

**ASSESSING THE IMPACTS OF CHILD LABOR ON THE CHILDREN OF UGANDA A CASE  
STUDY OF KISENYI, KATWE, BWAISE AND MBALE**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF LAW, IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF  
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**UGANDA CHRISTIAN  
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## DECLARATION

I NALUMANSI AISHA do hereby declare that this dissertation was carried out in accordance with the requirements of the University's Regulations, Code and practices for research degree programs and that it has not been submitted for any other academic award.

Other works cited and referred to are accordingly acknowledged.

Signature.....

Date.....

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## **APPROVAL**

I do hereby affirm that this research report has been under my supervision and submitted with my approval for the partial fulfillment of a Degree of Bachelor of Laws at Uganda Christian University.

Signed.....

Date.....

Miss Nabalende Witness (Supervisor)

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this research to my parents, Mr. Ssali Hannington, Mrs.Nansubuga Margarete and to my baby brother (Ono Junior Vanvel), thank you for the financial support and love.

I also dedicate this research to Mr. Namawa Paul who has consistently advised and encouraged me to make this research possible.

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May the almighty Allah protect and bless you

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

UNCRC: United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child

ACRWC: African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child

CSEC: Optional Protocol on Commercial and Sexual exploitation of Children

CLMS: Child Labor Monitoring System

UPE: Universal Primary Education

ANPPCAN: African Network for the Prevention and Protection Against Child Abuse and Neglect

NOTU: National Organization of Trade Unions

NSC: National Steering Committee on Child Labor

AEP: Accelerated Education Program

IPEC: International Programs on Elimination of Child Labor

HACI: Hope for Children Initiatives

SCAREP: Street Children Rehabilitation and Education Project

UNICEF: United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

CLC: Child Labor Coalition

CFPU: Child and Family Protection Unit

SID: Special Investigations Division

## **ABSTRACT**

The Research focuses on Katwe, Bwaise, Kisenyi, and Mbale because these are areas with the highest number of child laborers, the majority of whom work on streets, quarries, and agricultural sectors. The main objective of this study was to assess the impacts of child labor on the children of Uganda with particular aims of investigating the origins of child labor, assessing the impacts of child labor and analyzing the legislative framework against child labor. The study investigates the causes and effects of child labor, as well as the problems that children encounter at work, using current literature and legal precedents.

The study is based mostly on desk review of various information sources from Uganda and other countries to draw relevance and a qualitative data collection was used to obtain data.

The findings reveal that, there are several causes of child labor including, poverty, limited access to education, High population growth, orphanhood, unemployment and so on. According to the study, parents participate in forcing their children into labor, despite the fact that some believe they are teaching their children life skills that would benefit them in adulthood. Child labor has a number of negative consequences, including muscle strain and skeletal damage, malnutrition and stunted growth, exposure to hazardous chemicals, fatal accidents, emotional distress, and trauma, among others.

The findings also reveal that, despite Uganda being a signatory to a number of international laws, child labor continues to exist, owing to the inadequate implementation and enforcement of these laws. It is also established that children between the ages of 5 and 17 are the most exploited, with a high number of boys physically participating in employment than girls.

The study recommends that the government should consider increasing the minimum legal age for children to work to at least an age where they are self-aware and can protect themselves from the dangers of work. The government should enact strict legislation that will be successfully executed to completely eradicate child labor. The government should also educate the public about the dangers and consequences of child labor by informing parents that children who attend school have a brighter tomorrow than those who work at a young age. In order to allow low-income families to send their children to school, public schools should be made more accessible to all children. Additionally, rigorous policies should be enacted to prevent school public schools from hiking school dues because this makes it so hard for poor families to take their children to school hence initiating them to labor.

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# CHAPTER ONE

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Introduction

Child labor is a pervasive issue that plagues societies worldwide, and its consequences on children is severe and far reaching. Uganda, is no exception, as child labor remains a significant problem within its borders. This research topic delves into the profound impacts of child labor on the children of Uganda, shedding light on the devastating toll it takes on the physical, mental, emotional, and educational well-being of children. By examining the various forms of child labor prevalent in Uganda, such as agricultural work, street vending and domestic servitude, this research looks to identify the root causes and consequences of this harmful practice.

This chapter provides an overview of the background of the study, the problem statement, the objectives of the study, research questions, scope of the study, the justification, significance of the study, the methodology and the literature review.

### 1.1 The background of the study

A child is a person under the age of 18 years<sup>1</sup> whereas child labor is work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to children, circumstances under which is performed jeopardizes the health, safety, morals and education of a child.<sup>2</sup> Traditionally, young boys helped their parents in farms, grazing of cattle, fishing and building of huts while young girls involved themselves in activities like cooking, cleaning the house and washing.

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<sup>1</sup> Article 257 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda 1995 as amended

<sup>2</sup> Section 2 of the Children (Amendment) Act, 2016.

Such activities were considered positive because they contributed to the children's development and welfare, this all changed during the industrial revolution in Europe where children from poor families were often engaged as laborers in factories under dangerous and harmful conditions because they were easier to manage and control than adults.<sup>3</sup> Since then, a number of laws have been put in place to protect children's rights and combat child labor.

Internationally, the international labor organization was set up to promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities and among other functions to prohibit child labor. The United Nations convention on the rights of the child (UNCRC) provides for a right to education, right to protection against all exploitations and a right to protection against violence.<sup>4</sup>

The African Charter on the rights and welfare of the child (ACRWC) encourages the participation of a child in society and also provides for protection of a child<sup>5</sup> and others like the International Labor organization on the worst forms of child labor convention, the United Nations protocol to combat the use of children in Armed conflict, the Optional protocol on commercial and sexual exploitation of children (CSEC).

In *Mehta v. State of Tamil Nadu &Ors*<sup>6</sup>, the court ordered the state to prohibit employment of children in dangerous industries in Sivakasi and to take action against hazardous child labor with the aim of protecting children from exploitation.

