

**THE CONTRIBUTION OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS TOWARDS THE
INCREASING NUMBER OF STREET CHILDREN IN MALABA TOWN COUNCIL
TORORO DISTRICT**

BRENDA APOLOT

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DECLARATION

I APOLOT BRENDA declare that this dissertation is my own initiative done to the best of my knowledge and has never been submitted for a ward of a degree in any other institution for higher learning

NAME: APOLOT BRENDA

REG NO: M22/ MUC/ BSW/003

SIGN: 

APPROVAL

I certify that this research report was prepared by Apolot Brenda and is now ready for submission to the department of Social Sciences.

Supervisor: Annet Mukoya Omoyo



Signed: **Date:**.....

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my husband Akol James, my mother and sisters for their support towards my studies.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am so grateful to the administration of Malaba Town Council for giving me the opportunity to carry out my research in the area, my academic supervisor Mrs. Mukoya Annet Omoyo for her guidance towards the achievement of this research study and to all those who have greatly assisted me during the course of my study.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AID's	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
HROC	Human Rights Equal Opportunity Commission
NAADs	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NUSAF	Northern Uganda Social Security Fund
PEAP	Poverty Eradication Advocacy Program
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
UPE	Universal Primary Education
WHO	World Health Organization
WWII	World War Two

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed at examining the contribution of socio-economic factors towards the increasing number of street children phenomenon in Malaba town council in Tororo district. The study was guided by three research objectives; to establish whether poverty contributes towards the increasing number of street children phenomenon, to investigate whether peer group influence contributes towards the increasing number of street children and to determine whether child neglect contributes towards the increasing number of street children phenomenon in malaba South ward in malaba town council. The study adopted a descriptive research design and both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used for purposes of triangulation. A sample of 97 respondents participated in the study and the findings revealed that poverty is one of the prevalent cause of street children phenomenon. The study also established that peer group influence is also one of the factors responsible for the increasing number of street children phenomenon in malaba South ward in malaba southward in malaba town council. Lastly, study found out that child neglect is another factor responsible for the increasing number of street children phenomenon in malaba South ward in malaba town council. The study recommends that the government of Uganda and other humanitarian agencies to carry out sensitization programs on child care and protection to parents and communities at large and the study also encourages the government to implement policies that help in protecting children and also enacting and implementing laws to ensure that parents and guardians play their roles without violating the rights of children.

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

This research study was intended to investigate the contribution of socio-economic factors towards the increasing number of street children in Malaba town council in Tororo district. This chapter entails the background to the study, problem statement, and objectives of the study, research questions, and scope of the study, justification of the study and the conceptual frame work and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background to the Study.

The phenomenon of street children is not a recent issue worldwide. It has attracted attention of Humanitarian Aid agencies and governments for more than thirty years. The term was first used in 1951 by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to refer to vagrant children following WWII. The phenomenon of street children was ardently discussed in the wake of the International year of children (1979) and resulting in the formation of Inter NGO Program on street children and street youth in 1982 (Labor 1999). In 1986, the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) executive board approved priority measures on behalf of children in special difficult circumstances and special emphasis was placed on street children and on developing strategies which would defend their rights, avoid their exploitation and respond to personal, family and community needs (Panther brick 2001).

The problem of street children is a growing problem worldwide, more so in African countries. The presence of large numbers of children sometimes as young as three on the streets in urban areas was virtually unheard prior to the transition to a market economy. It is now a growing problem in most African cities and towns and the problem requires urgent attention as it threatens the very fabric of society. (Creswell, J W 1983).

The problem of street children has been growing steadily in the last two decades. An estimated 10 million children in Africa live without families mostly in towns as 'street children'

(UNICEF, 1984:39). One main characteristic of "children on the street" is that they live alone in streets without proper or reliable shelter, they have lost contact with their parents and as such they don't enjoy parental protection, love and care (Iugalla, and Mbwambo, 1995). Street children share the streets with millions of adults, many whom regard them as a nuisance, if not as dangerous mini criminals, what actually most of these children do on is of course work.

Children who live and work on the streets often come from slums and squatter settlements, where poverty and precarious family situations are common, where schools are overcrowded and poor and where safe places to play simply don't exist yet other children come from middle class or well to do families who run away from their homes. The number of street children has increased in places experiencing armed conflicts like Freetown (Sierra Leone) and Monrovia (Liberia), where parents and caretakers have been killed, and the economy disrupted family and community ties severely. Poverty is also forcing an increasing number of street children on the streets. In some instances, it is parents or guardians who send children to work on the streets to support their families and others are forced on streets to find food and shelter which is not forthcoming from their families.

Street children face untold hardship and danger on the streets, the lack of food, clean water and adequate health care. Living and working on the streets exacts a terrible toll on the street children. They are often prey to every physical and moral danger to others. After such precarious childhoods, most of them are condemned to spend their lives excluded from mainstreaming according to Journal published for UNICEF by Oxford University press, 1997.

UNICEF (1985), correctly observes that yesterday street children were no more than a footnote, Today Street children are a major issue and tomorrow if parents' trends continue, they could be a blight on urban civilization. For Africa already here, street children are not only a blight on urban civilization but they pose serious obstacle to overall socioeconomic development in Africa.

Worldwide, there were approximately 10 million children in 1993 that live on city streets without care or shelter (World Health Organisation, 1993), figure that doubled in a three-year period and runaway (at risk of becoming homeless) youth, 16% of whom have run away more

than five times (Terrell, 1997; Regoli and Hewitt 1991). Los Angeles County alone has over 10,000 street youth, Canadian cities have 150,000 homeless youth many of whom are at high risk for AIDs (Davies 1993).

Some researchers have estimated that as many as 70% of street children run away because of physical and sexual abuse and family conflict (Jenks 1994). Others flee for adventure or freedom but often confront unanticipated risks, some of which are life threatening. "The hardcore " homeless youth may number as high as 500,000 in the United States, but services meet only a fraction of that in need (Bagger and Donough 1988).

Additionally, 500,000 juvenile prostitutes roam streets, many of whom are among covert homeless and thus not included in statistical reports because they ostensibly have shelter (Sereny 1985), in reality they live a precarious existence with pimps or a series of boyfriends with other prostitutes (King, 1991). On a global level, sexual exploitation is an enduring condition for girls.

In Australia, a country of under eighteen million people, the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (Burdekin, 1989; O'Connor, 1989), estimated that between fifty thousand and seventy thousand youth were homeless or in danger of becoming homeless. The same report stressed that homelessness was not merely a condition of being on the streets or the threat of homelessness but in addition having a highly Moby life or otherwise lacking security without dependable caregivers.

Prostitution of very young children is known to occur in Asia, Latin America, Europe and North America. In Bangkok, 30,000 children under sixteen years of age and some as young as six years are estimated to work as prostitutes. Anti-slavery International reports approximately 200,000 child prostitutes in Thailand, where a relationship exists between tourism, drugs, prostitution and German Mafia. A legal investigation by Thai government found that thirteen of every nineteen children involved in prostitution had been deceived by promises of work or education but forced into prostitution, according to Cohen A K., (1979).

