

**PRIMARY FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO HOMELESSNESS IN INDUSTRIAL  
DIVISION OF MBALE CITY**

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**J22/MUC/BSW/001**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL  
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**UGANDA CHRISTIAN  
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**DECLARATION**

I **AJOK BRENDA** with Reg. No. **J22/MUC/BSW/001**, humbly declare that this is an original copy of my research report from my own effort. It has never been presented to any Institution of higher learning for any academic award.

Signed..........

Date:.....*25/09/2024*.....

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## APPROVAL SHEET

I certify that this research has been under my supervision and it's her original work carried out as a partial requirement for the Academic award of a Bachelor's Degree in social work and social administration of Uganda Christian University.

Signed .....  .....

Date ..... 25/09/2024 .....

MADAM PIMER JESSICA

UNIVERSITY SUPERVISOR

## **DEDICATION**

I would wish to dedicate this research to my beloved Family for their brotherly support as well as charity rendered to me. All along from the beginning to this far which has enabled me to successfully complete this course.

May the Almighty God Bless You Abundantly?

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

My great gratitude goes to God the Almighty who has enabled me to successfully complete this wonderful exercise.

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In a special way, I take this opportunity to recognize the principle of Uganda Christian University who is none other than Dr. Kigenyi Erisa and his staff to begin with College Secretary Madam Amony Elizabeth, Academic registrar Mr. Akampulira Timothy among others for the wonderful service they offer to us.

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## **LIST ACRONYMS**

EFA	Education for All
GMR	Global Monitoring Report
MOH	Ministry of Health
MOST	Modular Skills Training
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NOFT	Non Organic Failure to Thrive
NPE	National Policy on Education
TIME	Training Initiative for Mature Employees
UN	United Nations
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNHS	Uganda National House Survey

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## **ABSTRACT**

Homelessness is one of the most threatening challenges affecting both the global and national citizens. The complexity of homelessness, influenced by several primary factors, requires a multi-faceted approach to effectively address and mitigate its impact on individuals and communities industrial city division. This study sought to determine primary factors contributing to homelessness in Industrial City Division of Mbale City and it was guided by three to determine the various forms of homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City, to determine the factors that contributes to homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City and to determine interventions for preventing homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City. The study used qualitative case study design to analyze data from the study area with the help of both qualitative and quantitative methods. The researcher collected data from 15 respondents in the study area who were selected using simple random and purpose sampling and questionnaires together with interview guide were used to collect data. The study discovered that hidden homelessness is a common form of harmlessness. Other forms of homelessness found by the study included, transitional homelessness, episodic homelessness, chronic homelessness is also common. Findings also revealed that rent and eviction was found to contribute to homelessness. Other contributory actors found by the study included poverty, physical and mental health, human and natural disasters and discrimination findings show that provision of housing subsidies may help prevent homelessness. Further, study findings show that provision of night shelters for street sleepers and transitional housing is an intervention measure in preventing homelessness. Other interventions included provision of supportive and housing emergence services can help prevent homeless situations among the people. The study recommended that government and stakeholders should put in place measures of housing subsidies to improve peoples' access to affordable but decent housing and government in conjunction with local leaders should sensitize the population about the dangers of homelessness and help build their capacities to own homes. Other recommendation included that government and stakeholders should provide temporary housing units to homeless people

# CHAPTER ONE

## GENERAL INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Introduction

This study is about the primary factors contributing to homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City. Homelessness has transited into one of the most contemporary challenges of modern era and is a state of being un-housed or unsheltered and is the condition of lacking stable, safe, and functional housing. The cost of homelessness to children, their families and communities is a significant obstacle to reducing poverty and meeting sustainable development goals (SDGs) (Ojangole et al., 2022). This study was guided by three specific objectives which include; to determine the various kinds of homelessness that exist in Industrial Division of Mbale City, to determine the various factors that contributes to homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City and to determine interventions that can be put in place to stop homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City.

In order to understand the problem of homelessness and the factors contributing to it, this chapter presents the background of the study, the problem statement, the research objectives and questions, justification and the significance of the study, the scope of the study, the conceptual framework of the research and the definitions of the key words that were used in the study.

### 1.2 Background of the Study

#### 1.2.1 Globally

Globally, the homelessness crisis continues to be a major challenge, affecting millions. According to The Homeless World Cup, reports indicated that around 150 million people were homeless worldwide; a significant increase from previous annual estimates (World Bank, 2017). This crisis is compounded by the fact that as many as 1.6 billion people lack adequate housing, demonstrating the vast scale of housing insecurity that extends beyond the visibly homeless population. According to HUD's 2023 Annual Homeless Assessment Report, in the United States, the homelessness situation has seen a worrying uptrend, with approximately 653,100 people experiencing homelessness on a single night in 2023, reflecting a 12% increase from the previous year. This rise in homelessness highlights a persistent issue that spans across all

demographics and regions within the country.

Looking at the global perspective, countries such as Pakistan, Nigeria, and the United States are among those with the highest numbers of homeless individuals, each facing unique challenges and contributing factors to the issue. Pakistan, for instance, has the highest number of homeless people, estimated at 8 million (Arce, Tadlock, and Vergare, 2020). These statistics underscore the universal nature of homelessness in both developing and developed nations alike. Efforts to address this crisis involve a combination of increasing housing affordability, enhancing support services, like Homeless No More, and implementing comprehensive policies aimed at prevention and support. The complexity of homelessness, influenced by economic, social, and health-related factors, requires a multi-faceted approach to effectively address and mitigate its impact on individuals and communities worldwide.

In Europe, at least 895,000 people are estimated to be homeless on any one night, according to the European Federation of National Organizations working with the Homeless (FEANTSA) in research published in September 2023. This was based on the most recent national statistics in 23 European countries, recording 533,054 people as homeless, and applying the average percentage of homeless people in those countries (0.174%) to Europe's total estimated population in 2022 (513 million). Since the late 1990s, housing policy has been a devolved matter, and state support for homeless people, together with legal rights in housing, have therefore diverged to a certain degree (Arce, Tadlock, and Vergare, 2020). While in United States, overcrowded housing is directly related to the phenomenon of homelessness. In a typical situation, two or more families are doubled up in a housing unit that should only accommodate one family. For example, the New York City Housing Authority, relying primarily on readings of water usage, estimated in 2020 that some 17,000 families were illegally doubled up in its 150,000 units and described the problem as growing geometrically (Ruleis et al., 2020). The stresses produced by that arrangement, including tensions in relationships among the various people who are living together, often lead to displacement of individuals, families, or both. These people may double up again, turn to the shelters, or find themselves on the streets.

Homelessness does not take on a single form or shape. The ways in which housing markets, employment, income, public benefit programs, and deinstitutionalization interact to produce and perpetuate homelessness are complex and vary with the individual. Homelessness or uselessness also known as a state of being un-housed or unsheltered and is the

condition of lacking stable, safe, and functional housing (UN, 2019). The general category includes disparate situations, such as living on the streets, moving between temporary accommodation such as family or friends, living in boarding houses with no security of tenure, and people who leave their domiciles because of civil conflict and are refugees within their country. The legal status of homeless people varies from place to place.

In the developing world, policies and intervention to address homelessness in all categories are largely proving ineffective in reducing numbers. There are two main reasons for this. First the sheer scale of homelessness is so immense that the resources it demands are outside the scope of many governments. One reason why enumeration tend to focus on street sleeping, ignoring the greater number in abjectly inadequate housing, is because it will produce a lower number to be provided for (Nuwagaba, 2017). The second reason why interventions fail is because they are focused on the provision of formal housing, which demonstrates a lack of understanding of homeless people's needs and priorities. In the developing world, the immediate priority of most homeless people is not housing but income generation. Housing, even shelter, is secondary to this.

### **1.2.2 The situation of homelessness in Africa**

Homelessness in Africa is shaped by social and economic insecurity which is worsened by informal housing and lack of legislation by the government (Mwank et al., 2020). Financial pressure put on those living on the street is worsened as they have no ability to accumulate wealth, unlike the shack population. Of the top 10 countries in Africa with the highest level of homelessness, Nigeria and Egypt are leading with 24.4 million and 12 million people respectively; living without a place they can call home. The other eight countries are DR Congo, 5,332,000; Somalia, 2,968,000; Sudan, 2,730,000; Ethiopia, 2,693,000, South Sudan, 1,542,000; Cameroon, 1,033,000; Mozambique, 769,000 and Burkina Faso, 700,000. Nigeria, particularly, has a dire housing situation with its homeownership level being as low as 25 percent of its over 200 million population (World Bank, 2020). The country's housing deficit is estimated variously at 17 million, 20 million, 22 million and 28 million units though the central government once insisted there was no deficit in the country. Due to the impact of a good number of challenges ranging from high input and energy costs to volatile exchange rates, regulatory issues bordering on long, tortuous and costly property registration processes, and infrastructure challenges, the

housing supply is sub-optimal. According to available statistics, Nigeria's housing deficit requires 700,000 housing units to be produced annually for the next 20 years to bridge. But currently, the average annual supply by both public and private developers is put at 50,000 units (World Bank, 2020).

Homelessness in South Africa dates back to the apartheid period. Increasing unemployment, lack of affordable housing, social disintegration, and social and economic policies have all been identified as contributing factors to the issue (African Union Commission, 2020). Some scholars argue that solutions to homelessness in South Africa lie more within the private sphere than in the legal and political spheres. There is no national census on homeless people in South Africa, researchers instead rely on individual studies of homeless persons in particular cities. The South African homeless population has been estimated at 200,000 (World Bank, 2020). One study found that three out of four South African metropolitan municipalities viewed homelessness primarily as a social dependency issue, responding with social interventions.