Domestically, there are a number of laws enacted by the parliament of Uganda to protect the rights of children and prohibit child labor, these include the 1995 constitution of Uganda as amended which provides under Article 34(4) that children are entitled to be protected from social

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<sup>3</sup>[https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/whether-lawful-any-child-gainful-employment-uganda-karugaba-levis?utm\\_source=share&utm\\_medium=member\\_android&utm\\_campaign=share\\_via](https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/whether-lawful-any-child-gainful-employment-uganda-karugaba-levis?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android&utm_campaign=share_via)

<sup>4</sup> UN General Assembly, Convention on the Rights of the Child, 20 November 1989.

<sup>5</sup> African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, July 1990

<sup>6</sup> M.C Mehta v. State of Tamil Nadu and others (1996) 6 SCC 756

or economic exploitation.<sup>7</sup>

The children (Amendment) Act of 2016 under section 7 prohibits persons from employing or engaging children in any activity that may be harmful or hazardous to their health, or their physical, mental, spiritual, moral or social development.<sup>8</sup>

The Employment Act of 2006 under section 32(1) prohibits employment of children under the age of twelve (12) years in any business, undertaking or work place<sup>9</sup> and the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act of 2009 criminalizes sex trafficking and labor trafficking with a punishment of imprisonment for life for those involving child victims.<sup>10</sup>

On 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023, the AUC-ILO Africa Forum on Child Labor was organized with an aim of implementing the Ten-Year Action Plan to eradicate child labor, forced labor, human trafficking and modern slavery.<sup>11</sup>

Despite all these laws and efforts, child labor remains a challenge in Uganda. child labor drastically increased for the past years, this was disclosed by Michael Ogen, a principal statistician at the Uganda Bureau of Statistics in 2022 at Kampala Serena Hotel<sup>12</sup>.

Micheal Ogen revealed that more than 6 million children in Uganda aged between 5 and 17 are engaged in hazardous and exploitative work that puts their lives in danger. The report showed that child labor had increased among children aged 5 to 11 years, from 55% in 2019/2020 to 58% in 2021, it further stated that 40.9% of boys were more exploited than girls (38%).<sup>13</sup>

Many children in Kisenyi, Katwe, Bwaise and Mbale Town are subjected to the worst forms of

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<sup>7</sup> The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995 as amended

<sup>8</sup> Children (Amendment) Act, 2016

<sup>9</sup> Uganda Employment Act, Act 6 of 2006

<sup>10</sup> Section 4 of the Prevention of Trafficking in Persons Act, Act 7 of 2009.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.ilo.org/meetings-and-events/auc-ilo-africa-forum-child-labor-harnessing-corporate-social>

<sup>12</sup> Cecilia Okoth, 6 million children stuck in child labor report, new vision, November 22, 2022

<sup>13</sup> [https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/news/6-million-children-stuck-in-child-labour-repo-NV\\_148044](https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/news/6-million-children-stuck-in-child-labour-repo-NV_148044)

child labor in order to earn a living, these are involved in activities like prostitution, working in sugarcane plantations, quarrying, carrying heavy loads, collecting scrap and plastics, selling and vending of sweet bananas, welding among other activities. Child labor is a violation of children's rights and the harshness that comes with this exploitation affects their health and development.

According to the recent study conducted in 2022, Mbale had 48% of children involved in domestic service, stone quarrying, bricklaying, fishing, charcoal production, and more. In the research carried out by the AfriChild Centre in partnership with Terre Des Hommes Netherlands in Mbale, four in Ten children aged 5 to 17 years were involved in hazardous labor using sharp instruments, working long hours, exposed to agrochemicals, carrying heavy loads, majority of which were not provided with protective gears<sup>14</sup>.

Children working in such environments are more likely to sustain injuries, and toxic chemicals are likely to cause them serious health problems such as respiratory diseases, skin infections, musculoskeletal disorders, or even cause neurological damage.

Child labor remains a pervasive issue throughout Uganda, and if it's not prevented, many children are likely to be affected, as well as the country's economic growth. Therefore, to end this awful practice, the government should implement extra protections and procedures to ensure that child labor is completely eliminated. This can be accomplished by enacting new laws and ensuring that those that currently exist are successfully enforced.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

The parliament of Uganda has enacted a number of laws to safeguard children's rights and their well-being. The 1995 Constitution of Uganda, the 2006 Employment Act, the Children Act of 1997, the Children (Amendment) Act of 2016, Trafficking in person Act of 2009, and the Penal

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<sup>14</sup><https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/48-of-bugisu-children-engaged-in-child-labour-report-4440662>

code Act Cap 120 all strive to protect children's rights and keep them safe from all forms of exploitation, whether social or economic. Uganda is also a signatory to a number of international laws and conventions with the goal of protecting children's rights.

In spite of all of these laws in place to safeguard children, child labor still persists. The Ministry of Gender, Labor & social Development stated that children living in Katwe and Kisenyi are trafficked from parts of Karamoja by either their parents or caregivers and it's believed that some of the local leaders from this region have their children on streets and therefore find the act acceptable.<sup>15</sup>

In 2019 the Uganda Bureau of Labor Statistics published the 2019-2020 National Household Survey, the survey discovered that child labor rates had increased from 21 percent to 36 percent<sup>16</sup>. Children aged 5 to 17 years engaged in activities including household chores, selling commodities on streets, working in plantations among other activities.

The statistics of 2021 show that there was an increase in the portion of children working. With a total population of children (5-17 years) being 15.7 million (376%). 6% of which (6-17 years) were neither in school nor working, more than half of children aged 5-17 years were working. 40% of children aged 5-17 years were in child labor excluding household chores with more males than females.<sup>17</sup>

Child traffickers abuse children by luring them from rural to urban areas with false work possibilities, and then exploit them through forced labor and commercial sex, these are promised education and better living conditions. Child labor violates children's rights since it denies them

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<sup>15</sup>Report of the committee on Gender, Labor & Social Development on a motion for a resolution of Parliament urging Government to respond to the plight of Karamojong children enslaved in street begging and child labor, July 2022

<sup>16</sup>[https://www.ubos.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/09\\_2021Uganda-National-Survey-Report-2019-2020.pdf](https://www.ubos.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/09_2021Uganda-National-Survey-Report-2019-2020.pdf)

<sup>17</sup>[https://www.ubos.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/11\\_2022NLFS\\_2021\\_main\\_report.pdf](https://www.ubos.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/11_2022NLFS_2021_main_report.pdf)

an education and a normal childhood.