In Brazil, those involved in dishonest sexual activities often support their entire family by their wages. Young prostitutes in Bogota, Colombia earn 3000 pesos from each client (21\$) whose money may help support cocaine addiction and marijuana purchase. In Europe and North

America, Economic deprivation, domestic violence and abuse, family disintegration and drug addiction are all significant factors leading to increase in runaways. Fredrick G., et al (1979)

The unusual account on how a child gets into prostitution in North America is that he or she usually is a runaway newly arrived in a big city and is picked up by "a sweet-talking" Pilp who treats the child well and then demands for favors in return. A recent study estimated that 5000 boys and 3000 girls below the age of eighteen years are involved in prostitution in Paris. In 1990, the legal age of consent in Netherlands was reduced to twelve years old. Child sexuality has existed for two millennia or more but the current industry of child prostitution may represent a more likely exploitative and destructive version, especially in light of the International AIDS epidemic, (Kevin, 2014).

In the state of New South Wales alone, there were about 20,000 to 25,000 young people aged twelve or eighteen seeking an accommodation because of homelessness (Coffey and Watelton, 1991). This number doesn't the discouraged homeless or those living in squats (abandoned buildings), sleeping outdoors and Living in temporary housing arrangements and other makeshift situations. Covert homelessness is similarly patterned in Australia as in the United States where the practice of short term lives in relationship with the boyfriend or "sugar daddies" may account for the gross under representation of girls in official counts (King,1991).

World Health Organization (WHO) report on street youth in ten cities wholly rejects the short term thesis (1994), instead the WHO argues not only that the street lifestyle exposes street children and an adolescent to multiple forms of Victimization but that street survival entailing drug addiction, dependency on prostitution or other street crime may jeopardize the youths return to mainstream society.

Researchers such as Aptekar {1988}, Swart {1990}, UNICEF {2001, Demouna {2002}, Kerfoot et al {2007} among others have been puzzled by the issue, focusing their concern on how to develop strategies for child protection, social reintegration and social wellbeing among street children and on how to reduce the push and pull factors of the phenomena globally and locally.

Sofiya and Galanta {2009}, state that globally the number of street children continues to rise at an alarming proportion. They further claim most of the street children in developing countries total about 650 million. On an international scale, there are about 100 million street children

and this number continues to increase rapidly with a high concentration in the developing world {Kamruzzaman and Hakim, 2016}.

UNICEF {2012} state globally there are over 100 million street children, 40 million in Latin America, 30 million in Asia, 10 million in Africa and the remaining 20 million to Europe, United States, Canada and Australia. UNICEF {2012} claims that while it is impossible to quantify street children, they are increasing daily at alarming proportions.

The street child phenomenon is an alarming and escalating worldwide problem. Street Children are maltreatment, imprisoned and in some countries killed. Street children as the offspring of complex contemporary urban environments represents one of our most serious global challenges.

Street connected children are vulnerable to exploitation by abusers who may sexually assault them, forcibly recruit them into criminal activities, traffic them and send them out into the streets to beg and steal. For many street children, street gangs can act as "surrogate families" which can protect them from outsiders, violence or harassment and offering support, however it draws children into violent criminal and drug use.

Although many street children show incredible resilience in the face of unspeakable hardships, many studies show their sense of well-being to be generally low, they always suffer from depression, anxiety and trauma which may lead to substance abuse and a risk of suicide.

The stigma and social exclusion faced by street connected children has a negative impact on their mental well-being. This may also vary from country to country. For example, one study conducted showed street children in Morocco presented as 'poetic' day dreamers surrounded but not corrupted by violence while research from Nepal found that children internalize strong negative images of themselves mirroring society's view of the delinquents, (UNHCR, 2017).

In many countries, street connected children are criminalized for so called 'status offences' i.e. a non-criminal act that is considered a law violation only because of a youth's status as a minor. For example, children may be arrested just for being on the streets under a loitering charge. (Consortium for street children, 1999)

In Africa, it is estimated that 10 million children live without families mostly in towns "street children" {UNICEF 1984}. Street children share streets with millions of adults many of them

may regard them as nuisance. The number has increased in places experiencing armed conflicts like free town in [Sierra Leone] and Monrovia [Liberia]. The word and Africa are witnessing rapid and wide ranging socio- economic and political changes that has led to their increase. In Tanzania they are called “Watoto wa Mitanni “, in Kenya they are called “chokora” and in DRC, they are called “sparrows” and poverty being the major cause of street children.

Uganda has one of the largest population of young people in the world with over 56% of its 37 million people under the age of 18 and more 52% under the age of 15. children are also the single largest demographic group living in poverty in Uganda. According to civil society groups who help street children, local government officials and police officers of child and family protection unit who are tasked to focus on children, the number of children living on streets is increasing in most cities and towns in Uganda and 25000 estimated to be in Kampala capital city alone. The common activities done by street children during day include; searching for food in garbage, begging for money in the streets among others. poverty is the most common socio-economic factors that pushes children to streets because most of the families in rural areas are living under the poverty level, some families having only a meal or sometimes no meal in a day because of hunger which I turn makes them to flee their homes to move to the streets for example of karamoja region where by most of the street children I Kampala are from karamoja due to poverty, (MGLSD, 2009).

1:2 Problem statement.

The existence of street children has continued to be a sensitive issue for Uganda and developing countries alike. Recently, the United Nations, USAID and other Humanitarian organizations have determined several factors as catalysts that force children out of their homes and onto the streets of Uganda such as poverty, peer group influence, domestic violence, child neglect, death of parents among others. [UNICEF, 2005]. The phenomenon has provoked various stakeholders like Researchers, NGO's, Humanitarian agencies and the government of Uganda to address the problem and come up with a number of solutions and intervention programs focusing their concern on how to generate strategies to alleviate poverty that is one

of the engineering factors of street children phenomenon in Uganda like modernization of agriculture, introducing UPE and USE programs to increase on the enrolment of children in schools (Sabot, 2006).

A survey conducted by Humanitarian Aid for Development (HADS, 2019), indicated that between 2015 to 2019, cases of street children had increased in Malaba from 29% to 34% which indicates that the street children phenomenon had increased by 5% which became a worrying factor to the community and the authorities of Malaba Town Council hence it is upon this background that the researcher carried out the study on the contribution of socio-economic factors towards the increasing number of street children phenomenon in Malaba town council, Tororo district.

1:3 Objectives of the study

1.3.1 General objective

To investigate the socio-economic factors that contribute towards the increasing number of street children in Malaba Town Council

1.3.2 Specific objectives

- (i) To establish whether poverty contributes towards the increasing number of street children in Malaba Town Council.
- (ii) To investigate whether peer pressure contributes to increasing number of street children in Malaba Town Council
- (iii) To determine whether child neglect contributes to increasing number of street children in Malaba Town Council.

1.4 Research questions

- (i) Does poverty contribute towards the increasing number of street children?
- (ii) Does peer pressure contribute to increasing number of street children?
- (iii) How does child neglect contribute to increasing number of street children?

