant proportion of the youths said that they resorted to the use of drugs as a stress and frustration and hopelessness coping tool as a result of unemployment and adverse living conditions. The research also revealed the new issues like polydrug abuse and the normalization of substance abuse in informal urban environments, which reflects the growing public health and social issue that is not merely an individual behavioral problem but a community behavioral issue.

Objective 3: To establish the relationship between unemployment and drug addiction among the youths in Kawempe Division.

The research developed a positive, statistically significant and strong correlation between unemployment and drug addiction among the young people proving that unemployment is a major cause of substance abuse. The results revealed that unemployment is a significant factor in explaining the variations in drug addiction outcomes and yet proves to be the key element in youth behavior. This association works in a number of linked channels. Income deprivation makes one more vulnerable and restricted to productive alternatives. Unemployment is also a psychological issue that leads to stress, low self-esteem and hopelessness and this makes the youth resort to substance use as a means of coping. On the social front, unemployment exposes one to peer groups which enhance the normalization of drug use, and idleness allows the risky behaviors to take place. The research also found other reinforcing factors like family disintegration, ineffective institutional support structures and easy access to drugs. Notably, the correlation was identified to be a cyclical relationship because drug addiction has an additional negative impact on employability through the influence on physical health, cognitive abilities and social stability.

A new understanding brought about by the research is that there are few chances that interventions aimed at a single aspect of the issue will be effective. The high level of concurrence between the respondents that the most effective intervention is the creation of employment underscores the need to implement integrated interventions that incorporate

economic empowerment, skills development, mental health support, and empowered community and institutional responses. Thus the research found that unemployment and drug addiction are synergistic structural problems that demand multi-sectoral, long-term, and concerted policy responses.

6.2 Conclusions

I. To establish the level of unemployment among the youths in the Kawempe Division.

The research found that unemployment among youth in Kawempe Division is extensive and rooted in structural and chronic socio-economic problem. The results revealed that a significant percentage of the young people are unemployed or underemployed and access to stable and meaningful income earning activities is minimal. This was not a temporary situation, but a long run reality that was facing most of the youth. The unemployment causes were also identified as multi-dimensional and among them was the scarcity of labor in the labor market with the lack of job opportunities, the skills of the youth mismatch with those needed by employers and the information regarding the labor market. Moreover, the issues of governance, including poor policy enforcement, insufficient support to the youth businesses, and ineffective coordination among stakeholders contributed to the situation. Consequently, the youth unemployment in Kawempe Division was institutionalized as a structural crisis that was dependent on the wider economic and institutional structures and not on personal constraints.

ii. To investigate the prevalence and trends of drug addiction in young people in Kawempe Division.

The research has found that youth drug addiction in the Kawempe Division is prevalent, growing and that it is characterized by patterns of multi substance use. The most commonly used substances were found to be alcohol and marijuana because the drugs were affordable, available and accepted socially. The results showed that the use of drugs usually starts at a tender age putting youth at risks of long-term addiction. The use of drugs has become accepted among peer groups, where they consider it as a stress and frustration coping strategy and as a social activity. Hopelessness, frustration, low self-esteem were psychological factors that were identified to be causing substance use, particularly among the unemployed youth. Inspirations by peers were also

a major factor in initiation and persistence of drug use and the ready availability of drugs in the community also helped to ensure the problem persisted. This evidence shows that substance dependence among young people is a phenomenon that is socially entrenched and is influenced by psychological, social and environmental factors.

iii. To determine the correlation between unemployment and drug addiction among the youths in Kawempe Division.