It has severe social, physical and mental consequences on children, including premature ageing, exposure to hazardous chemicals and substances, low self-esteem and confidence, limited opportunities for future employment and advancement, exposure to commercial sex and excessive working hours, among others.<sup>18</sup> By assessing these causes and impacts, the study will educate the general public, parents, the government, and the children themselves about their rights, the dangers associated with child labor, and why it has persisted over the years.

### **1.3 Aims and objectives of the study**

#### **1.3.1 General Objectives.**

The general objective of the study is to assess the impacts of child labor on the children of Uganda.

#### **1.3.2 Specific Objectives**

- i. To examine the causes and impacts of child labor on the children of Uganda.
- ii. To analyze the legal and policy framework against child labor, and
- iii. To make plausible recommendations and conclusions on child labor on the children of Uganda.

### **1.4 Research questions**

- i. What are the causes and impacts of child labor on the children of Uganda?
- ii. What is the legal and policy framework against child labor in Uganda?
- iii. What are the recommendations and conclusions on child labor on the children of Uganda?

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<sup>18</sup>International Labor Organization, (2020). Child Labor in Uganda: An overview.

## **1.5 Significance of the study**

The study seeks to educate the government, academia, students and NGOs on the impacts of child labor on the children of Uganda. Child labor is a complex issue with far-reaching consequences for individuals and communities, including education and health. By conducting this research, objective data will be gathered to demonstrate that indeed child labor is a danger to children which will inform different stakeholders for example;

The government of Uganda on the best ways to monitor and evaluate child labor, specifically identifying implementation issues and gaps in order to make required adjustments and Programme modifications. Based on this evidence on the impacts of child labor, the government can consider additional investments in programmes and initiatives to combat it. The government may also raise public awareness of the adverse impacts of child labor and promote social norms that oppose child labor.

By understanding these impacts, the academia can deepen their understanding on the dire consequences of child labor, which will help them generate a wealth data for future studies on related issues such as education, health and economic development. The study will also boost their research potential by enhancing their research skills and methodologies.

The research will also provide students in Uganda with knowledge, skills, and motivation they need to become active and effective advocates for child protection and social justice. It will help them understand the similarities and differences in child labor encountered across cultures.

This will also assist NGOs to gather hard data and statistics that will help them in advocating against child labor, an in identifying the effective child labor strategies for prevention and intervention.

## **1.6 Justification of the study.**

The justification is rooted in ethical, social, and economic considerations. Ethically, children have the right to protection from exploitation and harm, which is violated by child labor practices. Socially, widespread child labor perpetuates poverty cycles across generations by limiting educational opportunities and depriving communities of health development outcomes. Therefore, it's vital to prioritize children's rights while enacting policies that support long-term development goals such as education, healthcare access, and gender equality among ethnic group to enable total eradication of child labor.

## **1.7 Scope of the study**

### **1.7.1 Subject scope**

The study will assess the impacts of child labor on the children of Uganda.

### **1.7.2 Geographical scope**

The study will be undertaken in Kisenyi, Bwaise, Kawempe and Mbale because many children in these areas of Kampala have been witnessed doing employment that is considered as child labor. These continue to work as welders, carrying heavy loads, working in garages, selling and begging on streets and many other dangerous activities.

### **1.7.3 Time scope**

Child labor was first recognized in 2003, when the first report in Uganda was created, but the time scope of the study will extend back to 1946, when children's rights were first recognized by

United Nations Children’s Fund and the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The 1995 constitution of Uganda still recognizes these rights up to date.

## **1.8.0 Literature review**

### **1.8.1 Introduction**

This research will review related literature to establish the existing body of knowledge and determine the gaps in the different literature.

### **1.8.2 Child labor defined**

The International Labor Organization defines child labor as work that deprives children of their childhood, their potential, and their dignity, and that is harmful to their physical and mental development<sup>19</sup>.

### **1.8.3 Causes of Child Labor in Uganda.**

**Agostino Miozzo** noted in his ‘*analysis on child labor*’<sup>20</sup> that children and young people were the group most affected by poverty growth. He stated that where the fundamental requirements are not provided, families rely on child labor to supplement their incomes. This article does not address how weak or inadequately enforced labor laws contribute to the prevalence of child labor. A lot of legal shortcomings such as failure to effectively enforce existing laws, can contribute to the prevalence of child labor. This study aims to investigate the aspects of weak enforcement, which is leading cause of increased child labor despite the laws in place.

**Agbeye Oburumu** in his article ‘*Prometheus still bound*’<sup>21</sup> stated that child labor is a

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<sup>19</sup> International Labor Organization (ILO): what is child labor?

<sup>20</sup> Agostino Miozzo (2005), Director of security in the European commission analysis on child labor

<sup>21</sup> Agbeye Oburumu (2023), Child Labor in Nigeria: Prometheus still bound

pervasive problem in Nigeria that affects millions of children and perpetuates poverty and exploitation in that it's a major driver of child labor in Nigeria. Due to poverty, many families are unable to afford the costs of educating their children and see child labor as a means of survival. Consequently, children who work as minors are doing so out of desperation to make ends meet; in this type of society, it is common to see children of poor families being sent to richer families as housemaids or houseboys in hope to get some money to sustain their homes. Agbeye's article only looks at the aspect of poverty as being the major driver while ignoring other causes of child labor like ignorance or limited understanding of the laws regarding child labor, and many others.

Secondly, children in rich families can also be victims of child labor because according to the Violence Against Children Surveys (VACs) in Uganda, two in five boys and one in five girls aged 13-17 years' work for money. This is more likely among both boys and girls who had experienced sexual violence, and boys who had experienced physical or emotional violence<sup>22</sup>. This clearly shows that poverty is not the only cause of Child labor and there is need to educate the general public about other causes of child labor. Therefore, this research will explore all the possible causes of child labor in order to ensure a child labor free society and ensure that children's rights are upheld.