1.5 Scope of the study

1.5.1 Time scope

The study was carried out focusing period between 2021 and 2024, reason being it is the period reports portray rising trends in street children.

1.5.2 Content Scope

The content of this scope was to investigate the contribution of socioeconomic factors towards the increasing number of street children in Malaba south ward in Malaba town council.

This study was based on the specific objectives which were; to establish whether poverty contributes towards the increasing number of street children, to investigate whether peer group influence is a contributing factor towards the increasing number of street children phenomenon and to determine whether child neglect contributes to increasing number of street children phenomenon in Malaba south ward in Malaba town council, Tororo district.

1.5.3 Geographical Scope

The study was conducted in Malaba South ward. Malaba south ward is located in Malaba town council Tororo west municipality in Tororo district made up of four zones namely; Kataboi A zone, South zone, Kataboi B ward and Central zone.

1.6 Significance of the study

The study may attract government attention to put in place effective strategies for curbing increase in street children phenomenon.

The research study is of an academic and practical contribution of the pool of knowledge of the triggering factors to the increasing number of street children and also how to devise solutions to the factors hence try to reduce the prevalence of the social problem.

The research will be used as a requirement to the researcher to qualify for the award of a degree of Social work and Social Administration at Uganda Christian University.

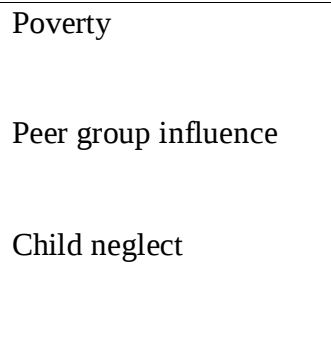
Using the findings of the study, policy makers in Tororo district may make policies to regulate

street children phenomenon by tackling the root cause or the factors that push children to go to Street which will help reduce the problem of street children phenomenon in Tororo district.

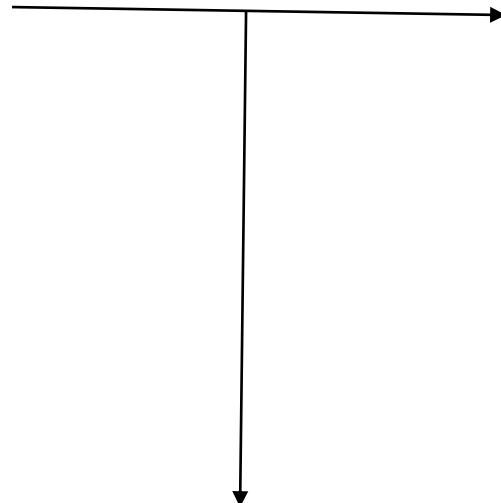
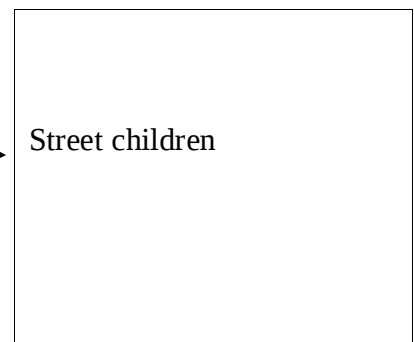
1.7 The conceptual framework

Socioeconomic factors

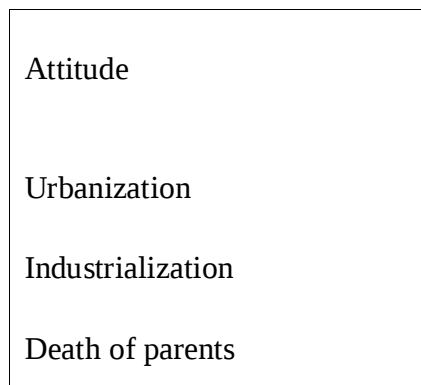
Independent variables



Dependent variable



Moderating variable



Source: Mabrouk et al (2022).

Explanation

The above figure portrays the relationship between research variables.

Socio-economic factors have been cited as the independent variables and the specific indicators are poverty, peer group influence and child neglect. The Dependent variable was street children phenomenon. (Mabrouk et al 2022).

1.8 Definition of Key terms

Street children: Refers to children who are homeless or those who are not homeless yet live on the streets, specifically those children who are not taken care of by their parents, family and other adults. Hawkins et al (2020).

According to UNICEF, street children are boys and girls aged under 18 Years of age for whom “the street” (including in occupied dwellings and wasteland) has become home and their source of livelihood and who are inadequately protected or supervised.

NGO (Non-Governmental Organizations) this can be defined as an association that pursues legal, cultural, social and environmental goal. The operation of an NGO is not driven by commercial or profit reasons. The funding used by NGO's to support its different projects is typically derived from private source, (Shah et al, 2017).

Poverty: This describes the condition of being unable to meet the basic needs of life due to inadequate income or material goods (Dow et al., 2020).

Poverty can also refer to a state of condition in which a person or community lacks the financial resources and other essentials for a minimum standard of living (Grimier L, 2014).

Juvenile Delinquency: This is the engagement of illegal behavior by minors (youth) who have not reached the statutory age of majority. In most states, that age is eighteen years old. The legal term juvenile delinquent was established in the United States in the late 1800's to describe young lawbreakers (Ennew J, 2003).

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction:

In this chapter, literature related to the topic that was studied is reviewed with specific reference to the three variables that were studied, poverty, peer influence and child neglect. The study focused on the contribution of socioeconomic factors toward the increasing number of street children phenomenon.

2.1 Poverty

According to the United Nations Development Program, [1995], on the world social summit, held from 6th to 12th march 1995, poverty, unemployment and social disintegration are the most compelling issues in the world today which must be addressed if there has to be hope of improving the conditions in which the world's poorest people live.

Moore, [1993] states that poverty leads to poor living conditions that has forced many children to move to the streets to beg for money. Poverty may make children rebellious or cause family disintegration which is a great concern in the world.

According to the National Center for Children in poverty, New York city witnessed an astonishing 50 percent increase in the number of homeless families with in a decade, with close to 1000 new families entering New York city system each Month. Homelessness among the poor is directly attributed to main conditions like (I) unemployment and people being pushed out of their jobs that makes the children of the poor vulnerable to moving to the streets to look for a better life and forget their problems at home.

Economic poverty plays a major role although other factors are of equally high importance. Its rural poverty that is making rural population including children to move to urban areas with the hope of a better future according to CAN Tettegah, (2012).

UNICEF (1985), states that poverty is a major cause of street children phenomenon. Africa is today a continent characterized by extreme poverty. It is poverty that is resulting in children being forced to work on the streets to support themselves and their families. Poverty has also caused many families to break up with parents being unable to support their children with basic

needs like food, shelter among others. It is rural poverty that is making the rural population including children to move to urban areas with the hope of a better future, it causes malnutrition, poor health and reduces a family's ability to work this creating conditions for children to move to the streets (Terrell 1997, Regoli and Hewitt 1991).