Based on the research, there was a good and positive and statistically significant correlation between unemployment and drug addiction among the youth with the correlation coefficient of $r = .743$ and significant level of p under 0.01. This shows that unemployment is a key predictor of drug addiction, acting both economically, psychologically and socially. Unemployment, economically, denies youth income and productive activity, leaving them more susceptible to drug abuse. It causes psychological stress, frustration, and feeling purposeless, motivating many young people to use drugs as a coping mechanism. Unemployment, socially, carries the danger of associating with other groups of peers who legitimize drugs. The research also determined that this is a two-way relationship because drug addiction leads to less employability because it also impacts on health, productivity and social functioning and thus makes unemployment stronger. This forms a vicious circle where unemployment and drug addiction perpetuate each other.

The research thus found that the association between unemployment and drug addiction was structural and systemic and that it needed holistic and integrated interventions. The key approach that the community members have seen as the best method of curbing drug abuse is creating employment and the community members have stressed that unemployment is the best way of addressing drug abuse among the youths in the Kawempe Division.

6.3 Recommendations

On behalf of the Government of Uganda.

The Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development ought to drastically increase the Youth Livelihood Programs (YLP) and Emyooga Fund in Kawempe Division with clear and disbursement without patronage. The fact that 83.2 percent of the respondents supported corruption as a hindrance to employment highlights the need to urgently reform governance.

The Ministry of Education and Sports needs to increase TVET institutions in the Kawempe Division that has a curricula that is relevant to local labor market needs, i.e. construction, vehicle mechanics, ICT, tailoring and food processing.

Ministry of Health ought to have at least two publicly funded drug rehabilitation and counselling Centres in Kawempe Division, which are readily available to the low-income youth at no cost. The lack of free rehabilitation facilities altogether is a severe gap in the public health.

Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA).

KCCA is encouraged to adopt a specific youth employment program in the Kawempe Division where unemployed young people within the ages of 18-35 can be employed in the public works and community services. Organized employment is a two-fold intervention that decreases unemployment as well as drug addiction.

KCCA needs to implement the current regulations of licensing and zoning of alcohol and drug retail outlets, which will decrease the density of any drug access point around schools, youth centres and areas where communities gather. The 86.0 percent agreement that drugs are readily accessible means that there is a failure in enforcement of regulations.

KCCA needs to collaborate with the civil society to set up community-based youth recreation, sports and skills development Centres in Bwaise I, Bwaise II and Kazo that offer organized options to drug use areas.

In case of NGOs and Community Organizations.

NGOs ought to adopt peer education programs which capitalize on youth peer networks as the main process of drug use acquisition as avenues of behavior change communication.

Community organizations are expected to support the process of family strengthening programs such as parenting skills training and economic assistance to reestablish protective family structures.

Outreach and case management of high-risk unemployed youth should be implemented by social workers and CDOs, which involves counselling, referral of skills training, and participation in support groups.

In Schools and Educational Institutions.

Comprehensive life skills and drug education programs in Kawempe Division should be initiated in Senior One in secondary schools to address social pressures and job preparation of economically marginalized youths.

Tertiary institutions ought to set up graduate job support services such as job matching, CV writing, and entrepreneurship training with a special focus on informal settlement youth.

6.4 Areas for Further Research

Longitudinal study of the same cohort over 3-5 years would yield more causal evidence and provide the trajectories of the unemployment to drug addiction.

A cross-division analysis of various Kampala divisions would determine the extent to which the findings can be generalized to all parts of the city and determine moderating factors that are specific to the division.

Studies into gender-differentiated unemployment to drug addiction would be used to design interventions that are responsive to gender, considering recent rising trends in female youth drug consumption.

Evidence on the resource allocation and program scale-up would be based on research on the effectiveness of particular intervention programs employment schemes, rehabilitation services, peer education.

Further studies should examine the long term effects of unemployment on drug addiction in other regions of Uganda and explore additional factors influencing behavior.