**Ligia Kiss in his article '*violence against children and child labor in Uganda*'<sup>23</sup> stated that child abuse is a major cause of child labor and he supported his argument with the Violence Against Children Surveys (VACs) in Uganda where, two in five boys and one in five girls aged 13-17 years' work for money. This is more likely among both boys and girls who had experienced sexual violence, and boys who had experienced physical or emotional violence**

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<sup>22</sup> Ligia Kiss, Violence against children and child labor in Uganda (2023)

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

Child abuse is violence against children under the age of 18 years; this can be physical, sexual and emotional abuse. Violence against children remains high with 85 percent of children experiencing at least one violent disciplinary action<sup>24</sup>. Ligia states that children suffer abuse at the hands of those responsible for their protection and well-being, such as their parents, caregivers, teachers, and guardians. These end up on streets, where they are turned into child laborers due to the physical and sexual violence of their care givers. This article fails to look at the adverse effects of child labor on the victims. This research intends to look into the adverse effects of child labor on the victims and the way forward for helping the victims.

**Juliet Ahikire in her article ‘gender inequality and Child Labor in Uganda’**<sup>25</sup> stated that gender inequality in education leads to limited opportunities for girls, making them more vulnerable to child labor as they have fewer alternatives for economic advancement. Gender can be defined as the difference between male and female based on culturally and socially constructed morals<sup>26</sup>. She states that girls are often seen as less valuable than boys and these are forced into child labor as a form of exploitation<sup>27</sup>.

**Fares J, Raju D in his article ‘Child labor across the developing world’** states that girls are more likely to be involved in excessive housework than boys who work outside the home and get paid<sup>28</sup>. Additionally, some cultures have a long-standing tradition of children working alongside the adults, considering it a rite of passage or a way for children to contribute to the family economy<sup>29</sup>. There is widespread acceptance of child labor which prevents school attendance, especially for the girl child<sup>30</sup>.

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<sup>24</sup> Country office annual report 2023(Uganda).

<sup>25</sup> Juliet Ahikire, Gender Inequality and Child Labor in Uganda

<sup>26</sup> Bryan A. Garner Black’s Law Dictionary, 9th Edition,

<sup>27</sup> Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development Report of 2008.

<sup>28</sup> Fares J, Raju D. (World Bank Policy Research Working Paper 4119). Child labor across the developing world.

<sup>29</sup> International Labor Organization (ILO): what is child labor?

<sup>30</sup> Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development Report, 2006

These articles focus on gender inequality while ignoring other possible causes of child labor and also the challenges and the societal stereotype that come with gender inequality in respect of girls being seen as mere tools, thus the gap. This research intends to address the actual cause of gender inequality which is societal stereotype in regards to seeing girls as not candidates for education thus those becoming victims of child labor<sup>31</sup>.

**Dr. Daniel Matovu, Professor of Economics at Makerere University** stated that many families in Uganda live in Poverty and cannot afford school fees or expenses which limits children's access to education,<sup>32</sup>this also reduces their chances to acquire skills and knowledge. Children may be forced into child labor as an alternative means of survival or to support their families. The limited access to education has made children vulnerable. The expense of school supplies like uniforms and writing utensils make access to education difficult for many. In addition to the hurdles to education, children frequently face physical and sexual abuse at school from teachers and peers.<sup>33</sup> Doctor Daniel under looked corruption within schools and work places, plus corruption within the labor enforcement system which undermines law enforcement efforts where by employers' bribe officials to turn a blind eye to child labor practices<sup>34</sup>.

#### **1.8.4 Impacts of child labor**

**Parker DL.** in his article *'the impact of Economic exploitation on the health and welfare of children'* noted that child labor is associated with exposures such as silica in industries, HIV infections from prostitution, as well as material illiteracy and poverty. Children under child labor are more likely to face malnutrition, which exposes them to various diseases.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> Bryan A. Garner Black's Law Dictionary, 9th Edition,

<sup>32</sup> Dr. Daniel Matovu, Professor of Economics, Makerere University

<sup>33</sup> <https://joyforchildren.org/the-fight-against-child-labor/>

<sup>34</sup> Ifeoma C. Okoye, Child Labor in Uganda: The Role of Poverty and the Labor Market, International Journal of social Welfare, volume 22, issue 2(April 2013)

<sup>35</sup> Parker DL. Child labor. The impact of Economic exploitation on the health and welfare of children.

In his article, Parker looks at the exposure to diseases as an effect of child labor but he fails to explore the possible solution to end child labor in order to save more children from the diseases they are possibly exposed to when working in those industries thus the gap. This research intends to look at the preventive measures to save more children from being victims of child labor.

**D. Boutin in his article ‘*Child Labor consequences on Education and Health: A review of Evidence and knowledge Gaps*’,** working children had less time to engage in other activities, making them unavailable for school and reducing their prospects of obtaining an education. Work can also cause physical fatigue for a child who is working while attending school, making it difficult for the child to keep up in class and potentially lowering his or her overall academic performance.<sup>36</sup>

This article leaves out the aspect of their mental health since children’s brains cannot accommodate both school data and work-related difficulties hence affecting their mental health and leading to a mental break down and depression due to the over load. This research is aimed at exploring these various effects and also show how child labor can be dealt away with.

**Ligia Kiss in his article ‘*violence against children and child labor in Uganda*’** stated that children who engage in hazardous forms of work are often at risk for injuries from machinery, sharp tools and heavy lifting. Exposure to toxic chemicals, and other environmental hazards may lead to serious health problems such as respiratory diseases, skin infections, musculoskeletal disorders, or even neurological damage, these toxins also weaken their immune system making it difficult for their bodies to fight disease.<sup>37</sup>

***A Global Snapshot’ at Geneva in 2016.***<sup>38</sup> it was asserted that child labor can have a negative impact on

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<sup>36</sup> D. Boutin (2022), *Child Labor consequences on Education and Health: A review of Evidence and knowledge Gaps*

<sup>37</sup> Ligia Kiss, *violence against children and child labor in Uganda* (2023)

<sup>38</sup> International Labor Organization (2016). *child labor: A Global Snapshot 2016*. Geneva.

children's development. This could be because children who are forced to work are often isolated from their peers and do not have the opportunity to develop their social skills. This can also lead to depression, anxiety, and other mental health problems.

**In conclusion**, though these scholarly views are significant, they have focused more on causes brought about by parents and care givers of children, while overlooking other causes like childhood, high population growth, and unemployment of parents, discrimination and so on.