In Uganda, poverty is a serious social problem especially in the rural areas. The government of the republic of Uganda [2005] in the PEAP paper [2005-2007] states that three quarters of the poor live in rural areas that has forced them to move to the streets to make ends meet. The government tried to put in place poverty reduction strategies like modernization of agriculture, free primary education [UPE], NUSAF projects, NAADS among others are some the grams the government of Uganda has tried to put in place through the office of the prime minister.

Lack of employment in the family leads to poverty and poor living conditions. According to United Nations Development program, [1995], lack of gainful employment not only perpetuates substandard living conditions in many parts of the world, but contribute to the widening gap between the rich and the poor. The shortages of productive and fulfilling work, coupled with decline in real wages contribute to break down of families as well as migration and social conflict hence street children phenomenon.

Provision of basic needs in families depends not only on income but also on resources and facilities thus poverty is indicted by other factors from low income levels. Moore, [1993] points out that it is not just money that decides how people live it is access to resources that makes the difference between drowning in poverty and managing just to keep your head above water. To measure poverty only by income is inaccurate but it's what people have and what social activities they are able to engage in are the real indicators of poverty.

The UNICEF [1992], in a report of matters that were discussed in the world summit for children held in New York in late September 1990 states that the capacity of families to meet their needs by their own efforts has been undermined by unemployment, falling incomes and rising prices. At the same time, cuts social services have weakened safety nets just when the strain on them is increasing especially with increasing numbers of street children.

Some family problems are created by lack of funds resulting from unemployment, disability and retirement. These problems have emotional and cultural consequences.

Moore (1993), stated that poor health, poor housing and anti-social activities are all related in different ways to poverty. In line with this, it is known that poverty leads to poor living conditions and the street children phenomenon is one of the examples of anti-social activity related to poverty because many children who end up in the streets may be from poor families.

On poverty and economic situation in Uganda, the institute of economic affairs (2001), points out that our economy is in worse shape than it had never been and the standard of living for the average Uganda continues to decline. Poverty is arising in Uganda and its situation is worsening. It has led to a myriad of other problems whose example is the street children phenomenon.

Children from poverty ridden families are exposed to many problems that may retard their social, psychological and physical development. The daily monitor paper of 27th June 2011 points out that children born into conditions of poverty grow with all consequent risks of premature death, stunted growth, mental retardation and chronic illness, (Mlinarevic V & Huljev A, 2019).

Poverty may lead to such problems as increased school dropout and when children drop out of school, they might end up in streets. Every year a number of children going to streets due to poverty keep on increasing day in day out, (Ghimire L, 2014)

In Uganda, the streets of Kampala the capital is flooded by street children from different parts of the country especially the young children from karamoja region who fled their home districts to move in urban cities because of hunger and poor living conditions, poverty which has forced them to go on streets of most cities in Uganda to beg on streets. The government of Uganda and other humanitarian agencies came up with the program of rehabilitating the children on the streets at kampiringisa rehabilitation center.

2.2 PEER GROUP INFLUENCE

According to Howse et-al [1991], more and more children are experiencing negative influence of the peer groups on their lives and decreasing influence of adults. The peer groups

as agent of socialization may socialize a child into behavior that is not acceptable to the parents and other agents of socialization such as schools, family church among others. According to Mussen, [1981], children in peer groups may be influenced by their friends to reject any form of adult authority. Peer groups are mostly autonomous. Members of peer groups may reject or resist any control or advices from those outside the group. Cohen emphasizes that their id group autonomy among peer groups or any intolerance except from the group itself.

According to Brim et-al [1966 pg. 4], the individual acquires the culture of their groups through socialization. Many children join street life just because their friend are living on streets and some of them join street life because they admire the life on streets with other children.

According to article on daily monitor Jan [2009] indicates that most of the Karamojong children moved to streets because they have influence with some of their friends. They talked to one of the children called” Napeyok from Napak who said that what made her admire to come to the streets of Kampala was her age mates who had moved to the streets of Kampala to beg for money and they told her to join them that life on streets is better than life at home where they sometimes go to bed in an empty stomach and most of the children are malnourished.

Mushanga (1976), points that individuals are identified with a number of social groups each of which has its conduct and norms. A person is a member of a family which responsible for his or her socialization and internalization of social norms. He or she is also a member of the play group, political party, clan, school work group and many others. As a member of this group’s he or she acquires norms which may sustain, weaken, reinforce or even contradict with the norms he or she had earlier internalized in his or her personality structure.

Cohen (1971), emphasizes that there is group autonomy among peer groups or intolerance of restraints except from the group itself. Peer gang members are usually resistant to the efforts of home, school and other agencies to regulate not only their delinquent activities but also any activities carried on with in the grot. Membership gang is as a result of ineffective family supervision, the breakdown of parental authority and hostility of the child towards the parents.

Brim (1966, pg. 4), points out that the individuals acquire the culture of his or her groups through socialization. In this respect, the researcher points out that when cultures learnt from

the family and other agents of socialization conflict, a child may become maladjusted and resort into such behavior as going to the streets. There is a relationship between personality development and individual social environment.

Thomas, (1962), states that personality development is a product of groups and individuals. If groups negatively influence an individual, he or she may result into deviance hence ending into the streets.

Onyang et al (1991:23), have established that some children leave school mainly because of the influence of peers. These cases can associate to deviant behavior. They are persons who reject the authority of parents and teachers and opt for the streets to live independent life (ibid). In Sierra Leone, the streets are where they look to find their home, parents, their playground, their peers, their education, their health care and their love for others, the streets are where they work from as earlier as sunrise to as late as midnight. Being on the streets can have adverse effect on peer group influence and on the other hand can be difficult to ascertain.

Most street children are in the street because of peer influence. They lived in the street because they have friends and peers they could trust and do things in common. The State of the World Children Report 1997, page 41, States " on the streets they shine shoes, wash and guard cars, carry luggage, hawk flowers and trinkets, collect re-cycles and find a myriad other genius way to make money". The street is the only place where they acquire brothers and sisters and it is the street is the place where they develop their own family ties and friendship.

Peer group influence has a strong effect in leading other children to the streets because of some of the above reasons. In peer grouping, each of the members wants to behave responsible and to assist one another. Living on the street with no supervisions, protection or guidance often makes street children vulnerable to a wide range of problems or hazards. A majority of the street children are faced with violence, associated to Street peers especially when they are under the effect of drug substance, Aderinto et al (2022).

The Magazine of the International Red cross and Red Crescent Movement entitled positive peer pressure indicated that young people are more easily influenced by their peers than other age groups. They understand each other and speak the same language. The magazine further stated this can be channeled in a positive way through peer education. It is very important to involve children in positive things about that can help them rethink of returning to their normal

homes. When peer groups are being influenced the result has very adverse effect. This effect can be either positive or negative.

2.3 CHILD NEGLECT

Child neglect has contributed to a large degree to the ever increasing numbers of children in need of special protection who include the street children. Child neglect or rather willingly refusal to give a child care and protection may make children feel inadequate, unwanted by their parents or relatives (Clifford, 1974).