In Egypt, the housing problem is considered one of the most urgent problems facing the country's development programmes. The problem, according to analysts, emanates from high rates of population growth, rise in domestic migration from rural to urban areas, and the concentration of available public funding in the construction of new housing units (Okitai et al., 2019). Homelessness in the country is a significant social issue affecting some 12 million people. The country has over 1,200 areas designated for irregular dwellings that do not conform to standard building laws, allowing homeless people to build shacks and other shelters for themselves

Given the depth and severity of homelessness situation in Africa, Onamia and Osile et al., (2020) argued that there has been no comprehensive single author survey on the factors contributing to homelessness challenges. Not that the subject has suffered from any lack of interests but many historical scholars and publications particularly in Africa and elsewhere have often been drawn more to the international scene than to the potentially more hazardous subject of secondary school management at home. Very few historical nodes have been made on the subject of homelessness and the resulting literature has, however, almost exclusively taken the form of edited volumes, specialized monographs and polemical contributions to debates and this is the gap this study intends to fill.

### **1.2.3 Homelessness in Uganda**

In Uganda, homelessness is not a choice. Contrary to stereotypes linking homelessness with criminality and drug addiction, the reality is different. Many homeless individuals are facing family issues, parental loss, or have been affected by natural disasters. These circumstances can lead to homelessness, emphasizing the need for empathy and understanding rather than judgment. Uganda has a deficit of 2.4 million housing units; of this, about 210,000 units are in urban areas and 1.395 million in rural areas (Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, 2021). About 900,000 housing units are below standard. In a year, about 40,000 housing units are constructed in rural areas and 20,000 in urban areas but the need for new housing is estimated at 200,000 housing units of which 135,000 are in rural and 65,000 in urban areas. About 7.3 million households in Uganda occupy 6.2 million units with an average household size of 4.6 persons (UNBS, 2021). It should be noted that the national occupancy density is estimated at 1.1 households per housing unit. The Uganda housing deficit is a function of supply constraints and there is limited effective demand for formally constructed housing units due to their costs.

Consequently, the majority who cannot afford formal housing are pushed into slums thus increasing population densities in urban areas. This leads to loss of revenue, unemployment, violent crime, disease, urban political strife, and poor educational outcomes for children living in poor and inadequate housing conditions. Habitat for Humanity Uganda's strategy (2022-2027) complements the government's efforts in realizing Uganda's Vision 2040, National Development Plan III, Sustainable Development Agenda, and the National Housing Policy 2021. By 2020, Habitat for Humanity Uganda projects to serve over 100,000 vulnerable families although Uganda's widening housing deficit is estimated at 2.4 million housing units (Habitat for Humanity Uganda, 2022)

Mbale City in the eastern part of Uganda. It began as a commercial center for Arab slave traders and later attracted Indian traders who had come to East Africa to build the railway line. Eventually, Mbale became the Uganda Government's administrative center for the Eastern Uganda region (District Report, 2021). The major challenges facing Mbale City are growth of

informal human settlements, poor land records, lack of serviced land, poor land tenure system, outdated structure plans, political interference in decision making, outdated laws, high urban population, and inadequate human resources. Mbale town is experiencing typical problems associated with homelessness such as high population growth and unemployment, lack of basic urban services, inadequate housing units and inadequate waste management.

Mbale City is one of the most competitive and attractive business centers in Eastern Uganda. This has further been aided by its close proximity to Kenya. Mbale's status as a business hub has resulted in high rates of migration into the town as many people flock to Mbale in search of livelihood opportunities. This has led to high population growth and which has caused a strain on the town's social infrastructure and led to the mushrooming of slums such as Kikyafu, Kisenyi, Mooni, and Namatala /Malukhu among others (Mbale City report, 2020). Mbale City is characterized by high levels of poverty, poor and illegally constructed housing structures, overcrowding, poor sanitation, and inadequate basic services delivery. This situation can be attributed to rapid urbanization that has not matched the capacity to plan and manage urban growth. The growth of slums has therefore become a natural indicator of the effects of rapid urbanization. Rural to urban migrations is by far the most significant driving force behind homelessness. This migration has resulted in the fast development of informal settlements as most of the immigrants are poor and cannot afford to live in good quality houses.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

According to situational analysis report of Industrial City division of Mbale City (2023), homelessness is a common problem and no policy intervention has been put in place to address the challenge. Evidence from the situational analysis report show that more than 39,000 people are estimated to be homeless who occupy more than 335 acres of land in Industrial division. Despite of what the government has done government to address the problem of homelessness in Industrial City Division of Mbale City, preliminary findings show that in Industrial City division of Mbale City, the problem of homelessness has continued to persist. Additionally, past studies have been instrumental (albeit often intentionally) in ignoring the problem of homelessness problem. Evidence however is both confusing and conflicting in industrial division. For example, Mwiti et al., (2022) study presents an extended exposition of historical antecedents of

the present situation regarding the factors contributing to homelessness. She failed to address the issue in an increasingly exploited range and his findings do not match the subtlety and rigor of the subject matter. She did not pursue a line of inquiry that is fundamental to any analysis of homelessness situations. These studies remain unsatisfactory and especially, lack that coherent and conceptually guided approach to the subject matter of homelessness thus creating a research opportunity for this study.

#### **1.4 The Purpose of the Study**

The aim of the study was to determine the primary factors contributing to homelessness in Industrial City Division of Mbale City.

#### **1.5 Objective of the study**

- I. To determine the various forms of homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City.
- II. To determine the factors that contributes to homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City.
- III. To determine interventions for preventing homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City.

#### **1.6 Research questions**

- I. What are the various forms of homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City?
- II. What are the factors that contribute to homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City?
- III. What interventions can be put in place to help prevent homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City?

#### **1.7 Scope of the study**

The study focused on the primary factors contributing to homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City. The study scope was categorized into geographical, content and time as follows:

##### **1.7.1 Geographical Scope**

The study was carried out in industrial city division of Mbale City. Mbale City is found in

Bugisu Sub-Region, in Eastern Region of Uganda. It is approximately 231 KMs, by road, east of Kampala, the capital and largest city of Uganda. It's also bordered by Sironko in the North, Tororo in the south west and Kumi in the North West, Pallisa in the west and the republic of Kenya in the East It lies at the western foot of the extinct Mount Elgon Volcano, which is 4321 meters above the sea level. The coordinates of the district are: 01 21N, 34 03E.

### **1.7.2 Content scope**

The study contained information about the primary factors contributing to homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City. It specifically determined various kinds of homelessness that exist in Industrial Division of Mbale City and determine the various factors that contribute to homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City. The study also determined interventions that can be put in place to stop homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City. Through this content scope, the researcher was able to collect adequate and relevant information that helped to attain study objectives.

### **1.7.3 Time Scope**

The research study considered the period of four months, i.e. from May-Aug 2024. This period has been considered because it is during this time that the situation of homelessness increased (UHDS 2022, Department of Community Development Report, 2024).

### **1.8 Justification of the study**

Similar studies have been done but have not investigated primary factors contributing to homelessness in Industrial City Division of Mbale City and this has provided a research opportunity for this study. For example, Livingstone et al, (2022) study broadly assessed poverty and decent housing not hopelessness. While other studies considered ethnic conflicts and homelessness (eg, Battle et al, 2021), thus causing distortions and limitations in literature. This study was therefore investigated primary factors contributing to homelessness in Industrial City Division of Mbale City.

## **1.8 Significance of the study**

The results of the study may go a long way to help strengthen the implementation of policies that improve the housing situation of people