## **1.9 Research Methodology.**

### **1.9.1 Introduction`**

The research methodology outlines the approach and techniques used to gather and analyze data. Detailed research will be carried out on the causes and impacts of child labor on the children of Uganda. Desk review will be conducted where secondary sources will be relied on. This chapter will consider the description of the area of the study, research design, the study areas, research instruments, data processing, data presentation and data

### **1.9.2 Description of the Area of Study.**

The study will be conducted in Katwe, Bwaise, Kisenyi, and Mbale Town. These areas have the highest number of street children and child laborers in Uganda carrying on the worst forms of child labor. Mbale has the highest number of street children compared to other cities, it has a total of 48% of children engaged in domestic services, stone quarrying, brick laying, construction, commercial agriculture, charcoal burning and many others.

### **1.9.3 Research Design.**

This study will employ a qualitative data collection method like desk reviews will be employed and reviewing of documented information. The study will also consider the descriptive research

design in order to draw a clear picture of the population of the study for future research and future policy decisions.

#### **1.9.4 Research instruments**

In order to go through the process of data collection, the researcher will use the following instruments;

#### **1.9.5 Documentary review**

This will contain existing literature. Documentary review will be employed since it provides reliable and historical facts that are used in future eventualities. Text books, articles, journals and any other published information will serve as the primary sources of information.

#### **1.9.6 Ethical considerations**

During data collection, different authors and websites used will be cited to show acknowledgement of their work.

#### **1.9.7 Anticipated limitations of the study**

The study is a desk review kind of research, it needs a lot of time to review a lot of information from published reports, libraries, websites, articles among others. Another anticipated limitation is that most information available is out of date and the recent information is hard to get, and lastly most of the information may not be able to answer the specific research questions in-depth.

#### **1.9.8 Preparedness to overcome the challenges**

Though challenges and threats may appear, with a lot of patience and perseverance a lot of information will be visited, read and analyzed. This will help the researcher to overcome the

challenges and be able to complete the research.

## **1.10 Synopsis**

**This work is organized into four chapters.**

**Chapter one-** In this chapter the researcher looks at the introduction of the study, the background, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, significance, justification, scope of the study, Literature review and the methodology.

**Chapter two-** In this chapter the researcher looks at the non-legal aspects addressing the causes and impacts of child labor. it starts by talking about the different forms of child labor and the delves into the non-legal aspects to include, the social welfare programmes, educational initiatives and the community support.

**Chapter three-**In this chapter the researcher examines both the International and National legal frame work of child labor and other institutions that prohibit child labor in Uganda.

**Chapter four-** In this chapter the researcher gives the summary of the findings, conclusions and recommendations of the research.

## CHAPTER TWO:

### NON-LEGAL ASPECTS ADDRESSING THE IMPACTS OF CHILD LABOR

#### 2.0 Introduction

This chapter will explore the different forms of child labor in Uganda and the various comprehensive non-legal techniques utilized to alleviate the impacts of child labor, which include social welfare programs, educational initiatives, and community support to promote the overall well-being of children in Uganda

#### 2.1 Forms of child labor in Uganda

Child labor is work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful to a child, and the circumstances under which it is performed jeopardizes the health, safety, morals and education of a child.<sup>39</sup> Children can be involved in light work, such as washing clothes, cleaning the home, and sewing, but not in hazardous or heavy work, which exposes them to a number of physical and mental problems.

**Working in Agricultural fields;** children get involved in harvesting sugar canes, coffee, rice and herding. In 2023, it was discovered that 30 percent of children in Mbale were involved in the coffee chain. The boys participated in more physically demanding activities than the girls, these activities included spraying, pruning, carrying, loading and off-loading of coffee.<sup>40</sup>

**Working in industries** like brick laying, mining, stone quarrying. Children get involved in stone quarrying with their parents in search for school fees. stone quarrying is a very dangerous activity because everything is done with bare hands. children end up hurting their hands with hammers or even the stones cutting them, and small pebbles fall in their eyes because it's so rare for them

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<sup>39</sup> Children Act, Cap 59 of 1997

<sup>40</sup> Mr. Alex Alinaitwe, Research Coordinator of AfriChild Centre, November 2022

to wear protective gear. For example, Evelyn, an 11-year-old girl, was found balancing on a makeshift ladder in one of Kampala's quarries to crack open the rock face<sup>41</sup>.

**Working in the service sector** by collecting and selling scrap, doing street work, selling maize, vending, and so on. Children who sell scrap are frequently mistaken for thieves, putting their lives in danger. when it comes to vending, many children in Katwe and Bwaise are always seen with goods such as sweet bananas, Avocado, onions, passion fruits vending on the streets. parents always send their children on the streets to sell because it's easier for a child to win the sympathy of by-passers. Such activities endanger lives because they always sell goods between moving vehicles, and a number of them work till late.

**Worst forms of child labor** include commercial sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and use of children in illicit activities such as smuggling and theft as a result of human trafficking. The United Nations reported 40,000 children were victims of trafficking in Uganda in 2023. Timothy Opobo expounded on this, stating that 7000 to 12,000 children are trafficked in Uganda each year<sup>42</sup>. This is detrimental to a child's well-being because of sexual exploitation; some end up pregnant, while others acquire dangerous infections like HIV/AIDs

## **2.2 Social welfare programs:**

Social welfare programs and initiatives in Uganda seek to address the root causes of child labor offering educational opportunities, economic empowerment, child welfare services, and legal frameworks to protect children from exploitation, as stated below;

### **Universal primary Education (UPE);**

In 1997, The NRM administration established UPE with the aim of providing free primary

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<sup>41</sup><https://www.undertoldstories.org/2021/09/29/child-labor-in-uganda/>

<sup>42</sup>[https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/news/over-1000-children-live-on-streets-7000-traf-NV\\_179565](https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/news/over-1000-children-live-on-streets-7000-traf-NV_179565)

education to all children in Uganda. According to recent statistics from the ministry of Education and sports and the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 8.6 million children now attend school on a regular basis<sup>43</sup>. This helps to reduce the number of children forced into labor by giving them access to education and easing the financial pressure on their families.