According to Gertz et al [1980], parents have an obligation of meeting children's needs and emotional support and deliberate failure to do that is termed as neglect. He further notes that parents have the primary role of supporting and caring for their own children.

According to New vision of 22 September 2001, the prevailing harsh conditions are taking toll on family unit. Neglected children might decide to go to live in the streets because they find a home life unbearable.

According to the daily monitor 12 April 2021 it talks about leaders being worried over rising child neglected cases. Ms. Samali Sabano the assistant chief administrative officer Tororo blamed the vice on failure by parents to fulfil their obligations." This has led to most of the children fleeing their home to seek refuge in the streets she added.

According to new vision article on 05/10/2010, one of the children in Arua street was interviewed on why he moved to the streets and he said "he is a Congolese national aged 10 years who moved to the streets of Arua because his step mother was maltreating him and could not give him food because his father was so busy to even attend to them and they felt neglected since he was not providing for them the basic needs.

Most of the parents neglect their responsibilities of taking care of their children and providing them with basics like food, shelter which makes them vulnerable in society. Some of the children have to go and work on streets for people in order to get money for survival or food

from those that they help do work for and others go and pick food at the rubbish pits and yet they are not orphans. Mwesigwa et al., (2022).

According to UNICEF report [2010], most of the children in karamoja leave homes to move to Kampala to beg because their parents can't provide them with food, clothing's, medical care among others which has made them to go out to beg on the streets of cities like Jinja, Kampala, Tororo, Soroti, Iira, Gulu, Fort Portal, Mbarara among others

In broken families' child neglect is more prevalent. This may lead to street phenomenon. Single parenthood and step parenting may have negative impacts on children. Howse, [1991] explains that the stress of single parents and the subsequent effect of those parental stresses on the children and women who become single parents.

Clifford (1974 pg. 4), points out that the effects of inadequate child care, the failure to socialize children leaves them with inadequate control of their impulses so that many of them have to learn life's lessons in a hard way and perhaps only when they are in conflict with the adult society which can leave children aggressive, immature or inadequate in some cases and the results can be very serious indeed such as living in the streets.

2.4 Gaps in the literature

Current literature on the topic of street children is relatively scanty indicating the limited amount of research and professional attention that has been extended to this group.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the description of the research design, study population, sample size, sampling techniques, data collection instruments, validity and reliability, data analysis, ethical considerations, limitations and delimitations of the study.

3.1 Research design

The study employed a descriptive study design using both quantitative and qualitative approaches. This design was applied through interacting with respondents and using closed ended questionnaires and interviews to collect data. Content analysis was used to analyse qualitative data where the researcher constructed stories from different pieces of data which were got from the respondents.

The researcher used descriptive research design because it provides the opportunity to integrate the qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection.

3.2 Study population

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, 2006).

The study targeted both children and adults who have lived in Malaba south ward in Malaba town council for over a year and these respondents were screened using the record from the area leadership. i.e. the local council one of the zones, the parents, the children and the officers of child and family protection of Malaba police station.

3.3 Study Area

This study was conducted in Malaba South ward in Malaba Town Council and it consists of the following zones; Nairobi zone, Kataboi A, Kataboi B, Upper south Zone and Kamushosho zone.

3.4 Sample size

Population category	Target population	Sample	Sample method
Child and family protection unit officers	25	17	Purposive sampling
Parents	80	40	Convenient sampling
Adult Street children(Between 16-18 years)	40	30	Convenient sampling
Local council chairpersons	20	10	Purposive sampling
Total	165	97	

Source: Report from the town agent of Malaba south ward (2024).

3.4 Sampling procedure and techniques

The sample size was 97 respondents. This composed of a representative sample which was used to generalize information derived from findings and conclusions

In this technique, every member of the population had a chance to be selected for research.

The researcher used purposive sampling to select the officers in charge the child and family protection unit of Malaba police station and the local chairpersons of the different zones in Malaba south ward; that is kataboi "A" zone, Kataboi "B" zone, Nairobi zone and South zone.

Convenient sampling was used to select the parents who were part of the sample to be interviewed and also used by the researcher to select the adult street children between the age of (16 - 18) and it was majorly for the street children in Malaba south ward. The researcher worked hand-in-hand with the Local Council leadership to help identify the street children and where they would stay.

3.5. Sample Size

This showed the category of respondents that were selected by the researcher to represent the whole population of people in Malaba south ward in the study. In this case therefore the researcher used a sample of 97 respondents that comprised of adult street children, Police officers, Local leaders, men and women respectively.

3.6 Data collection methods

3.6.1 Interview

Interview consists of collecting data by asking questions. Data can be collected by listening to individuals, recording, filming their responses or a combination of methods.

The face-to-face interviews were used which enabled the use of observation method in detecting when incorrect answers were given and therefore restructure the question

3.6.3 Questionnaire survey method

Questionnaires are a list of questions either open ended or close ended for which the respondents give answers. Researchers use questionnaires to obtain information about thoughts, feelings, attitudes, beliefs, values, perceptions, personality and behavioral intentions of research participants (Syed, 2016).

This contains a set of questions that the researcher designed to guide data collection process and the researcher distributed to the respondents who know how to read and write to respond to questions in the questionnaire. These were useful in collecting data from a large number of people and some were submitted directly to the respondents.

3.7 Data Collection Instruments

3.7.1 Interview guide

An interview guide is "the set of structured questions in which answers are recorded by the interviewer" (Ahuja, 2012). This instrument was used to collect qualitative data from the Child and Family Protection unit officers, Local Council one chairpersons, and street children.

3.7.2 Questionnaire

Mubazi (2013), defines questionnaire as ' a set of related questions meant to engage a respondent with a view of getting information.

This research instrument was used to collect quantitative data from grown up children between the ages of 10 - 16 years of age who are street children. The questions were open ended and used the four-point scale for example Agree, disagree, partially agree and Not sure. Questionnaires were used by the researcher because they are appropriate for collection of standardized data which can easily be quantified for measurement.

Questionnaires were used to collect data from Adult community members of South Central ward.

3.8 Reliability and validity

3.8.1 Validity

This explains how well the collected data covers the actual are of investigation (Ghauria and Gronhaug, 2005).

To ensure validity of the data collection instruments, the researcher formulated the questions which were in line with the research objectives. The draft instrument was subjected to scrutiny.

A total of 10 questions were formulated and were screened to ascertain the ones that would give the researcher rightful information and the ones the respondents would easily interpret and answer in a questionnaire for accurate information.

3.8.1 Reliability

Reliability is the consistency of your measurements or the degree to which an instrument measures the same way each time it is used under the same condition with the same subjects.

A pre-test of data collection instruments was conducted for purposes of checking their relevance.

3.9 Research Procedure

The researcher submitted the approved copy of research proposal to the department of Social sciences where she obtained an introductory letter that she presented to the authorities of Malaba Town Council.

The researcher then conducted a pre-test study for purposes of reliability and validity.

Discussion and interpretation of the results was done in comparison with the literature review findings, a draft of the report was made and was given to the supervisor, made conclusion and the final copy which she submitted to the department of social sciences

3.8 Data Analysis

Kothari (2004), defines analysis as the computation of certain measures along with searching for patterns of relationship that exist among groups.