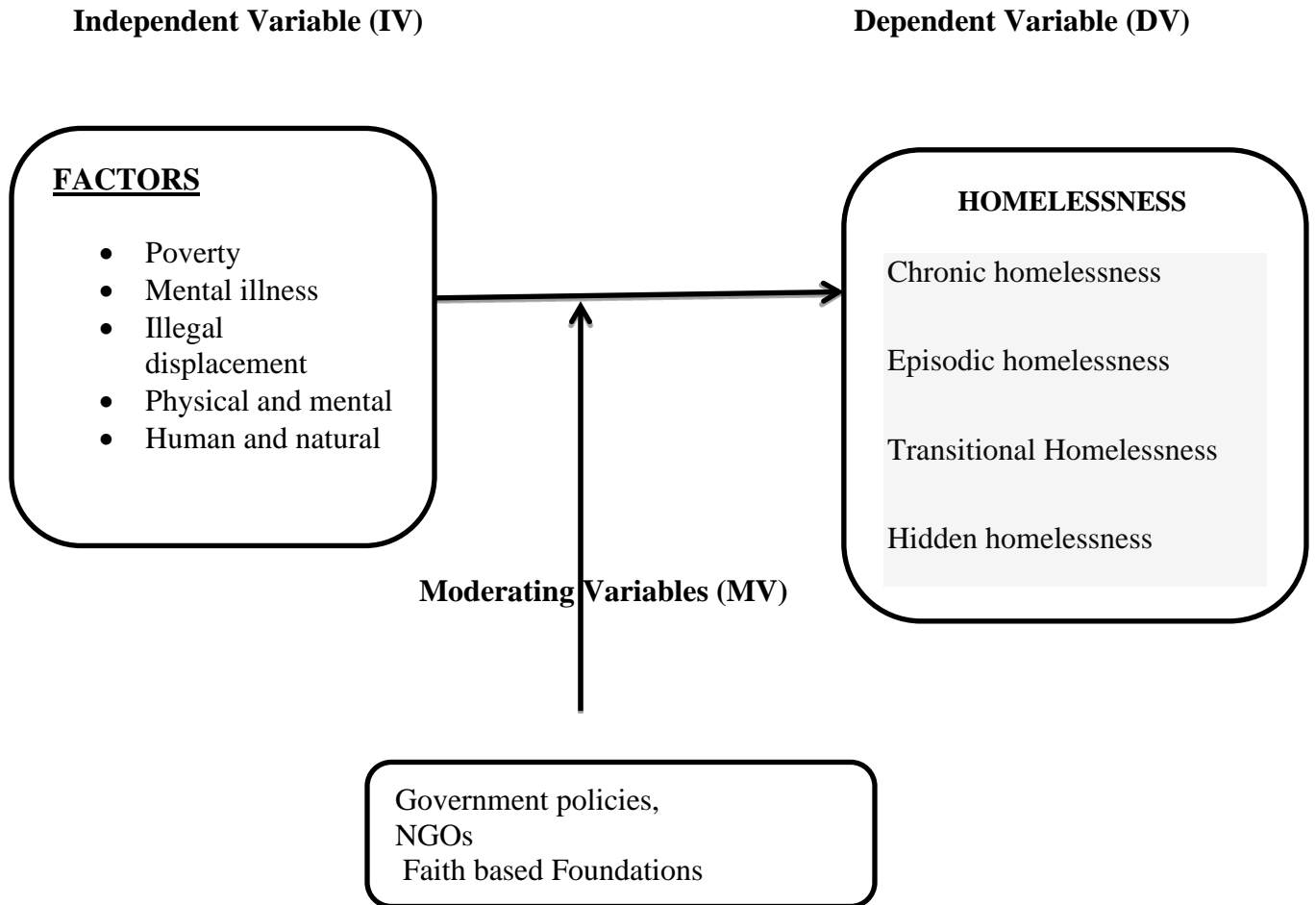
It may also help to form a basis for future planning and negotiations with various stakeholders on housing policies that addresses plights of homeless people

The study may contribute to the existing body of knowledge on the primary factors contributing to homelessness

The study may act as reference to future researchers who want to conduct research in similar area of study.

## **1.9 Conceptual Framework**

The conceptual framework illustrates the relationship between variables, with factors as an independent variable contributing to homeless as the dependent variable. It also considers moderating variables such as government policies and child rights laws that may influence this relationship.



**Fig 1.1 showing conceptual frame work**

**Source: Mile s& Huberman (2009, p. 18) and modified by the researcher, 2024**

### **1.10 Definition of variables**

#### **Independent Variable**

An independent variable is exactly what it sounds like. It is a variable that stands alone and isn't changed by the other variables you are trying to measure. In fact, when one looking for some kind of relationship between variables you are trying to see if the independent variable causes some kind of change in the other variables, or dependent variables. In this study factors represent independent variable and they include Poverty, Mental illness, Illegal displacement, Physical and mental and Human and natural

## **Dependent Variable**

A dependent variable is the variable that changes as a result of the independent variable manipulation. It's the outcome you're interested in measuring, and it “depends” on your independent variable. In statistics, dependent variables are also called: Response variables (they respond to a change in another variable). The dependent variable in this case is homelessness with parameters of chronic homelessness, episodic homelessness, transitional homelessness and hidden homelessness

## **Moderating Variables**

A moderating variable, also known as an interaction variable, affects the strength or direction of the relationship between an independent variable and a dependent variable. Unlike mediator variables that explain the mechanism or process, moderating variables influence the relationship between variables under specific conditions. In this study government policies, NGOs and faith based foundations

### **1.11 Key Definitions**

#### **a) Primary factors:**

**b) Homelessness:** There are many definitions of what it means to be homeless, but the most widely accepted definition of homelessness comprises three categories, which capture the diversity of homelessness experiences.

1. **Primary homelessness** – is when people don't have conventional accommodation. For example, sleeping rough or in improvised dwellings like sleeping in their car.
2. **Secondary homelessness** – is when people are forced to move from one temporary shelter to another. For example, moving between emergency accommodation and refuges. This includes ‘couch surfing’ which is when someone ‘crashes’ at the home of a friend or relative.
3. **Tertiary homelessness** – is when people live in accommodation that falls below minimum standards. This can be a boarding house or caravan park, or a household that is severely overcrowded.

## **1.11 Chapter summary**

Homelessness is a challenging experience to the victims. It possesses not only a healthy risk but also social and economic drawbacks. In order to understand how big the problem of homelessness is, this chapter presented the back ground to the study, problem statement, and purpose of the study, objectives of the study, research questions, and scope of the study, significance of the study and conceptual frame work and definition of key terms. The next chapter will discuss an array of past studies that are significantly related to the area under investigation. During the review, the research study will consider conceptual, contextual, theatrical and methodological genius of authors and endeavored to point out gaps in this studies that this study will address.

## **1.12 Conclusion**

The introduction section has discussed the background to the study, problem statement, objectives and study scope well as significance of the findings and conceptual frame work. This section outlined the gaps and presented the rationale for the study. This led to the statement of the problem. The researcher identified existing studies to support the problem under investigation. The next chapter will discuss an array of past studies that are significantly related to the area under investigation. During the review, the research study will consider conceptual, contextual, theatrical and methodological genius of authors and endeavored to point out gaps in this studies that this study will address.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1. Introduction.**

This study is about the primary factors contributing to homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City. This chapter discusses the various literatures related to the topic of this research. The sources includes; review of scholarly journals, government documents, text books, Internet and Newspapers, it also presents theoretical review, actual review on the effect of street vending on pupil's lives. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (2017) and Kumar (2019) interprets literature review as the systematic identification, location and analysis of documents containing information related to the research problem being investigated, which forms an integral part of the entire research process and makes a valuable contribution to almost every operational step in the research. Review of the literature is very important because it provide the needed support to the researcher's rationale for undertaking researcher in the field of primary factors contributing to homelessness.

The literature reviewed below has been guided by three specific objectives which included: To determine various kinds of homelessness that exist in Industrial Division of Mbale City. To determine the various factors that contributes to homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City and to determine interventions that can be put in place to stop homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City.

#### **2.2 The various forms of homelessness**

##### **Chronic homelessness**

According to Bassuk, Rubin, and Lauriat (2020), if someone has been continuously homeless for over a year, or has had at least four episodes of homelessness in the previous three years, the Federal government defines their situation as chronic homelessness. According to recent data, this category represents 24% of the total homeless population. People experiencing chronic homelessness tends to be older and are often struggling with complex health issues, disabilities, mental illness, or addiction. They typically live on the street, in a car, a park, or another location that is not suitable for human habitation.

A person experiencing chronic homelessness is defined as "an unaccompanied homeless individual with a disabling condition" who has been homeless for more than one year. It's more common for people experiencing chronic homelessness to also deal with a certain disability, mental health condition, addiction, and other debilitating conditions that restrict their ability to escape homelessness. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness (2021), chronically homeless people tend to be older and makeup about 17% of the homeless population. Many chronically unhoused people have complex, long-term health issues and live on the street, in parks, in cars, or in other places that are not suitable or safe for living.

### **Episodic homelessness**

If a person has experienced at least three periods of homelessness in the previous year, their circumstances are described as episodic homelessness (Bassuk, Rubin, and Lauriat, 2020) many of these individuals are younger people who may suffer from health issues or addiction. Help at this stage is critical as episodic homelessness can quickly turn into chronic homelessness and problems can become much more severe.

People can also experience "episodic homelessness", whether they are currently unhoused or experienced at least three periods of homelessness within the last 12 months. In contrast, those confronting the realities of "chronic homelessness" usually experience four periods within a calendar year without a home (UN Habitat for Humanity, 2020). Like transitional homelessness, many of those facing episodic homelessness are younger or dealing with a disabling condition. These conditions could be substance use disorder, mental illness, and other mental and/or physical health conditions. In some cases, some episodically unhoused people have seasonal or minimum wage income jobs.

### **Transitional Homelessness**

This type of homelessness is actually the most common, and becoming even more prevalent as a result of the pandemic. It is defined as a person who has become homeless due to a major life change or catastrophic event (Bassuk, Rubin, and Lauriat, 2020), These are individuals who don't have a "safety net" of family support or a financial cushion to fall back on. If they lose their job, become sick, or experience another type of sudden life change, they lose their home. Generally, these are younger people and families who turn

to a shelter or temporary housing system for only a brief stay.

There is a popular misconception that homelessness is a chronic condition. While it's true in some cases, in reality, the most common type of homelessness is transitional. Transitional homelessness is "a state of homelessness that's a result of a major life change or catastrophic event". These life changes might be job loss, a health condition, divorce, domestic abuse, a substance use disorder, or personal or family crisis, among many others, resulting in people being in unhoused situations for less than a year (Ojangole et al., 2019). People who experience transitional homelessness may enter a transitional housing program for a limited time. They may also sleep in their cars or outside. Oftentimes people experiencing transitional homelessness still have jobs, but cannot afford housing and other expenses.