### **Child labor Monitoring System (CLMS);**

This is a system that tracks and monitors child labor cases in Uganda. In Mbale the CLMs was introduced by ANPPCAN (the African Network for Prevention Against Child Abuse and Neglect Uganda) and NOTU (National Organization of Trade Unions) to address child labor in coffee supply chains, communities and schools in this place become stakeholders in the management of the CLMs for the sustainable monitoring of child labor, ensuring referrals for identified children for school enrollment.<sup>44</sup>This program helps to identify and provide support to children who are at risk of or are being exploited through child labor.

### **National Steering Committee on Elimination of Child Labor (NCLS)**

This is a national coordinating body responsible for developing and implementing policies, and programs to combat child labor in Uganda, it was launched during the commemorations to mark the World Day Against Child Labor. This committee works with a range of stakeholders, including government agencies, non-government organizations and international organizations to set and develop policy priorities, guidelines, approaches and work programs to eliminate child labor in accordance with the government's international obligations and nationally set priorities.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>43</sup><https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/uganda-marks-international-day-education-belated-celebration>

<sup>44</sup><https://globalmarch.org/using-area-based-approach-to-address-child-labor-in-coffee-supply-chain-in-uganda/>

<sup>45</sup><https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/oped/commentary/what-govt-is-doing-to-eliminate-child-labor-3589174>

## **2.3 Educational initiatives;**

### **Accelerated Education Programs (AEP)**

These were implemented in 2022, following the Covid 19 lock down, to assist young people in completing their education and gaining vital vocational and life skills<sup>46</sup>. This Programme focuses on children aged 8 to 14 years who have not completed primary school. AEP offers children a 2-year accelerated curriculum to educate them with basic literacy, numeracy and life skills. It also includes vocational training and income-generating activities to discourage children from returning to labor.

### **Hope for African Children initiative (HACI)**

This is a non-profit organization that provides educational opportunities to children affected by child labor. It offers vocational training, mentorship programmes, and scholarships to enable children to pursue further education.

### **Street children rehabilitation and education project (SCAREP)**

This is a community-based organization that supports street children, many of whom are victims of child labor. They offer educational programmes, vocational training and counselling services to help children reintegrate into society.

### **Mass Media and social Mobilization**

These are educational campaigns through radio, television, and social media intended to raise awareness about the dangers of child labor. These campaigns emphasize the value of education and provides information on available support services.

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<sup>46</sup><https://www.education.go.ug/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/SEP-ULEARN-5TH-MAY-2023>.

## **2.4 Community support**

Community members have created groups and launched awareness campaigns to educate the public about the negative impacts of child labor. They have also held seminars, village meetings, and school programmes to disseminate information about the laws and regulations against child labor. They also report suspected cases to relevant authorities, such as labor inspectors and police for further investigation.

Furthermore, they have launched income-generating initiatives for families to reduce their economic dependency and reliance on child labor

**2.5 In conclusion,** these non-legal bodies and programmes have been put in place with the objective of addressing the impacts of child labor but they have not succeeded as child labor still persists in Uganda.

## CHAPTER THREE

### THE LEGAL AND POLICY FRAME WORK OF CHILD LABOR

#### 3.0 Introduction

Uganda has taken several steps to address the issue of child labor. various laws and action plans have been put in place to eradicate child labor and protect children's rights. With the aim of putting an end to child labor Uganda is signatory to a number of international laws and these include, The International Labor Organization Convention NO.138 of 1973, The International Labor Organization Convention No. 182 of 1999, The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989, International Programs on Elimination of child Labor 1992 (IPEC) among others, Domestically, the parliament of Uganda has also enacted a number of laws including the 1995 constitution of Uganda, the children Act, the children (Amendment)Act, the employment Act, The Employment (employment of children) Regulations 2012, The penal Code (Amendment Act) 2007 among others,

#### 3.1 International instruments addressing Child labor in Uganda.

**The International Labor Organization (ILO)**, is a notable organization that advocates against child labor. ILO's objective is to promote worker's rights, foster good employment opportunities, strengthen social protection, and raise awareness of work-related issues. The Organization was founded in 1919, following World War one. Since its foundation in 1919, the ILO has promoted safe working environments<sup>47</sup> by authoring many conventions, as listed below;

#### **The International Labor Organization Convention No.138 of 1973**

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<sup>47</sup>Rodgers, G., Lee, E., Owepston, L., & Van Daele, J. (2009). the International Labor Organization and the quest for social justice, 1919-. 009.book Samples,53.

This convention was rectified by Uganda on March 25, 2003 and it establishes the minimum age for employment and encourages member states to promote the success of national policies and effective eradication of child labor. The convention also encourages governments to progressively extend the minimum age for employment to a level that is appropriate for young people's physical and mental development. The convention establishes the minimum age at 14 years for developing countries and 15 years for undeveloped ones.

### **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989**

This convention was rectified by Uganda on August 17, 1990 and this ratification obligates Uganda to ensure the protection and fulfillment of children's rights across various areas such as health, education, and protection from violence and exploitation.

The convention calls for the guarantee of essential human rights such as survival, development, full participation, and protective rights in order to enable individual growth and well-being.

**Article 31** advises state parties to safeguard children from economic exploitation and any work that is likely to be hazardous, interfere with education, or be harmful to children's health, physical, mental, or social development.<sup>48</sup>

### **International Programs on Elimination of Child Labor 1992 (IPEC)**

The ILO's International Program on the Elimination of child labor was established in 1992 with the overarching goal of progressive elimination of child labor, which should be accomplished by strengthening countries' capacity to deal with the issues and promoting a global movement to combat child labor. IPEC serves as the ILO's local branch in the fighting against child labor in

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<sup>48</sup> UN General Assembly session 44 Resolution. Convention on the Rights of the Child A/RES/44/25, 20 November 1989.

Uganda. In Uganda, IPEC works with partner organizations to combat child labor.<sup>49</sup>

It can prevent and remove children from child labor through action programmes carried out by partner agencies. The Ugandan government has been a member of ILO-IPEC since 1998 and the Ministry of Gender, Labor, and Social Development developed a child labor unit to formulate policies on child labor and increase coordination and networking among key stakeholders, in conjunction with IPEC.<sup>50</sup>

### **The International Labor Organization Convention No.182 of 1999**

**Article 6**<sup>51</sup> of the convention encourages member states to try to eliminate the worst forms of child labor. The convention targets practices such as child slavery, forced labor, prostitution, pornography, children in armed conflict, as well as the use of children for illicit activities such as drug trafficking, putting children to work that is likely to endanger their health, safety, and morals, and any other work that is hazardous and exploitative.