After data collection, the researcher compiled, sorted and edited the data for accuracy and clarity. She then classified and coded the data into a coding sheet and analyzed it using a computerized data analysis package known as Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS 20.0 version).

Quantitative data was analyzed using content analysis where the researcher coded the words, themes and concepts within the text and then analyzed the results.

3.11 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations refer to " application of moral rules and professional codes of conduct to the collection, analysis, reporting and publication of information about research subjects, right to privacy, confidentiality and informed consent". (Dictionary of sociology, 1998).

The researcher adhered to the following ethical considerations,

All anonymity and confidentiality of the participants was preserved by not revealing their names and identity in data collection, analysis and reporting of the study findings.

The researcher also got consent to undertake research from Malaba town council from the town clerk and also from the local council leadership of Malaba South ward.

All participants were given chance to choose the mode of data collection either through interview or questionnaire.

3.12 Limitations of the study

The study was financially constrained as far as typing, stationery, printing photocopying and binding and lack of money to motivate the respondents led to some not responding to the study because they felt that they were gaining nothing from it.

The time within which the research was conducted was limited.

Some respondents were harsh and not hospitable that made getting information challenging.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS

4.0. Introduction

This chapter presents the analysis of data collected from the respondents on the socioeconomic factors that lead to the increasing number of street children phenomenon in Malaba South ward in Malaba town council. Questionnaires and interview guide were used by the researcher to collect information. The researcher also collected qualitative data through interviews which helped in validating the quantitative data. Data was presented using tables. The presentation was organized around the demographic characteristics and the research questions which guided the study and the results are presented below.

4.1 Demographic data of Respondents

The respondents were asked to indicate their sex, age, occupation, religion, marital status and educational level.

The detailed results about each characteristic are presented in the table below.

4.1.1 Distribution of Respondents by gender

Table

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	47	48%
Female	50	52%
Total	97	100%

Source: Primary data (2024)

Looking at the gender of the respondents, 48% of them were males, 52% of them were females. This shows that both genders had an equal opportunity to participate in the study.

4.1.2 Distribution of Respondents by age

Table

Age in years	Frequency	Percentage (%)
10-16 years	30	31%
17-25 years	27	28%
27-65 years	40	41%
Total	97	100%

Source: Primary data (2024).

The table above shows the analysis of the age bracket of the respondents, the findings showed that all the respondents were between the ages of 10-65 years of age. This is because the target group were adults and children.

4.1.3 Religion of the respondents

Religion	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Catholic	30	31%
Protestants	30	31%
Pentecostal	20	20%
Muslim	17	18%
Total	97	100%

Source: Primary data (2024).

4.1.4 Distribution of Respondents by Educational background

4.1 Poverty

Table showing the responses of poverty as a factor responsible for the increasing number of street children phenomenon

Category	Responses							
	Agreed	%	Disagree	%	partially	%	other factors	%
children	23	24%	3	3%	4	4%	1	1%
CFPU	9	9%	2	2%	5	5%	0	0%
parents	29	30%	0	0%	7	7%	4	4%
local leaders	6	7%	1	1%	2	2%	1	1%
Total	67	70%	6	6%	18	18%	6	6%

Interpretation

From the above statistics about the variable of poverty, the results indicate that 6% of the selected respondents disagreed with the variable, 6% of the respondents said that there are other factors that greatly contribute to the street children phenomenon, 18% of the respondents partially agreed that the variable contributes to increasing number of street children phenomenon and it's attributed to other factors that trigger the children to move to the streets hence confirming that the variable can also lead to street children in a lesser extent and 70% of the respondents agreed that the variable of poverty is one of the major factors that pushes children to the streets to look for survival by begging on streets hence agreeing with the variable of poverty. Arguing that a majority of families are living under absolute poverty that has crippled the provision of basic needs to the family member and of which children are vulnerable and need help. Some of the families are not employed and hardly provide meals to their children and other basic needs to the children which can expose them to running to the streets to look for survival. Some families are also headed by aged or young children which

makes it hard for them to provide the basic needs to their siblings like shelter, clothing, education, health among others which predisposes a majority of these children to go to the streets. Some of the respondents suggested that government should try as much as they can to create more rehabilitation centers that can help to facilitate good living conditions and also it will help to reduce the number of children living on the streets. Most of these children who live on the streets are not only orphans but also some. Of them have both parents but because of their poverty conditions it has disabled them from providing basic needs to their families arguing that the government and NGOs should introduce programs that can help to empower the community economically to help to reduce on the poverty levels that has triggered most of the children to become street children.

4.2. Peer group influence

Table showing responses on peer group influence as a factor responsible for street children phenomenon

Category	Responses							
	agreed	%	disagreed	%	partially	%	other factors	%
children	21	21.6%	3	3%	4	4.1%	2	2%
CFPU	12	12.5%	2	2%	3	3%	0	0%
parents	34	35%	1	1%	5	5.1%	0	0%
local leaders	4	4.1%	4	4.1%	0	0%	2	2%
Total	71	74%	10	10.1%	12	12.2%	4	4%

Interpretation

According to the statistics above on the variable of peer group influence, 10% of the sample

size disagreed with the variable, 4% said that there are other factors that have lured the children to the streets, 12% of the sample size said that the variable partially contributes to the increase in the phenomenon and 74% of the respondents of the sample size agreed that the variable of peer group influence greatly triggers some of the children to be street children hence proving the objective to be one of the socio-economic factors that lead to increasing number of street children phenomenon in Malaba town council. The respondents argued that some of the children who are influenced by peer are from single parent families who don't have enough time to discipline their children hence becoming deviant in a family. Some. Of the children influenced to the streets are from parents who have neglected their duties of instilling good morals to their children, guiding them and also monitoring their behavior and to stop them from associating with those children who have deviant behavior which leaves them with a choice to make on what they should do and who they should do with. Some parents also just leave children to leave with guardians who might not have enough time to nurture the children well and some of them stay in congested areas and slums that are a harbor of deviant behavior and street children and also drug addicts which can spoil the good behavior of children hence influencing some of them to join the street children gangs and some children run to other cities because they committed crimes that has pushed them to run to the street to run away from their crimes.

4.3 Child neglect

Table showing responses on child neglect as a factor responsible for street children phenomenon

category of respondents	respondents							
	agreed	%	disagreed	%	partially	%	other factors	%
children	25	27.5%	0	0%	5	5%	0	0%

CFPU	15	15.5%	0	1%	1	1%	0	0%
parents	36	37%	0	0%	4	4%	0	0%
local leaders	8	8%	0	0%	2	2%	0	0%
Total	71	88%	0	1%	12	12%	0	0%

Interpretation

According to the findings above about the variable of child neglect , the outcome of the results indicate that 1% of the respondents interviewed disagreed with the variable being one of the factors contributing to increase in street children phenomenon, 0% of the respondents said that there are other factors that are greatly responsible for the increase in street children phenomenon , 12% agreed that the variable partially contributes to children moving to the street and 88% of the respondents agreed with the variable of child neglect being one of the socio-economic factors responsible for the increase in street children phenomenon attributing it to most of the parents neglecting their responsibilities of providing basic needs , no time to discipline their children and also poor child upbringing that has made most of the children to wonder in streets hence being one of the engineering factors of street children increase in Malaba town council.