Many people experiencing transitional homelessness tend to be younger. Youth are often harassed and discriminated against when they seek alternative housing, contributing to their disproportionately high rate of homelessness. Compared to older people, young people are often considered "invisible homeless," and statistics about them are scarce as they don't typically access services (Mwiti et al., 2020). The first sign of homelessness for them may be couch surfing or sleeping over with friends, which is considered less serious and obvious than sleeping on the street. About 8% of those who are experiencing homelessness identify as youth or young adults. On average, there are around 550,000 people under the age of 24 and 380,000 under the age of 18 experiencing homelessness per year.

### **Hidden Homelessness**

Bassuk, Rubin, and Lauriat (2020) argued that there is a fourth type of homelessness that most people are not aware of because it often goes unreported and undocumented. This category is known as hidden homelessness and includes those who are temporarily living, or "couch-surfing," with friends or family. They have no guarantee that they will be able to stay long-term and no immediate way to find a home. Because they are not in a shelter or using other forms of homeless services, they aren't counted in standard homelessness statistics. But their struggles and instability are no less difficult.

People who experience hidden homelessness, often turn to friends, family, and neighbors for a shelter or a place of refuge. In a lot of cases, many of these people cannot afford to pay rent or

afford other living expenses (African Union Commission, 2020). Many in the “hidden homeless” population are younger people who have experienced a sudden catastrophic life change, trauma, or challenges as a result. Youth are often harassed and discriminated against when they seek alternative housing, which contributes to their disproportionately high rate of homelessness (Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, 2021). Compared to older people, young people are often considered “invisible homeless” - and statistics about them are scarce as they don't typically access services. The first sign of homelessness for them may be couch surfing or sleeping over with friends, which is considered to be less serious and obvious than sleeping on the street.

## **2.3 Factors contributing to homelessness**

### **Rent and eviction**

Okiirir and Okiidi (2020) found that gentrification is a process in which a formerly affordable neighborhood becomes popular with wealthier people, raising housing prices and pushing poorer residents out. Gentrification can cause or influence evictions, foreclosures, and rent regulation. Increased wealth disparity and income inequality cause distortions in the housing market that push rent burdens higher, making housing unaffordable. In many countries, people lose their homes by government orders to make way for newer upscale high-rise buildings, roadways, and other governmental needs (Kolyan et al., 2027). The compensation may be minimal, in which case the former occupants cannot find appropriate new housing and become homeless.

Mortgage foreclosures where mortgage holders see the best solution to a loan default is to take and sell the house to pay off the debt can leave people homeless. Foreclosures on landlords often lead to the eviction of their tenants. “The Sarasota, Florida, *Herald Tribune* noted that, by some estimates, more than 311,000 tenants nationwide have been evicted from homes this year after lenders took over the properties. Rent regulation also has a small effect on shelter and street populations (Bassuk, Rubin, and Lauriat, 2020). This is largely due to rent control reducing the quality and quantity of housing. For example, a 2019 study found that San Francisco's rent control laws reduced tenant displacement from rent-controlled units in the short-term, but resulted in landlords removing thirty percent of the rent-controlled units from the rental market, (by conversion to condos or TICs) which led to a fifteen percent citywide decrease in total rental units, and a seven percent increase in citywide rents.

### **Economics**

According to the World Bank (2021), lack of jobs that pay living wages, lack of affordable housing, and lack of health and social services can lead to poverty and homelessness. Factors that can lead to economic struggle include neighborhood gentrification (as previously discussed), job loss, debt, loss of money or assets due to divorce, death of breadwinning spouse, being denied jobs due to discrimination, and many others. Moreover, the absence of accessible health and social services further compounds the economic struggle for many (Ekitaffa et al., 2020). Inadequate healthcare can lead to untreated illnesses, making it difficult for individuals to maintain employment, perpetuating a cycle of poverty. Social services, including mental health support and addiction treatment, are essential for addressing the root causes of economic hardship. However, limited access to these services leaves vulnerable populations without the necessary support systems, hindering their ability to escape poverty.

### **Poverty**

Poverty is a significant factor in homelessness. Alleviation of poverty, as a result, plays an essential role in eliminating homelessness. Some non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have studied 'unconditional cash transfers' (UCTs) to low-income families and individuals to reduce poverty in developing countries (Okiidi et al., 2021). Despite their initial concern about UCT's potentially negative effects on the recipients, the researchers found promising results. The study in Kenya by Onyango et al, (2021) found that assisted households increased their consumption and savings. While the families spent more on their food and food security, they did not incur any expenses on unnecessary goods or services. This study shows that a proper approach to poverty could effectively eliminate this factor as part of a solution to homelessness. Providing access to education and employment to low-income families and individuals must also be considered to combat poverty and prevent homelessness.

### **Physical and mental health**

Homelessness is closely connected to declines in physical and mental health. Most people who use homeless shelters frequently, face multiple disadvantages, such as the increased prevalence of physical and mental health problems, disabilities, addiction, poverty, and discrimination. A study by World Bank (2019) show that preventive and primary care (which homeless people are not receiving) substantially lower overall healthcare costs. In terms of providing adequate treatment to homeless people for their mental illness, the healthcare system's performance has not been promising, either.

Disabilities, especially where disability services are non-existent, inconvenient, or poorly

performing can impact a person's ability to support house payments, mortgages, or rent, especially if they are unable to work. Traumatic brain injury is one main disability that can account for homelessness. According to a Canadian survey (2017), traumatic brain injury is widespread among homeless people and, for around 70 percent of participants, can be attributed to a time "before the onset of homelessness". Lack of housing serves as a social determinant of mental health. Being afflicted with a mental disorder, including substance use disorders, where mental health services are unavailable or difficult to access can also drive homelessness for the same reasons as disabilities. A United States federal survey in 2019 indicated that at least one-third of homeless men and women had serious psychiatric disorders or problems. Autism spectrum disorders and schizophrenia are the top two common mental disabilities among the U.S. homeless. Personality disorders are also very prevalent, especially Cluster A.

### **Discrimination**

A history of experiencing domestic violence can also attribute to homelessness. Compared to housed women, homeless women were more likely to report childhood histories of abuse, as well as more current physical abuse by male partners (Arce, Tadlock, and Vergare , 2020).

Gender disparities also influence the demographics of homelessness. The experiences of homeless women and women in poverty are often overlooked; however, they experience specific gender-based victimization. As individuals with little to no physical or material capital, homeless women are particularly targeted by male law enforcement, and men living on the street. It has been found that "street-based homelessness dominates mainstream understanding of homelessness and it is indeed an environment in which males have far greater power (O'Grady and Gaietz, 2020). Women on the street are often motivated to gain capital through affiliation and relationships with men, rather than facing homelessness alone. Within these relationships, women are still likely to be physically and sexually abused.

Social exclusion related to sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or sex characteristics can also attribute to homelessness based on discrimination. Relationship breakdown, particularly with young people and their parents, such as disownment due to sexuality or gender identity is one example.

### **Human and natural disasters**

Natural disasters, including but not limited to earthquakes, hurricanes, tsunamis, tornadoes,

and volcanic eruptions can cause homelessness. An example is the 1999 Athens earthquake in Greece, in which many middle class people became homeless, with some of them living in containers, especially in the Nea Ionia earthquake survivors container city provided by the government; in most cases, their only property that survived the quake was their car. Such people are known in Greece as seismopathis, meaning earthquake-struck. War or armed conflict according to Mwiti et al., (2020) can create refugees fleeing the violence. Whether they be either domestic or foreign to the country, the number of migrants can outstrip the supply of affordable housing, leaving some sections of this population to be homeless.

### **Foster care**

Transitions from foster care and other public systems can also impact homelessness; specifically, youth who have been involved in, or are a part of the foster care system, are more likely to become homeless (UNECIF, 2020). Most leaving the system have no support and no income, making it nearly impossible to break the cycle, and forcing them to live on the streets. There is also a lack of shelter beds for youth; various shelters have stringent admissions policies.

## **2.4 Interventions for preventing homelessness**

### **Provision of housing subsidies**

According to Arce, Tadlock, and Vergare (2020), the first approach is long-term rent subsidies that pay the difference between 30 percent of families' incomes and their housing costs. Subsidies can be place-based (e.g., public housing, project-based Section 8) or tenant-based (Housing Choice Vouchers) that allow recipients to rent conventional private market housing. The long-term rent subsidies in this study were primarily the latter. Subsidies can be renewed indefinitely, as long as families remain eligible and follow program rules such as paying their share of the rent for housing that passes a housing quality inspection. The long-term housing subsidies are typically accompanied by limited help to find housing but no other dedicated services (Ogen et al., 2020).

### **Provision of Night shelters for street sleepers**

Night shelters for street sleepers are also almost always peripherally located. Whilst they are essential for many, especially women, children or the elderly, they counterproductive to income generation, the very reason many others have left their home to live on the streets in the first place. For street children, interventions are generally provided by NGOs with good intentions (Arce, Tadlock, and Vergare (2020), However, they can run the risk of failure because they priorities housing, repatriation and education. The solutions which work best are those which do not force housing or repatriation children but rather act to support children gradually until they regain trust of adults. For all groups, the prioritizing of healthcare, food, and help to become economically stable is of greatest benefit. In most countries the author identified significant NGOs, religious or community groups who supported the homeless, particularly street sleepers, in these ways. Many have developed extremely good practice, in terms of offering vital food, health care and shelter, without being judgmental.