REFERENCES

- Bachman, J. G., Wadsworth, K. N., O'Malley, P. M., Johnston, L. D., & Schulenberg, J. E. (2013). *Smoking, drinking, and drug use in young adulthood*. Psychology Press. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203763797>
- Creswell, J. W. (2013). *Research design: Qualitative and quantitative approaches*. SAGE Publications.
- Degenhardt, L., Peacock, A., College, S., Leung, J., Grebely, J., Vickerman, P., & Vos, T. (2017). Global prevalence of drug use and dependence: Findings from the Global Burden of Disease Study. *The Lancet Psychiatry*, 4(10), 757–769.
- Hammarström, A. (1994). Health consequences of youth unemployment—Review from a gender perspective. *Social Science & Medicine*, 38(5), 699–709. [https://doi.org/10.1016/0277-9536\(94\)90460-X](https://doi.org/10.1016/0277-9536(94)90460-X)
- Hammer, T. (1992). Unemployment and use of drug and alcohol among young people: A longitudinal study in the general population. *British Journal of Addiction*, 87(11), 1571–1581. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1360-0443.1992.tb02665.x>
- Henkel, D. (2011). Unemployment and substance use: A review of the literature (1990–2010). *Current Drug Abuse Reviews*, 4(1), 4–27.
- International Labour Organization (ILO). (2023). *Global employment trends for youth 2023*. ILO.
- Kaggwa, M. M., Najjuka, S. M., Bongomin, F., Najjuka, R., & Kigozi, J. (2022). Prevalence and factors associated with substance use among youths in Uganda. *BMC Psychiatry*, 22(1), 1–9.
- Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA). (2022). *Kampala city statistical abstract*. Kampala Capital City Authority.
- Kothari, C. R. (2019). *Research methodology: Methods and techniques* (4th ed.). New Age International Publishers.

- Krejcie, R. V., & Morgan, D. W. (1970). Determining sample size for research activities. *Educational and Psychological Measurement*, 30, 607–610.
- MacLean, S., Berends, L., Hunter, B., Roberts, B., & Mugavin, J. (2012). Factors that enable and hinder the implementation of projects in the alcohol and other drug field. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 36(1), 61–68. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1753-6405.2011.00804.x>
- Melchior, M., Chollet, A., Elidemir, G., Galéra, C., & Younès, N. (2015). Unemployment and substance use in young adults: Does educational attainment modify the association? *European Addiction Research*, 21(3), 115–123. <https://doi.org/10.1159/000365887>
- Morojele, N. K., Brook, J. S., & Brook, D. W. (2012). Substance use and youth risk behavior in African urban communities. *Substance Use & Misuse*, 47(8–9), 1123–1131.
- Nolte-Troha, C., Roser, P., Henkel, D., Scherbaum, N., Koller, G., & Franke, A. G. (2023). Unemployment and substance use: An updated review of studies from North America and Europe. *Healthcare*, 11(8), 1182. <https://doi.org/10.3390/healthcare11081182>
- Nuwagira, J., & Muwonge, C. (2019). Substance abuse among youth in urban informal settlements in Kampala, Uganda. *African Journal of Drug & Alcohol Studies*, 18(2), 45–60.
- Oshodi, O., Aina, O., & Onajole, A. (2010). Substance use among secondary school students in an urban setting in Nigeria: Prevalence and associated factors. *African Journal of Psychiatry*, 13(1), 52–57.
- Ssebunnya, J., Kituyi, C., Nabanoba, J., Nakku, J., & Kigozi, F. (2020). Substance abuse among youth in Uganda: Patterns and associated factors. *BMC Psychiatry*, 20(1), 1–9.
- Thern, E., Ramstedt, M., & Svensson, J. (2020). Long-term effects of youth unemployment on alcohol-related morbidity. *Addiction*, 115(3), 418–425. <https://doi.org/10.1111/add.14838>
- World Bank. (2023). *Uganda economic update: Investing in Uganda's youth*. World Bank.
- World Health Organization (WHO). (2022). *Global status report on alcohol and health*. WHO.

APPENDICES

Appendix i: Research Questionnaire

Introduction

Title: The influence of unemployment on drug addiction among the youth in Kawempe Division.