4.5 Section for Qualitative data analysis

The researcher presents discussions of the contribution of the socioeconomic factors towards the increasing number of street children phenomenon in Malaba South ward in Malaba town council. The researcher used pseudo names in the stories given by respondents for purposes of confidentiality and anonymity.

Oscar (not real names)

Oscar one of the key informants said; " lack of employment for parents also exposes the

families into poverty because they do not have any source of income to be in position to take care of their family which also makes most of the unemployed to live under the poverty levels hence making some of the parents to fail to fulfill their obligation of providing for children which makes some of the children to go and work and live in the streets".

Jessica (not real name)

Jessica one of the key respondents said "child neglect is one of the factor that have pushed most of the children to the street because some of the parents leave their children to fend for their siblings which in turn makes them to go the street to beg for money. She said that she is a Karamojong but her mother has seven children and yet she cannot feed all of them and that she only wakes up in the morning and goes to ' kamushosho' a suburb in Malaba south ward to drink alcohol and leaves her the firing born with young children who are hungry and that she doesn't even know the where about of her father. This has made her to go and start begging for money on the street and also sometimes working in the market helping vendors and also going around the produce stores to pick leftover of the cereals that the vendors pour outside and take that to eat with her siblings. She added that they ran away from their homeland in karamoja because hunger was going to kill then so they came to live in unfinished house in Malaba south ward so I strongly believe child neglect is one of the reasons why some children like me came to the street.

Patrick (not real names)

Arrays that " I have lived in Malaba for many years and I have seen some of those street children have all their parents alive but just joined their friends who are street children to stay in the streets because they are in groups so they live an independent life without an adult to monitor their behavior, they do what they want to do and also engage in gang a ta like pickpocketing, stealing people's shops and homes and also taking drugs like opium. Do peer group influence attract them to go to the street because of the life that their peers live in the street?

4.5 Analysis of the major Findings in the Qualitative study.

Findings from the qualitative study revealed that on the contribution of socioeconomic factors that lead to increasing number of street children phenomenon in Malaba south ward in Malaba town council.

Views and experiences of the respondents.	Categories	Theme
		Socioeconomic factors responsible for increased number of street children
Most children end up hating their parents because of neglecting them and make them live like orphans		Affect the relationship between the parents and their children hence forcing children to move and live with their peers in the streets
Parents who abuse alcohol and end up neglecting their responsibilities of nurturing their children	makes children to turn violent and become deviant in the community	Makes these children to associate y street children as their peers who will influence them to join them.
Most parents who are lazy and fail to provide for their families and those who don't have any source of income live under the poverty levels		Children go to the streets with hopes of a better life

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS.

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the discussion and interpretation of the findings while examining the extent to which the study fulfilled its objectives. It further discusses the findings and their relationship to the set research objectives which are presented objective by objective.

Findings were compared with other studies in order to assess uniformity and or disparity with findings of the previous studies.

5.1 Findings

The major findings from the qualitative study were grouped in to the theme. Under the theme of socioeconomic factors, there were responses on their contribution towards the increasing number of street children phenomenon in Malaba South ward. Most of the respondents gave their view on how poverty has greatly affected the lives of families and community members which has exposed most populations especially children to a lot of social problems and street children being one of them. Child neglect exposes children to harsh conditions at home that can in most cases make children to go and Start begging with their peers who also get involved in gangs and delinquent activities. Also some of the children are lured to stay on the streets by their peers who will give them conditions that if you want to be a part of us, you should follow the rules of the gang hence influencing them to join the groups.

5.1.1. Poverty

The study found out that poverty is one of the intriguing factors that predisposes children to join others on streets. Poor people are likely to live with in unhealthy environment and in physically unsafe structures. Moreover, Social and family disorganization are highly prevalent among poor people. These observations and problems of poverty encompasses the feeling of powerlessness and a number of poor people lead lives that appear to be regulated outside their control.

The findings are in line with those from interviews under the theme “contribution of socioeconomic factors contributing to the increasing number of street children phenomenon”.

One of the respondents said " many people in this area are living under the poverty level and some do not have a source of living in terms of employment, some people also do not want to embrace and be part of the beneficiaries of the government programs that can help to empower them economically like Emyooga, Parish Development Model among others that would try to lift their standard of living.

Another respondent attributed to the high rates of poverty in the area and some of the community members are lazy to work and only dwell on drinking joints leaving their children with no choice but to start begging on the streets.

These findings are in agreement with the study by Jürgen’s (2020), who asserts that many socio-economic factors influence the increase in street children phenomenon. He argues that where the root causes of poverty are not identified and dealt with, the social problem will continue existing and increasing since the root cause of poverty are not tackled well by the responsible authorities not only by the government but also involve humanitarian agencies, Non-governmental organizations and the participation of community members from the identification to the implementation process of the program.

5.1.2 Peer Group Influence

The study found out that peer group influence also for some of the children to go and become street children because they follow some of their peers who are begging on the streets. More and more children are experiencing negative influence of the peer groups on their lives and decreasing influence on adults. Peer group as agent of socialization may socialize a child into behavior that is not acceptable to the parents and other agents of socialization such as schools, family, church among others. Children in peer groups may be influenced by their friends to reject any form of adult authority. Many children join street life just because their friends are living on the streets with other children.

Some children leave school mainly because of the influence of peers. They are persons who reject the authority of parents and teachers and opt for the streets to live an independent life

and in the street they look to find their home, parents, education and health care among others.

Peer group influence has a strong effect in leading other children to the streets because of some of the reasons like independent life, live with other peers among others.

According to one of the respondents, he said that “some children run away from their homes and go and start living on the streets because their parents are tuff and do not allow them to associate freely with their peers outside home which makes them to prefer living that independent life in the streets without any supervision of adults. Some children also join street life because they feel it is nice to live on streets and because some children always want to join gangs taking drugs and because in their families their parents are strict, they rather prefer to go and be independent on the streets.

Individuals acquire the culture of his or her groups through socialization. In this respect the researcher points out that when cultures learnt from the family and other agents of socialization conflict, a child may become maladjusted and resort into such behavior as going to the streets.

5.1.3 Child Neglect

The study found out that a number of parents, guardians and community members have neglected their responsibilities of providing, protecting and taking care of their children which leaves them vulnerable to going to the streets to start begging and work for vendors on the streets. Child neglect is one of the socioeconomic factors that predisposes children to go and start begging on the streets because they are trying to look for food to eat.

Child neglect or rather willingly refusal to give a child care and protection may make children feel inadequately unwanted by their parents or relatives. Neglected children might decide to go live in the streets because they find home life unbearable. Some of the leaders in Malaba South ward are worried over rising child neglect cases who blamed the vice on failure by parents to fulfill their obligations which has led to most of the children fleeing their home to seek refuge in the streets for survival. Some of them have to go and work on the streets for people in order to get money for survival or food from those that they do work for and others go and pick food at the rubbish pits and yet they are not orphans.