### **Provision of transitional housing**

Another intervention is transitional housing which involves temporary, supervised housing provided with intensive case management lasting up to two years. The theoretical rationale for transitional housing is that families who experience homelessness face a number of challenges that must be addressed in order to lay the foundation for later housing stability (Eklinge et al., 2021). Acting on this rationale, transitional housing programs assess family needs and provide services to address housing placement, self-sufficiency, employment and training, life skills, mental and physical health, parenting, child advocacy, and substance abuse. The transitional housing approach to homelessness has been used in the United States for nearly 30 years (Burt, 2021). Proponents expect transitional housing to improve adult well-being and family self-sufficiency and thereby reduce homelessness and improve additional outcomes such as family preservation and child well-being. There is little rigorous evidence regarding these possible effects.

### **Provision of Supportive and housing emergence services**

Supportive services coupled with permanent housing. For people with serious mental illness, with or without co-occurring substance abuse, permanent supportive housing works to prevent initial homelessness, to rehouse people quickly if they become homeless, and to help chronically homeless people leave the streets (Eisenberg, 2019). Evidence collected in Massachusetts for the

present study indicates declining rates of homelessness among people with serious mental illness admitted to state psychiatric hospitals over the 10-year period during which the DMH was expanding housing with supportive services.

### **Provision of cash for housing**

According to Arce, Tadlock, and Vergare (2020), cash assistance for rent or mortgage arrears. This commonly used primary prevention activity for households still in housing but threatened with housing loss can be effective but the challenge is to administer it in a way that makes it well-targeted and, therefore, efficient. In the study communities, 2–5 percent of families receiving assistance became homeless during the following year, which is an improvement over the 20 percent that might have become homeless when facing eviction without the intervention.

### **2.5. Knowledge gap to be filled by the study**

A depressingly high proportion of writing on homelessness in Africa both in literature and elsewhere is based on wishful thinking. Therefore, there is no single comprehensive author survey on the primary factors contributing to homelessness. Even the Wights and Broomfoot volume “the state of global homelessness” though published in 2014 consist of papers given at a conference at the Commonwealth Institute in London in 2000 and is heavily constrained by its origin as a set of short talks to a general audience.

Taken as whole, therefore, past studies are a frankly disappointing bunch. The number of their contributions to the subject matter of homelessness which have something interesting and original is dispiritingly small thus causing limitations and distortions in literature.

Given the desktop review nature of many of the past studies on homelessness, it is difficult to generalize their findings because of lack of methodological support an issue that the current study will seek to address. This study therefore will assess the primary factors contributing to homelessness in Industrial division of Mbale City.

### **2.6 Conclusion**

A number of studies related to the topic under investigation have been thoroughly reviewed but

the study has acknowledged that there exist the potential for publication bias in the literature reviewed, as studies with significant findings were more likely to be published than those with null or negative results. This bias could skew the representation of primary factors contributing to homelessness. Recognizing these limitations will be crucial for interpreting the study's findings accurately and for guiding future research to build on the knowledge base with a more nuanced understanding of the primary factors contributing to homelessness. The next chapter presents the research methodology that will be used to explore primary factors contributing to homelessness in Industrial division of Mbale City. The aim of this methodology is to enable the attainment of non-biased findings of the study and this will enable the replication of research findings.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This study investigated the primary factors contributing to homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City and was based on three specific objectives as follows: To find explore the various kinds of homelessness that exist in Industrial Division of Mbale City, To determine the various factors that contributes to homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City and to determine interventions that can be put in place to stop homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City.

In order to achieve the desired outcomes of a non-biased study report, this chapter describes the methods that were followed in conducting the study. It show the research design, study population, sample size and selection, sampling techniques and procedures, data collection methods and techniques, validity and reliability of instruments, procedure of data collection, data analysis and ethical considerations.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

A case study is a qualitative research design best suited for gaining an in-depth understanding of a social phenomenon within its cultural context without imposing pre-existing expectations (Denzin & Lincoln, 2022). Gall et al. (2021) agree with this definition as they define a case study as an in-depth study of instances of a phenomenon in its natural context and from the perspectives of the participants involved in the phenomenon and in educational research. Best and Kahn (2016) also define a case study as a way of organizing social data for the purpose of viewing social reality. It examines a social unit as a whole. The social unit may be a person, a family, a social group or a community (Best & Kahn, 2019). Gall et al. (2017) propound that in a case study, a significant amount of data are collected about the specific case selected to represent the phenomenon. The justification for the choice of a case study is that it restricted the researcher to a small, manageable group, where rigorous and thorough explorations was made on the primary factors contributing to homeliness (Best & Kahn, 2016). The case study also provided in-depth, comprehensive and vivid data in this study, as well as a thick description thereof. It also enabled the researcher to gain an in-depth understanding of the state of homelessness in the

study area. Qualitative case studies are preferred because they provide an In-Depth Understanding of the study, i.e. they provide a deep, comprehensive view of a phenomenon within its real-life context. This is useful for exploring complex issues that can't be easily quantified.

Qualitative case studies are also good for Contextual Insights: Case studies allow researchers to explore how contextual factors influence the subject of study. This can lead to a richer understanding of the dynamics at play. Qualitative case studies are Flexibility in that; they offer flexibility in data collection methods, allowing researchers to adapt their approach as new insights emerge.

### 3.3 Area of study

The study was carried out in industrial city division of Mbale City. Mbale City is found in Bugisu Sub-Region, in Eastern Region of Uganda. It is approximately 231 KMs, by road, east of Kampala, the capital and largest city of Uganda. It's also bordered by Sironko in the North, Tororo in the south west and Kumi in the North West, Pallisa in the west and the republic of Kenya in the East It lies at the western foot of the extinct Mount Elgon Volcano, which is 4321 meters above the sea level. The coordinates of the district are: 01 21N, 34 03E.

**Table 3.2 showing wards and population of Industrial City Division of Mbale City**

S/NO.	PARISH	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
01	Masaba	4567	4765	<b>9332</b>
02	Namatala	3677	3768	<b>7445</b>
03	South central	3879	3542	<b>7421</b>
04	Malukhu	4326	4576	<b>8902</b>
05	Nabiyonga	4376	4388	8764
<b>Total</b>		<b>20825</b>	<b>21039</b>	<b>41864</b>

**Source: Primary Data, 2024**

The above table shows that the population of industrial Division is **41864** Population By 2020 statistical; Report. (20825 Males and **21039**.Females)

### **3.4 Sources of information**

#### **3.4.1 Primary data**

Primary sources are immediate, first-hand accounts of a topic, from people who had a direct connection with it. Such sources includes interviews, magazines, journals and periodicals

#### **3.4.2 Secondary sources**

These are sources which are already gathered, processed and stored for the purpose. These sources provided more knowledge to the researcher under the area of investigation. They include information from text books biographies and dissertations.

### **3.5 Population and sampling techniques**

The population of study means all items of inquiry which constitute a universe or population which describes the sample size that was used to collect data to support the study (Kothari 2005). The population of study comprised of 10 local leaders, 10 local people and 10 division staffs venders. Local people are chosen to participate in this study because they are the potential victims of homelessness and have information regarding the factors that contribute to homelessness while local leaders are selected because their effort at formulating and implementation of housing policies. Additionally, division staffs were chosen because they have relevant information regarding their involvement in addressing housing needs. The study population will be drawn from Industrial Division of Mbale City.

The total number of study participants (N) was 25 people and therefore the sample of 15 participated in the study, that is to say; 05 local leaders, 05 local people and 05 division staffs using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) methods of determining sample size from the population (Sarmah & Hazanka, 2012). The sample size was reached at by means of a table for ascertaining sample size by Krejcie and Morgan(1970) (see attached Appendix II). The sample size from each category of participants was ascertained by simple random sampling as shown in table 3:1 below:

**Table 2.1 showing sample size and sampling technique**

<b>Category of population</b>	<b>Target population</b>	<b>Sample</b>	<b>Sampling technique</b>
Local leaders	10	5	Purposive sampling
Local people	10	5	Purposive sampling
Division staffs	10	5	Purposive sampling
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>15</b>	

**Source: Primary Data, 2024**

### **3.6 Variable definition and Measurement**

Homelessness is a state of being unhoused or unsheltered and is the condition of lacking stable, safe, and functional housing (Olukosi, Isitor, and Ode, 2021). The researcher used standard deviation and the variance to measure variability. Standard deviation involved subtracting the mean from each score to obtain the deviation. Deviation was squared and the sum be divided by the total degree of freedom. Variance helped to determine whether the scores are close or speed out and the following formula was used.

$$S^2 = \frac{\sum(X_1 - X)^2}{n - 1}$$

Where  $S^2$  = Sample variance  
 $S$  = Sample standard deviation

$X_1$  = each value or score

$X$  = Sample means

$n$  = Sample size

$n - 1$  = Degree of freedom

### 3.7 Sampling Technique

#### 3.7.1 Purposive sampling

The researcher used purposive sampling to select 5 local leaders, 5 local people and 5 division staffs. These study participants are selected because they possess the required information. Purposive samplings enabled the researcher to get in-depth information that helped to answer the research questions.

### 3.8 Data Collection Instruments

The researcher used interview and observation methods for data collection.