### **Child Labor Coalition (CLC)**

The Child labor coalition was created in 1989. The child labor coalition's "Stop Child Labor Campaign" promotes education and well-being of working children while also actively campaigning to end child exploitation.

Its main objective is to influence public policy on child labor issues through an increased understanding of the impact of work on children's health, the quality of their lives, and their ability to produce effectively in jobs as adults as well as increase recognition of how child labor

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<sup>49</sup> Ilo.org. Geneva: International Programme on the Elimination of Child Labor (IPEC), 1992

<sup>50</sup> Reina ida, B. (2009). Routledge history of International Organizations: from 1815 to present day.

<sup>51</sup> International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention no.182 of 1999.

exploitation reinforces and promotes poverty, adult unemployment and poor living standards.<sup>52</sup>

Child labor is a violation of human rights and has been demonstrated to impede children's development, perhaps causing lifelong physical or psychological harm. Child labor perpetuates poverty across generations by keeping poor children out of school and limiting their opportunities for upward social mobility.

### **The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)**

It was created by the United Nations Assembly in 1946 to provide emergency food and healthcare to children and mothers after the aftermath of World War II. UNICEF promotes the safety and wellbeing of children and actively works to change the harsh conditions that children live in. Right now, UNICEF has programs in 190 countries with the goal to promote education for all children and eradicate child labor and exploitation.<sup>53</sup>

### **Optional Protocol to the convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, Child prostitution and Child pornography.**

**Articles 1,3, and 4** of this convention requires all states that are parties to the convention to prohibit the sale of children, child prostitution, and child pornography. Every state must ensure that the different acts of child prostitution, child pornography and sale of children are fully covered under its criminal or penal laws, whether they are committed domestically or transnationally, or on an individual or organized basis.<sup>54</sup>

States are also urged to take such measures as may be necessary to establish Jurisdiction over

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<sup>52</sup> Child Labor Coalition. (n.d.), <https://childlaborcoalition.org/>

<sup>53</sup> World Health Organization Staff, World Health Organization, & UNICEF. (2003). Global strategy for infant and young child feeding.

<sup>54</sup> UN General Assembly session 54 Resolution. Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography A/RES/54/263, 25 May 2000.

these offences in case they are committed within their borders, in case the offender is a national of that particular state, or when the victim is a national of that state.

### **3.2 The National instruments addressing child labor**

#### **The 1995 Constitution of the Republic of Uganda**

The constitution of Uganda imposes a legislative mandate on parliament under Article 79(1) to enact laws specifically aimed at protecting children from child labor. Article 34(4) provides for the protection of children from social or economic exploitation and employment that is likely to be hazardous or to interfere with their education, or social development<sup>55</sup>.

#### **The children (Amendment) Act 2016**

The Act sets out general protection of children making it illegal to employ any person who is below the minimum employment age. **Section 9A** establishes the National Children Authority that creates awareness, on the right of a child to be protected from abuse and develop methods of preventing child abuse. The Act provides that children have a right not to work or take part in any activity whether for pay or not which is likely to injure their health, education, mental and physical or moral development<sup>56</sup>.

#### **The Employment Act (2006)**

Section 32 prohibits the employment of children under the age of 12 years and also establishes the minimum age for employment, which is 14 years, for light work that must be supervised by an adult, and forbids work that is harmful to children's health or morals. Hazardous labor may include exposure to poisonous substances, heavy machinery, or power tools, as well as other

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<sup>55</sup> The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda, 1995 as amended

<sup>56</sup> The children (Amendment) Act, 2016

harmful tasks. The Act also establishes a system of monitoring and reporting instances of child labor in Uganda, so that authorities can take immediate action against abusive employees.<sup>57</sup>

### **The Employment (employment of children) Regulations 2012**

The Act regulates the working hours of children, rest periods, and conditions of work. **Regulation 4** outlines the different types of light work that is supposed to be done by children such as digging, sewing, washing clothes, preparing family meals. cleaning the toilet and bathroom among others.<sup>58</sup>

### **The Uganda National Child Policy (2020)**

The policy demonstrates the commitment by the government of Uganda to ensure the well-being of all children by strengthening the capacity of the national childcare and protection sector for effective response to prevent, and protect all children against all forms of violence, exploitation, abuse and neglect.<sup>59</sup>

## **3.3 Other institutions addressing child labor in Uganda**

### **The court**

The courts have power to hear cases against children and applications relating to their protection and exploitation. Children have a right to be represented in court and these sit in camera in order to handle children's matters.<sup>60</sup> The power of courts in combating child labor was demonstrated in *Uganda v Umutoni Annet*, where the accused was found guilty of aggravated child trafficking and human trafficking and sentenced to 8 and 5 years in prison which were to run consecutively.

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<sup>57</sup> Employment Act No.6 of 2006

<sup>58</sup> The Employment (Employment of children) regulations of 2012

<sup>59</sup> Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, Uganda National Child Policy 2020.

<sup>60</sup> <https://www.pla-uganda.org/fag/child-labor/what-is-the-role-of-the-court>

The accused was caught trafficking young girls aged 14 and 16 years from Rwanda promising them jobs, she forced them to engage in unpaid jobs, including commercial sex<sup>61</sup>.

### **The Uganda Police Force**

The Uganda Police Force has conducted a number of initiatives to eliminate child labor in Uganda. The Child and Family Protection Unit (CFPU) examines situations involving forced labor, human trafficking, and the employment of children in illegal activities. The Special Investigations Division (SID) and Anti-Human Trafficking Desk investigate instances involving human trafficking and child exploitation.<sup>62</sup> They work hand in hand to hold criminals accountable and safeguard vulnerable children.

On the 20<sup>th</sup> august of 2022, the Kampala Central Police arrested four individuals over child trafficking under the Kampala Capital City Child Protection Ordinance 2022 operation and recently, police rescued 21 trafficked children in Kampala who had been trafficked to beg on streets in Kampala.<sup>63</sup>

**3.4 In conclusion,** Although Uganda is a party to several international laws and a domestic legal frame work to address child labor, the gaps still exist to adequately protect children from being exploited and employed in dangerous work. The lack of effective enforcement mechanisms undermines their implementation allowing child labor to persist hence continuous violation and deprivation of children's rights to education, health and well-being.