These findings are in line with a study by Jürgen's (2019), who asserts that the family is charged with the responsibilities of ensuring that children grow and develop well and that the effects of inadequate child care, the failure to socialize children leaves them with inadequate control of their impulses so that many of them have to learn life's lessons in a hard way and perhaps only when they are in conflict with adult society which can leave children aggressive, immature or inadequate in some cases and the results can be very serious indeed such as living in the streets. Parents have an obligation of meeting children's needs and emotional support and deliberate failure to do so is termed as "neglect" thus the law may punish such parents.

5.2 Implications for Social Work.

Findings show that poverty is one of those factors that have left most of the families vulnerable to a lot of social problems in the community like street children. Therefore, social workers Need to advocate for more economic empowerment programs to be extended into the communities and more so people living in absolute poverty levels should be the priority to be helped to fight poverty thus reducing street children phenomenon.

Results from the study also show that some of the parents do not take up their responsibilities this neglecting their children which can also force them to go and start begging in the streets. Therefore, social workers need to sensitize parents, guardians on their responsibilities and also the negative effects of neglecting taking care of their children which street children phenomenon is one of them.

Findings also show that peer group influence is one of those factors that push children to the streets because when they socialize with those groups of children already on the streets, they end up joining them. So social workers need to need to encourage parents to instill good morals on their children and also to prevent them from associating with those with deviant behaviors and on the streets and social workers also can also encourage more organizations to rehabilitate some of the children in rehabilitation centers like Kampiringisa National Rehabilitation Center in Mpigi district to help reduce on the number of street children.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.0 Introduction:

This chapter dealt with conclusion, lessons learnt and recommendations of the study.

6.1 Summary

The principal findings from this study indicate that poverty is the most engineering factors that forces children to move to the streets, findings also show that peer group influence and child neglect also contribute to the increasing number of street children phenomenon in malaba south ward in malaba town council.

6.2 Conclusion.

This study was aimed at investigating the factors contributing to the street children phenomenon. it was Carried out in Malaba town council and the variables examined were poverty, peer group influence and child neglect as the socio economic factors that lead to increasing number of street children phenomenon.

The major findings of the study are that the three variables poverty, peer group influence and child neglect are major contributing factors towards increasing number of street children phenomenon. Based on the study, the research deduced that poverty is the most prevalent cause of the street children phenomenon.

Child neglect is the second factor that has made the children to go to Streets with the first indicator that the children were neglected is the facts that majority of their parents or guardians didn't have time to take care of their children and some of the children were denied basic needs and their rights violated. A number of child respondents rated the care they received from their parents as poor, some were not being taken to the hospital when sick and some were not receiving parental or guardian pieces of advice that could have enabled them make wise decisions on matters affecting them which is an indicator of child neglect.

Peer group influence was the third major factor in that a majority of the street children

interviewed revealed that they had friends in the streets before going to the streets and they used to associate with them.

Conclusively, the researcher carried out the study successfully with the help of the questionnaire and interview guide which made it easy for the researcher to prove the variables to be factors that have contributed to the increasing number of street children phenomenon based on the findings.

5.3. Recommendations

5.3.1 In the view of the findings poverty being the most prevalent factor that forces children to the streets, the researcher therefore recommends the government of Uganda, non-profit organizations in conjunction with the community members to put more efforts in implementing strategies aimed at poverty reduction through implementation of programs and projects on modernization of agriculture which can enable families to improve on their income.

5.3.2 The researcher also recommends the government, NGO's and social workers to carry out sensitization programs on child care and protection to. Parents and community at large.

5.3.3. The researcher also recommended the government to encourage more volunteers in the children department to increase and explore ways of establishing ways of preventing child abuse, neglect and also the government should increase on funding to support their operation.

5.3.4 The researcher also encourages the government to implement policies that help in protecting children and also enacting and implementing laws to ensure that parents and guardians play their roles without violating the rights of children.

5.3.5 The researcher also recommends the police and probation officers to always arrest and take to court those that are found violating the rights of children that can predispose them to go on streets to become street children.

5.4.6 According to the findings, child neglect causes the street children phenomenon, therefore the researcher recommends that the government, Non-Governmental agencies, Social workers should enlighten parents and guardians on the need to give maximum care and

protection to their children. This should be done through campaigns, sensitization programs and on the same note the government should warn parents against child neglect by punishing severely parents who neglect their children. This will prevent incidences where children go to the streets due to child neglect.

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INTERVIEW GUIDE

Section A

Name: Sex: M F

village: Parish: Sub-county:

District: Nationality:

Marital status:

Level of education:

Section B

1. Do you think that poverty is one of the major factors that push children to go and be street children?

If yes, why do you say so?

2. Do you agree that peer group influence is one of the major factors that leads to increase in street children phenomenon?

Why do you think so?

3. Do you agree that child neglect is one of the factors compelling children to go on streets?

Why do you think so?

4. Suggest some of the recommendations to help avert the social problem of street children phenomenon

5. Do you think that the number of street children keeps on increasing or reducing?

6. What is the government and some NGOs trying to do to combat that problem?

7. What other factors do you think contribute to the increasing number of street children phenomenon?

8. What are some of the recommendations you can suggest to help combat the social problem of street children phenomenon.

QUESTIONNAIRE

BIO DATA

Tick where applicable.

Date.....

Name:

Age:

Level of Education:

Primary: ☐ Secondary: ☐ Tertiary: ☐

Sex: Male..... Female:

Religion:

Christian: ☐ Muslim: ☐

For how long have you stayed on the streets?

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What made you to come on the street?

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Why don't you want to go back home?

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Thank you for your time



TC DIRECT LINE: 0782/0701- 859966

IN ANY CORRESPONDENCE ON
THIS SUBJECT PLEASE QUOTE Ref. No:
CR/MTC/120/1



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA



OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK
P. O. Box 10,
MALABA – UGANDA

Date: 12/03/2024

MALABA TOWN COUNCIL TORORO DISTRICT

The Academic Registrar,
Uganda Christian University,
Mbale

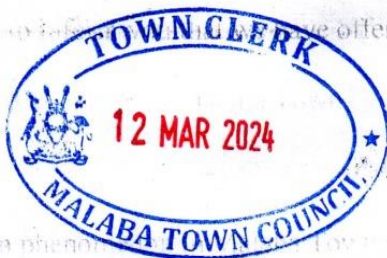
Dear sir/ madam,

RE: ACCEPTANCE LETTER FOR APOLOT BRENDA

We are honored to inform you that we have offered the above mentioned student a placement to undertake her research here in Malaba Town Council in for a period of one month 13/03/2024 to 12/04/2024 on the topic of the Contribution of Socio-Economic factors towards the increasing number of street children phenomenon in Malaba Town council, Tororo District.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully



Omella Isaac Aseu

TOWN CLERK /MALABA TOWN COUNCIL