#### 3.8.1 Interview

Data collection method is the process of assembling and measuring information on targeted variables in an established systematic style which enables one to answer research questions and evaluate outcomes (Lescroëlet al. 2021). This study collected primary information through conducting structured interviews. According to Amin (2020), an interview is a structured and unstructured set of questions administered to interviewee(s). It is an oral administration of a questionnaire and therefore it was a face-to-face encounter. The researcher used interview schedule to collect data from participants. Interview method was used because it helped to provide in-depth data which is not possible to get using a questionnaire. This is a qualitative research study and the table below presents the research participants who were interviewed and their demography

**Table 3.2 show the research participants who were interviewed and their demography**

<b>Category of participants</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Educational level</b>	<b>Total number to be interviewed</b>
Local leaders (LL 1-5)	30 year and above	Primary and above	05
Local people (LP 1-5)	25 year and above	Any	05
Division staffs (DS 1-5)	25 years and above	Secondary and above	05

**Source: Primary data, 2024**

### **1.8.2 Observations**

The researcher used non-participant observation to collect data in this study. Nonparticipant observation is a research technique whereby the researcher watches the participants of the study with their knowledge, but without taking an active part in the situation under scrutiny (Gall et al., 2019). An observation, in qualitative research, usually consists of detailed notation of behaviors, events and the contexts surrounding such events and behaviors (Best & Kahn, 2022:264). Gall et al. (2019) assert that non-participant observation allows the researcher to obtain truthful social behaviors objectively when participants are being observed. Observation is chosen since the researcher will look at houses to determine that state of homelessness in the study area (Thorndike & Hagen, 2020).

### **3.9 Quality control**

#### **3.9.1 Validity**

The validity of an instrument is defined as the ability of an instrument to measure what it is intended to measure. Validity considers how correctly the research tools measure what the researcher wants to measure. Thus, validity is about the research tool being credible or trustworthy or being accurate or correct (Etyang, 2020). After formulating the questionnaire, the supervisors and other experts reviewed the items and checked the language clarity, content comprehensiveness, and relevancy and how long the questionnaire is. To establish the validity of the instruments, the researcher used expert judgement as recommended by Gay (2017) as the best method for ensuring validity. Thus the researcher ensured that the instrument is clear, relevant, specific and logically arranged. The validity of the interview guide was tested using the content validity test (CVI). To arrive at the relevancy of the questionnaire, the researcher designed the instrument that yielded content –valid data by first specifying the domain of indicators that are relevant to the concept being measured. A content-valid data measure contained all possible items that were used in measuring the factors contributing to homelessness

### **3.9.2 Reliability**

A tool's reliability shows the extent to which it is free of errors and for that makes sure that there is continuous valuation across time and also across the various items in the instrument. This therefore means that a tool's reliability shows how stably and consistently the tool evaluates the idea thereby helping to measure the worthiness of a measure (Sekaran & Bougie, 2021). The researcher employed the test-retest reliability. According to Sekaran and Bougie(2021), the reliability of the instrument is tested using the test re-test method of reliability and Cron-bach alpha tests to determine the reliability index with the help of SPSS. Data was collected from 10 people not among those in the sample. The principle of reliability as far as research instruments are concerned, is clearly put forward by Amin (2021), an instrument is reliable if it produces the same results wherever it is repeatedly used to measure a trait or a concept from the same population and under similar circumstances.

### **3.10 Data Processing and Analysis**

Data analysis is the process of methodically applying logical techniques to describe and illustrate, summarize and recap, and evaluate data (Shamoo & Resnik, 2023). The task is to make sense of massive amounts of data, reduce the volume of information, identify significant patterns and construct an outline communicating the essence of what the data reveal (Best & Kahn, 2021:270).

### **3.11 Ethical considerations**

The following ethical considerations were looked at by the researcher during the research.

**3.11.1 Informed consent and voluntary participation:** The researcher sought consent from the participants to involve in the research not just forcing them to participate. Informed consent is the basis of ethical research (Denzin & Lincoln, 2021). The people participating in the study were made aware of what the study is about; it's purpose, usage of the data, and any consequences that could arise from it (Fleming, 2020). The researcher furnished the participants with information on the reason for the research and the procedure of collecting data. The participants were allowed enough time to ask questions and have any concerns addressed. The participants exercised free will in deciding whether to participate in research activity or not. All

people to be involved in the research were given written informed acceptance.

**3.11.2 Confidentiality:** Confidentiality is looked at by Walford(2020) to mean information that is private and is not to be divulged to others. Whatever has been said in confidence must remain confidential. The researcher assured the respondent that information offered by the respondent will not to be passed on to another party (third party) without consent of the respondent. Their identity and response were made confidential and anonymised through the use of numbers or through pseudonyms.

**3.11.3 Anonymity:** Anonymity, termed more appropriately as pseudonymity, is defined by Wiles (2013) as a major means used by the researcher to safeguard the confidentiality of responders by using pseudonyms. Anonymisation is one of the kinds of confidentiality, comprising of identity concealment of research responders (Saunders, Kitzinger, & Kitzinger, 2015). The researcher ensured that all participants are anonymous implying that their identities are not known and not salient in the study. Withholding the identity of participants is a guarantee that their statements are authentic (Taylor, 2015).

**3.11.4 Plagiarism:** The researcher ensured that all written work was original and without any borrowed and manipulated texts, results or even expressions. The researcher made sure that, all words and publications of the author were given their due acknowledgement (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2021). The researcher subjected the written works to the turn it in software and make sure it was 15% or less compliant of plagiarism material.

### **3.12 Methodological constraints**

The study was affected by non-response rate. This was due to the fact that some participants may be hesitant to give information. However, this was solved through having a dialogue with participants and explaining clearly the purpose of the study.

The problem of limited time, many participants has no enough time to respond adequately to the questions while attending to their busy schedules.

In adequate finances, the researcher had little funds to move to and fro the field and more so

buying the necessary requirements used in the study. However, friends and relatives contributed to solve the situation.

### **3.13 Chapter Summary**

This study used a qualitative research approach in determining the primary factors contributing to homelessness in Industrial City Division of Mbale City. This qualitative approach entailed presenting and analyzing data collected through interviews through logical techniques to describe and illustrate, summarize and recap, and evaluate data. The aim of this methodology is to enable the attainment of non-biased findings of the study and this enabled the replication of research findings.

### **3.14 Conclusion**

This chapter has presented the research methodology that was employed. Qualitative research design to present data that was collected from 15 participants identified through simple random sampling. Validity and reliability was used to ascertain the credibility of research tools and a number of ethical issues such as confidentiality, Anonymity, and plagiarism were adhered to during data collected. This methodology was crucial in fulfilling the study objectives.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

#### 4.1 Introduction

The study determined primary factors contributing to homelessness in Industrial City Division of Mbale City. Three study objectives guided that study and they included; to determine the various kinds of homelessness that exist in Industrial Division of Mbale City. To determine the various factors that contributes to homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City. To determine interventions that can be put in place to stop homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City. The study used qualitative research approach and a case study design of 15 participants who included local leaders, social workers and persons with alcohol addiction were interviewed. Data was collected from participants using interview method. This chapter presents the findings of the study and it is divided into two parts. Part one presents demographic characteristics of participants and part two (2) is the interpretations of the findings.

#### 4.2 Demographic characteristics of participants

**Table 4.1 showing demographic information of participants**

S/No	Pseudo Name	Age	Educational level	Gender
01	Local leaders (LL 1-5)	27	Diploma	Female
02	Local leaders (LL 1-5)	29	S3	Male
03	Local leaders (LL 1-5)	34	S4	Male
04	Local leader four (LL4)	39	S6	Male
05	Local leader four (LL4)	38	S5	Female
06	Local people (LP 1-5)	36	S3	Male
07	Local people (LP 1-5)	25	S4	Female
08	Local people (LP 1-5)	43	P4	Female
09	Local people (LP 1-5)	32	S3	Male
10	Local people (LP 1-5)	43	S3	Male
11	Division staffs (DS 1-5)	40	diploma	Female
12	Division staffs (DS 1-5)	35	diploma	Male
13	Division staffs (DS 1-5)	19	diploma	Male
14	Division staffs (DS 1-5)	38	Diploma	Male
15	Division staffs (DS 1-5)	30	S4	Female

*Table 4.2: Distribution of participants by their selected demographic characteristics*

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Female	6	40
Male	9	66
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Age Group</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
18-25	2	13
26-33	3	20
34 above	10	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Education level</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Primary	2	13
Secondary	9	66
Post-Secondary	4	27
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>Marital status</b>	<b>Number of participants</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Married	11	88%
Un married	4	12%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Primary Data, 2024**

### **Age of participants**

The general and demographic information indicate that participants belonged to different age groups. The difference in the age was an important component of selecting respondents for the study, which helped in obtaining different information and also shows maturity in the collected information. In this regard, the selected and interviewed participants were from 18-25, 26-33 and 34 above. Here, the purpose was to find out the average age of participants in the study and it was discovered that majority of the participants (10) were in the age bracket of 34 and above. The above view indicated that participant's added value to the responses given that mature participants are more trustable as they take time to think about a particular aspect of life before giving reliable responses.

## Gender of participants

According to the findings of the study, Nine (09) participants were males and females were Six (6). This implies that the male participants were the majority hence most of the data was collected from male participants.

## Educational level of participants

Data showed that majority of the participants (09) had acquired secondary education. This meant that they easily understood questions in the interview guide and their views were well informed. Uma (2017) asserted that it is important in social investigation research to involve people that have attained an acceptable level of literacy and numeracy in order to be in position to understand and interpret contents of the interviews.

For purposes of anonymity, the following codes were used:

Local leaders (LL 1-5)
Local leaders (LL 1-5)
Local leaders (LL 1-5)
Local leader four (LL4)
Local leader four (LL4)
Local people (LP 1-5)
Local people (LP 1-5)
Local people (LP 1-5)
Local people (LP 1-5)
Local people (LP 1-5)
Local people (LP 1-5)
Division staffs (DS 1-5)
Division staffs (DS 1-5)
Division staffs (DS 1-5)
Division staffs (DS 1-5)
Division staffs (DS 1-5)

## **4.3 PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS**

### **4.3.1 THEME I: The various forms of homelessness**

Study participants were asked to mention the various forms of homelessness in Industrial City Division of Mbale City and their responses were: hidden homelessness, transitional homelessness, episodic homelessness and chronic homelessness.