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<sup>61</sup> Uganda v Umutoni (HCT-00-ICD-SC-NO.003 OF 2014) [2014] UGHCI CD 1

<sup>62</sup> Metropolitan Units-Uganda Police Force

<sup>63</sup>[https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/news/police-rescue-21-trafficked-children-in-kampa-NV\\_167515](https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/news/police-rescue-21-trafficked-children-in-kampa-NV_167515)

## CHAPTER FOUR

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 4.0 Introduction

This chapter will discuss the summary of the findings. The discussion will center around the first two specific objectives of the study, the limitations of the study, conclusions and recommendations basing on the impacts of child labor on the children of Uganda with the case study of Katwe, Bwaise, Kisenyi and Mbale.

#### 4.1 Summary of Findings

According to the findings, the scourge of child labor remains prevalent in Uganda, despite the existence of an elaborate legal framework designed to mitigate it. The challenge has continued to impact children's rights up to date.

The findings show that, the most common age of children participating in child labor is 14-17 years old in hazardous work or working excessive hours, with 58% of children between the ages of 5 and 11 years participating in work that is mentally, physically, socially or morally dangerous and harmful.<sup>64</sup>

A child is defined as a person under the age of 18 years<sup>65</sup>, and they are entitled to protection against social and economic exploitation. The minimum age for labor is 16 years, although a child of 14 years can be employed for light work under the supervision of an adult over the age of

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<sup>64</sup> National Labor Force Survey, Uganda Bureau of Statistic,2021.

<sup>65</sup> The Constitution of the republic of Uganda,1995 as amended.

18years<sup>66</sup>. Children are allowed to do light household chores such as sewing, cleaning. labor becomes child labor when a child is subjected to excessive working hours, harsh working conditions, or hazardous working conditions. According to the findings, child labor is work that endangers the physical and mental health of a child.

The findings reveal that several causes of child labor, including poverty, which forces children to drop out of school in order to work and meet their basic needs. Another factor of child labor is limited access to education, while the government provides free education such as UPE and USE, the expense of additional school materials such as books, uniforms and other school essentials makes it difficult for many. Children in Kampala have to help their parents to generate income to pay for school by selling maize, ripe bananas and other items.<sup>67</sup>

High population growth is also a cause of child labor in a way that children are forced to work to help their families make ends meet. Due to a high dependency ratio, parents are less likely to invest in their children's education and are more likely to prioritize economic survival.

The findings also show that child labor has a number of effects, including, deprivation of education and socialization opportunities, which limits their social development, as well as interference with school attendance, which leads to high dropout rates and low literacy levels. Children may also be exposed to hazardous working conditions, which can lead to injuries and even death.

For example, children who work in mines are more likely to be involved in accidents and fatalities, while exposure to toxic substances in factories can cause respiratory problems, skin disorders, and poisoning. Child labor perpetuates poverty by limiting children's opportunity to acquire education and skills, because they are often paid low wages or not at all, hence

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<sup>66</sup> Employment Act, 2006

<sup>67</sup><https://www.newvision.co.ug/articledetails/111603/80-of-domestic-workers-in-kampala-are-children>

contributing to their families' financial hardship.

The findings also show that there are different forms of child labor, such as children engaged in agricultural work. The research observed that children in Mbale are involved in coffee harvesting, with boys physically participating in carrying, pruning, loading and off-loading coffee more than girls. Service work such as collecting and selling scrap, doing street work, selling maize, vending, and so on. According to the research, around 10,000 children between the ages of 7 and 14 live on Kampala's streets<sup>68</sup>. Industry work includes brick laying, mining, and stone quarrying, among other things, children engage in these tasks without any protective gear, and some even lose their lives when the mines collapse. Finally, the findings also show the worst forms of child labor such as commercial sexual exploitation, trafficking, theft and smuggling.

#### **4.2 conclusions**

The Conclusion is based on the findings, which show that child labor still persists in Uganda, especially in places like Katwe, Bwaise, Kisenyi and Mbale, where children are still seen on streets begging, selling food like sweet banana between moving cars, collecting scrap and plastic bottles, working in stone Quarries to either get an accommodation or something to eat. Child labor has a side-ranging negative impact on children's life, beginning with their physical, mental and intellectual well-being.

It is true that the government and the community at large have attempted to eradicate child labor by implementing laws like the Children Act and the Employment (Employment of children) Regulations 2012, as well as becoming a signatory to a number of international laws with the goal of protecting children from exploitation; the community has also launched initiatives with the same goal; however, child labor persists. Parents have also led to the increase of child labor

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<sup>68</sup>[https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/news/over-10000-children-live-on-streets-7000-traf-NV\\_179565](https://www.newvision.co.ug/category/news/over-10000-children-live-on-streets-7000-traf-NV_179565)

by initiating their children into work instead of sending them to school.

According to the research objectives, the research concludes that child labor has a number of negative impacts on the children's well-being, health and academic performance. It further concludes that the government has implemented a number of laws to eradicate child labor but these laws are inadequate in terms of implementation and enforcement.

### **4.3 Recommendations**

**Recommendations to the Government;** The government should establish comprehensive legislation defining child labor and imposing severe penalties for people who employ children, it should also allocate adequate resources to inspectors to conduct thorough inspections and ensure compliance with child labor regulations.

The government should provide access to affordable and quality education for children and implement social assistance programs to alleviate poverty and reduce the risk of child labor.

It should partner with NGOs and the community working on child labor prevention and support programs to increase outreach and provide comprehensive support and services. Furthermore, the government should raise awareness and combat cultural norms by launching public campaigns to educate parents, employers, and communities about the harms of child labor and promote positive attitudes towards child protection.

#### **Recommendations to the general public**

The public should report any suspected cases of child labor to the relevant authorities, such as the Police and other relevant organizations.

The public should also support organizations fighting child labor by donating or volunteering, as well as engaging with community leaders to raise awareness and mobilize support for child labor

eradication

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