You are invited to participate in this study. The information you provide is strictly confidential and will only be used for academic purposes. You are kindly requested to respond honestly. Do not write your name anywhere on this questionnaire.

Please tick (✓) the option that best represents your opinion.

Section A: Demographic Information

1. Gender

☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Prefer not to say

2. Age Group

☐ 18–24 ☐ 25–29 ☐ 30–35

3. Level of Education

☐ Primary ☐ Secondary ☐ Tertiary ☐ University

4. Employment Status

☐ Employed ☐ Self-employed ☐ Unemployed

5. Duration of Unemployment (if unemployed)

☐ Less than 6 months ☐ 6–12 months ☐ 1–2 years ☐ Above 2 years

6. Monthly income level

☐ No income ☐ Less than 100,000 ☐ UGX 100,000 - 300,000 ☐ Above 300,000UGX

Please indicate the extent to which you agree with each statement by ticking (✓) one option:

Scale	Description
1	Strongly Disagree
2	Disagree
3	Neutral
4	Agree
5	Strongly Agree

SECTION B: EXTENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUTH

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
Job opportunities for youth in Kawempe Division are limited					
Many youth remain unemployed despite having qualifications					
Lack of practical skills contributes to youth unemployment					
Corruption and favoritism affect access to employment opportunities					
Youth unemployment is increasing in Kawempe Division					
Youth lack access to information about job opportunities					
There are limited vocational training opportunities for the youths					

SECTION C: LEVEL AND PATTERNS OF DRUG ADDICTION

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
Drug use is widespread among the youth in Kawempe Division					
Alcohol is commonly used among the youth					
Marijuana and other drugs are easily accessible					
Peer pressure contributes to drug use among the youth					
Youth use drugs to cope with frustration					
Youth use drugs to cope with stress					
Drug addiction among youth is increasing in the community					
Youth use drugs frequently (daily or weekly)					
Youth begin using drugs at an early age					

SECTION D: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN UNEMPLOYMENT AND DRUG ADDICTION

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
Unemployment increases the likelihood of drug use among the youth					
Lack of income contributes to the involvement in drug related activities					
Drug addiction reduces employment opportunities among the youth					
There is a relationship between unemployment and drug addiction					
Creating employment opportunities can reduce drug abuse among youth					
Drug addiction reduces productivity among youth					

SECTION E: ACCESS & ENVIRONMENT

Statement	1	2	3	4	5
Drugs are easily available in the community					
There are many places where youth can access drugs					
Law enforcement against drug use is weak					
Community programs to prevent drug abuse are limited					

In your opinion, what do you think can be done to reduce drug addiction among the unemployed Youth?

.....

Appendix ii: Interview Guide

Introduction

This interview guide is designed to collect qualitative data on the extent of unemployment, patterns of drug addiction, and the relationship between these variables among youth in Kawempe Division. The information provided is treated with strict confidentiality and is used solely for academic purposes. Participation is voluntary, and respondents are free to withdraw at any time.

Section A: Background Information

1. Kindly describe your background (age, gender, occupation, and role in the community).
2. How long have you lived or worked in Kawempe Division?
3. What is your level of interaction with youth in this area?

Section B: Extent of Youth Unemployment

4. How do you describe the current level of unemployment among youth in Kawempe Division?
5. What are the major causes of unemployment among youth in this area?
6. Which groups of youth are most affected by unemployment (e.g., by education level, gender, or skills)?
7. What challenges do unemployed youth face in trying to secure jobs?
8. What programs or initiatives exist to address youth unemployment in this area?
9. How effective are these interventions in reducing unemployment?

Section C: Level and Patterns of Drug Addiction among Youth

10. How common is drug use among youth in Kawempe Division?
11. What types of drugs are commonly used by youth in this area?
12. What factors contribute to drug addiction among youth?
13. How does peer influence affect drug use among youth?
14. What are the social and economic effects of drug addiction on youth?