#### **Hidden Homelessness**

This category is known as hidden homelessness and includes those who are temporarily living, or “couch-surfing,” with friends or family. They have no guarantee that they will be able to stay long-term and no immediate way to find a home.

Participants mentioned that hidden Homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City. This was affirmed by participant (LL1) who said that *“hidden Homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City”*

Another participant (LP1) said that *“hidden Homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City”*

Even participants (DS1) added that *“hidden Homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City”*

Participant (LL2) mentioned that *“hidden Homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City”*

Participants LL3, LL4, LL5, LP2, LP3, LP4, LP5, DS2, DS3, DS4 and DS5 also said that *“hidden Homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City”*

Therefore, the expressions above show that hidden Homelessness exists in industrial division of Mbale City

#### **Transitional Homelessness**

Participants mentioned that transitional homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City. This was affirmed by participant (DS1) who said that *“transitional homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City”*

Participant (DS2) said that “*transitional homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City*”  
Even participants (LP1) added that “*transitional homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City*”

Additionally, participant (LL1) mentioned that “*transitional homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City*”

Other participants LL2, LL3, LL4, LL5, LP2, LP3, LP4, LP5, DS3, DS4 and DS5 also said that “*transitional homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City*”

Therefore, the expressions above show that transitional homelessness exists in industrial division of Mbale City

### **Episodic homelessness**

Participants mentioned that episodic homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City.  
This was affirmed by participant (LL1) who said that “*episodic homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City*”

Study participant (LP1) said that “*episodic homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City*”

Participants (DS1) added that “*transitional homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City*”

Also participant (DS2) mentioned that “*episodic homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City*”

Other participants LL2, LL3, LL4, LL5, LP2, LP3, LP4, LP5, DS3, DS4 and DS5 also said that “*episodic homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City*”

Therefore, the expressions above show that episodic homelessness exists in industrial division of Mbale City

## **Chronic homelessness**

Participants mentioned that chronic homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City. This was affirmed by participant (LP1) who said that “*chronic homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City*”

Study participant (LP4) said that “*chronic homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City*”

Participants (DS2) added that “*chronic homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City*”

Also participant (DS3) mentioned that “*chronic homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City*”

Other participants LL2, LL3, LL4, LL5, LP2, LP3, LP1, LP5, DS1, DS4 and DS5 also said that “*chronic homelessness exist in industrial division of Mbale City*”

Therefore, the expressions above show that chronic homelessness exists in industrial division of Mbale City

### **4.3.2 THEME 2: Factors contributing to homelessness**

Participants of the study were asked to mention factors contributing to homelessness and their responses included: Rent and eviction, poverty, physical and mental health, human and natural disasters and discrimination

#### **Rent and eviction**

Participants mentioned that rent and eviction contributes to homelessness. This was affirmed by participant (LL1) who said that “*rent and eviction contributes to homelessness*”.

Participant (LL2) said that “*rent and eviction contributes to homelessness*”

Another participants (DS1) added that “*rent and eviction contributes to homelessness*”

Also participant (LP1) mentioned that “*rent and eviction contributes to homelessness*”

Other participants LL3, LL4, LL5, LP2, LP3, LP4, LP5, DS2, DS3, DS4 and DS5 also said that *“rent and eviction contributes to homelessness”*

Therefore, the expressions above show that rent and eviction contributes to homelessness

### **Poverty**

Participants mentioned that poverty contributes to homelessness. This was affirmed by participant (LL1) who said that *“poverty contributes to homelessness”*.

Participant (LL2) said that *“poverty contributes to homelessness”*

Another participant (DS1) added that *“poverty contributes to homelessness”*

Also participant (LP1) mentioned that *“poverty contributes to homelessness”*

Other participants LL3, LL4, LL5, LP2, LP3, LP4, LP5, DS2, DS3, DS4 and DS5 also said that *“poverty contributes to homelessness”*

Therefore, the expressions above show that poverty contributes to homelessness

### **Physical and mental health**

Participants mentioned that physical and mental health contributes to homelessness. This was affirmed by participant (DS1) who said that *“physical and mental health contributes to homelessness”*.

Participant (LL1) said that *“physical and mental health contributes to homelessness”*

Another participant (DS1) added that *“physical and mental health contributes to homelessness”*

Also participant (LP1) mentioned that *“physical and mental health contributes to homelessness”*

Other participants LL2, LL3, LL4, LL5, LP2, LP3, LP4, LP5, DS2, DS3, DS4 and DS5 also said

that *“physical and mental health contributes to homelessness”*

Therefore, the expressions above show that physical and mental health contributes to homelessness

### **Human and natural disasters**

Participants mentioned that human and natural disasters contribute to homelessness. This was affirmed by participant (LP1) who said that *“human and natural disasters contribute to homelessness”*.

Participant (LL4) said that *“human and natural disasters contributes to homelessness”*

Another participant (DS5) added that *“human and natural disasters contributes to homelessness”*

Also participant (LP4) mentioned that *“human and natural disasters contributes to homelessness”*

Other participants LL1, LL2, LL3, LL5, LP2, LP3, LP5, DS1, DS2, DS3 and DS4 also said that *“human and natural disasters contributes to homelessness”*

Therefore, the expressions above show that human and natural disasters contributes to homelessness

### **Discrimination**

Participants mentioned that discrimination contribute to homelessness. This was affirmed by participant (LL2) who said that *“human and natural disasters contribute to homelessness”*.

Participant (LP1) said that *“discrimination contributes to homelessness”*

Another participant (DS1) added that *“discrimination contributes to homelessness”*

Also participant (DS2) mentioned that *“discrimination contributes to homelessness”*

Other participants LL1, LL3, LL4, LL5, LP2, LP3, LP4,LP5, DS1, DS2, DS3 and DS4 also said that “*discrimination contributes to homelessness*”

Therefore, the expressions above show that discrimination contributes to homelessness

### **4.3.3 THEME 3: Interventions for preventing homelessness**

Participants of the study were asked to mention interventions for preventing homelessness and their responses included: Provision of housing subsidies, provision of night shelters for street sleepers, provision of transitional housing, provision of transitional housing and provision of supportive and housing emergence services

#### **Provision of housing subsidies**

Participants mentioned that provision of housing subsidies is an intervention for preventing homeless. This was affirmed by participant (LL5) who said that “*provision of housing subsidies is an intervention for preventing homeless*”.

Participant (LP4) said that “*provision of housing subsidies is an intervention for preventing homeless*”

Another participant (DS3) added that “*provision of housing subsidies is an intervention for preventing homeless*”

Also participant (DS1) mentioned that “*provision of housing subsidies is an intervention for preventing homeless*”

Other participants LL1, LL3, LL4, LP1, LP2, LP3, LP5, DS1, DS2, DS4 and DS5 also said that “*provision of housing subsidies is an intervention for preventing homeless*”

Therefore, the expressions above show that provision of housing subsidies is an intervention for preventing homeless

### **Provision of Night shelters for street sleepers**

Participants mentioned that provision of night shelters for street sleepers is an intervention for preventing homeless. This was affirmed by participant (LL3) who said that *“provision of night shelters for street sleepers is an intervention for preventing homeless”*.

Study participant (LP2) said that *“provision of night shelters for street sleepers is an intervention for preventing homeless”*

Another participant (DS2) added that *“provision of night shelters for street sleepers is an intervention for preventing homeless”*

Also participant (DS1) mentioned that *“provision of night shelters for street sleepers is an intervention for preventing homeless”*

Other participants LL1, LL2, LL4, LL5, LP1, LP3, LP4, LP5, DS2, DS4 and DS5 also said that *“provision of night shelters for street sleepers is an intervention for preventing homeless”*

Therefore, the expressions above show that provision of night shelters for street sleepers is an intervention for preventing homeless

### **Provision of transitional housing**

Participants mentioned that provision of transitional housing is an intervention for preventing homeless. This was affirmed by participant (DS1) who said that *“provision of transitional housing is an intervention for preventing homeless”*.

Participant (LP1) said that *“provision of transitional housing is an intervention for preventing homeless”*

Even participant (DS2) added that *“provision of transitional housing is an intervention for preventing homeless”*

Also participant (LL1) mentioned that *“provision of transitional housing is an intervention for preventing homeless”*

Other participants LL2, LL3, LL4, LL5, LP2, LP3, LP4, LP5, DS1, DS3, DS4 and DS5 also said that *“provision of transitional housing is an intervention for preventing homeless”*

Therefore, the expressions above show that provision of transitional housing is an intervention for preventing homeless

Participants mentioned that provision of transitional housing is an intervention for preventing homeless. This was affirmed by participant (DS1) who said that *“provision of transitional housing is an intervention for preventing homeless”*.