15. Are there any interventions or programs aimed at reducing drug abuse among youth?
16. How effective are these interventions?

Section D: Relationship between Unemployment and Drug Addiction

17. In your view, how does unemployment influence drug addiction among youth?
18. Are unemployed youth more vulnerable to drug abuse? Please explain.
19. How does drug addiction affect the ability of youth to gain or maintain employment?
20. Is there a cyclical relationship between unemployment and drug addiction? If yes, how?
21. What evidence or experiences support the link between unemployment and drug addiction in this area?

Section E: Coping Mechanisms and Community Response

22. How do unemployed youth cope with their situation?
23. What role do families and communities play in addressing drug addiction?
24. How do local leaders and institutions respond to these challenges?

Section F: Recommendations

25. What strategies would you recommend to reduce youth unemployment in Kawempe Division?
26. What measures can be taken to reduce drug addiction among youth?
27. What integrated approaches can address both unemployment and drug addiction simultaneously?
28. What role should government and other stakeholders play in addressing these issues?

Closing

Thank you for your time and valuable insights. Your contribution is highly appreciated and will support a better understanding of youth challenges in Kawempe Division.

Appendix iii: Informed Consent Form

Section A: Study Information

1.Project Title: Influence of Unemployment on Drug Addiction among Youth in Kawempe Division, Kampala District.

2.Researcher: Nalubega Aisha, a student of Uganda Christian University Mukono campus pursuing a bachelor's Degree in Social Work final year.

3.Purpose: This research is being conducted to examine how a lack of employment opportunities contributes to drug addiction patterns in Kawempe Division to inform better social policy and community intervention.

Section B: Participant Rights and Ethics

i) Voluntary Participation: Your participation in this study is entirely voluntary. You may refuse to answer any specific question or withdraw from the study at any time without any penalty.

ii) Confidentiality: All information provided will be treated with strict confidentiality. Your name and identity will not be disclosed in the final dissertation or any subsequent reports.

iii) Anonymity: Data will be coded to ensure that individual responses cannot be traced back to specific participants.

iv) Risks and Benefits: There are no direct physical risks. However, discussing unemployment and drug use may be sensitive. The benefit is contributing to knowledge that may help improve youth services in your community.

Section C: Consent Declaration I confirm that I have been briefed on the nature and purpose of this study. I have had the opportunity to ask questions, and they have been answered to my satisfaction. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I can withdraw at any time.

Participant Signature: _____ **Date:** _____ **Researcher**
Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Appendix iv: Activity Work Plan

The activity work plan outlines the key research activities, timelines, and duration required to complete the study.

Activity Work Plan

Activity	January	February	March	April	May
Proposal writing	Done				
Proposal submission & approval			Done		
Literature review		Done			
Development of research instruments			Done		
Data collection				Done	
Data analysis				Done	
Report writing				Done	
Final submission				Done	

Appendix V: Introductory Letter from The University



**UGANDA CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY**

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

April 2, 2026

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: INTRODUCTORY LETTER FOR RESEARCH

This is to introduce to you Nalubega Aisha Registration number 523B15/085, a student of Uganda Christian University, pursuing Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Administration. She is expected to carry out research in the final year under the guidance of a university supervisor in partial fulfillment for the requirements of the above-mentioned award.

Topic: "INFLUENCE OF UNEMPLOYMENT ON DRUG ADDICTION AMONG THE YOUTHS IN KAWEMPE DIVISION, KAMPALA DISTRICT."

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

Yours faithfully,


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

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

P.O. Box 4, Mukono, Uganda (East Africa), Plot 67-173, Bishop Tucker Road, Mukono Hill, Tel: +256 (0) 31 235 0800, www.ucu.ac.ug
Ugandachristianuniversity @UCUniversity, Founded by the Province of Church of Uganda, Chartered by the Government of Uganda.