Participant (LP1) said that *“provision of transitional housing is an intervention for preventing homeless”*

Even participant (DS2) added that *“provision of transitional housing is an intervention for preventing homeless”*

Also participant (LL1) mentioned that *“provision of transitional housing is an intervention for preventing homeless”*

Other participants LL2, LL3, LL4, LL5, LP2, LP3, LP4, LP5, DS1, DS3, DS4 and DS5 also said that *“provision of transitional housing is an intervention for preventing homeless”*

Therefore, the expressions above show that provision of transitional housing is an intervention for preventing homeless

### **Provision of supportive and housing emergence services**

Participants mentioned that provision of supportive and housing emergence services is an intervention for preventing homeless. This was affirmed by participant (DS1) who said that

*“provision of supportive and housing emergence services is an intervention for preventing homeless”.*

Study participant (LP1) said that *“provision of supportive and housing emergence services is an intervention for preventing homeless”*

Even participant (DS2) added that *“provision of supportive and housing emergence services is an intervention for preventing homeless”*

Also study participant (LL1) mentioned that *“provision of supportive and housing emergence services is an intervention for preventing homeless”*

Other participants LL2, LL3, LL4, LL5, LP2, LP3, LP4, LP5, DS1, DS3, DS4 and DS5 also said that *“provision of supportive and housing emergence services is an intervention for preventing homeless”*

Therefore, the expressions above show that provision of supportive and housing emergence services is an intervention for preventing homeless.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **DISCUSSION OF STUDY FINDINGS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

The study was to determine primary factors contributing to homelessness in Industrial City Division of Mbale City and it was based on three specific objectives namely: To determine the various forms of homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City., to determine the factors that contributes to homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City and to determine interventions for preventing homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City.

The study discovered that there are several kinds of homelessness which included hidden homelessness, transitional homelessness, episodic homelessness and chronic homelessness. The study also found a number of factors that contributed to homelessness and these included Rent and eviction, poverty, physical and mental health, human and natural disasters and discrimination. In order to overcome homelessness, the study discovered that there are interventions implemented to address the problem and among these are Provision of housing subsidies, provision of night shelters for street sleepers, provision of transitional housing, provision of transitional housing and provision of supportive and housing emergence services

These findings are in line with a range of past studies (see chapter Two) where authors presented an extended exposition of historical antecedents of the present situation regarding teenage pregnancies and its relationship to girl's education. Although some authors (eg., Ojangole et al., 2022 and Davis, 2021) failed to address the issue in an increasingly exploited range, the findings of this study matches the subtlety and rigor of the problem under investigation. This chapter therefore presents the discussions of the study findings in line with the study findings identified earlier in chapter four and the discussions have been done in line with the three specific objectives of the study.

## **5.2 Discussion**

The discussion of the findings is presented as below

### **The various forms of homelessness**

Participants of the study were asked to mention the various rehabilitation programs for persons with alcohol addiction and these included hidden homelessness, transitional homelessness, episodic homelessness and chronic homelessness.

The study findings show that hidden homelessness is common form homelessness. Even Bassuk, Rubin, and Lauriat (2020) found that hidden homelessness is common form homelessness.

Findings also show that transitional homelessness is common form homelessness. This finding is in line with the study by Bassuk, Rubin, and Lauriat (2020) who also found that transitional homelessness is common form homelessness.

Additionally, another form of homelessness discovered by the study is episodic homelessness. Ojangole et al., (2019) also argued that episodic homelessness is a common form of homelessness.

Further, some people experience chronic homelessness and this was revealed in the study findings. Even the study by Mwititi et al., (2020) found that some people experience chronic homelessness.

### **Factors contributing to homelessness**

Participants of the study were asked to mention the various rehabilitation programs for persons with alcohol addiction and these included rent and eviction, poverty, physical and mental health, human and natural disasters and discrimination.

The study findings show that rent and eviction contributes to homelessness. This is in line with the finding of the study by Tawasi and Marion et al., (2020) who also reported that rent and eviction contributes to homelessness

Additionally, findings show that poverty contributes to homelessness. In support of this finding, Wights and Broomfoot (2017) reported that poverty contributes to homelessness

Study findings further revealed that physical and mental health contributes to homelessness. In support of this finding, Babor, Caetano and Casswell (2020) also found that physical and mental health contributes to homelessness

Lastly, the study found that human and natural disasters contribute to homelessness. Even Sathyamurthi & Kumar, (2020) also found that human and natural disasters contribute to homelessness.

### **Interventions for preventing homelessness**

Further, participants of the study were asked to mention the factors hindering family support in the rehabilitation of persons with alcohol addiction and their responses were: Provision of housing subsidies, provision of night shelters for street sleepers, provision of transitional housing, provision of transitional housing, provision of supportive and housing emergence services.

The findings of the study show that provision of housing subsidies has helped to prevent homelessness. In line with finding, Van Der Vorst et al., (2017) reported that provision of housing subsidies can help to prevent homelessness.

Other findings of the study indicate that provision of night shelters for street sleepers can help to prevent homelessness. Even Bloomfield et al. (2021) and Kuntsche et al. (2021) also found that provision of night shelters for street sleepers can help to prevent homelessness.

Study findings further revealed that provision of transitional housing can help to prevent homelessness. Barnes & Persson et al. (2021) in their study also found that provision of transitional housing can help to prevent homelessness.

It was also revealed during the study that provision of transitional housing can help to prevent homelessness. This finding is in line with the findings of the study by Ojangole et al., (2019) who also found that provision of transitional housing can help to prevent homelessness.

Other study findings show that provision of supportive and housing emergence services. Even the study by Barnes & Persson et al. (2021) also found that provision of supportive and housing emergence services

### **5.3 Conclusion**

This chapter has systematically presented the discussion of the findings. These finding are in line with the literature review and the conceptual framework. The next chapter presents information on the conclusions and recommendations of the research study.

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **6.1 Introduction**

This study was about determining primary factors contributing to homelessness in Industrial City Division of Mbale City. The main objective of this study was to explore the role of family support in the rehabilitation of persons with alcohol addiction in Northern City Division of Mbale City, this chapter presents conclusions and recommendations in line with the specific objectives which included to determine the various forms of homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City, to determine the factors that contribute to homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City and to determine interventions for preventing homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City.

#### **6.1 Conclusions**

##### **Objective 1: on the various forms of homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City**

From the findings of the study, the following conclusions are made:

As revealed in the findings, hidden homelessness is a common form of homelessness

The findings of the study also show that some people experience transitional homelessness

Episodic homelessness is another form of homelessness and this was revealed in study findings

As study findings show, chronic homelessness is also common.

As affirmed in the findings, provision of housing subsidies may help prevent homelessness

Rent and eviction result in homelessness and this was revealed by participants during data collection

##### **Objective 2: Factors contributing to homelessness**

As indicated in the study findings, poverty is a main driver of homelessness

Physical and mental health has been found to contribute to homelessness and this was found by the study.

Provision of night shelters for street sleepers is an intervention measure in preventing homelessness and this was revealed in the study findings.

### **Objective 3: Interventions for preventing homelessness**

As noted in the findings of the study, provision of transitional housing is also an intervention into addressing the issue of homelessness

Further, provision of transitional housing has the potential to address problems homelessness as revealed in the findings of the study

The study also found that provision of supportive and housing emergence services can help prevent homeless situations among the people.

## **6.2 Recommendations**

From the study findings and conclusions of the research study, the following recommendations have been drawn:

Government and stakeholders should put in place measures of housing subsidies to improve peoples' access to affordable but decent housing

Government in conjunction with local leaders should sensitize the population about the dangers of homelessness and help build their capacities to own homes

Government and stakeholders should provide temporary housing units to homeless people

## **6.3 Areas for further research**

- a) Social and demographic factors associated with homelessness
- b) Economic factors influencing homelessness
- c) Effect of war and conflicts on homelessness

## **6.4 Conclusions of the chapter**

This chapter looked at the conclusions and recommendations of the research study. In this chapter, the researcher has the opportunity to summarize, conclude and make recommendations based on the study findings.

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## **APPENDIX 1**

### **INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR PARTICIPANTS**

- 1) What is your occupation?
- 2) What is your age and level of education?
- 3) What challenges do people face?
- 4) Explain the state of homelessness in industrial division.
- 5) What are the various kinds of homelessness that exist in Industrial Division of Mbale City?
- 6) What are the various factors that contribute to homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City?
- 7) Is homelessness one of the challenges faced by people in industrial division? If yes, explain why?
- 8) Is there any slum development strategy? If yes, what s strategy is that and its rationale as far as homelessness is concerned.
- 9) What interventions can be put in place to stop homelessness in Industrial Division of Mbale City?

**Thank you**

**APPENDIX 11: WORK PLAN SCHEDULE**

<b>DURATION</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>D</b>
<b>ACTIVITY</b>												
<b>DEVELOPING QUESTIONNAIRES</b>												
<b>DATA COLLECTION</b>												
<b>DATA PROCESSING AND ANALYSIS</b>												
<b>WRITING DRAFT AND FINAL REPORT</b>												
<b>REPORT SUBMISSION</b>												

### APPENDIX III: BUDGETARY ESTIMATES

#### Appendix IV: Budget

ITEMS	QUANTITY	UNIT COST IN	TOTAL COST
<b>1. Stationery</b>			
Pens and pencils	4 pts	@ 5,000/=	20,000/=
Papers	4 reams	5,000/=	20,000/=
Exercise books	5 dozens	5,000/=	20,000/=
<b>2. Fieldwork</b>			
Transport	X3	20,000/=	60,000/=
Meals & accommodation	10 m/s	5,000/=	50,000/=
Refreshments	-	-	40,000/=
<b>3. Secretarial service</b>			
Typesetting & editing	Continuous process	80,000/=	80,000/=
Printing	-		8,000/=
Photocopying	-		10,000/=
Binding	4 copies		32,000/=
<b>Grant Total</b>			<b>412,000</b>