

## **ABSTRACT**

The study on socio- economic factors influencing child labour in Western Uganda was carried out in Rubirizi district. Child labour is an exploitative practice that violates the rights of the child through hard work that puts the life of children at risk. Child labour is exploitative by its nature in which it is carried out and likely to harm the health, safety and morals of the child.(Rubirizi District Local Government Report , 2011) The study focused on how large poor families, adolescent motherhood , traditional practices , high fertility rates, low percapita income ,domestic work, school drop out, unemployment, influence child labour. The study was guided by the following objectives; the relationship between the poor, rich, middle and upper classes, the nuclear and extended families on child labor, the effects of lifestyles, language, dress, food, religion, norms and customs on child labor and the influence of percapita income, employment opportunities, population , education , health and land on child labor in Rubirizi District. The study used cross sectional research design using both qualitative and quantitative approaches of the variables. Questionnaires and interview guide were used to collect data from respondents. Data were tabulated, expressed and interpreted by use of frequency tables and percentages to interpret the findings. Data were also analyzed by use of descriptive statistics. The major findings revealed that large poor families influenced child labor. Life styles, material needs, high fertility rates, low income, school dropout, and unemployment forced children into child labor. The study findings revealed that poverty and loss of parents influenced child labour. Domestic violence and child abuse forced children into child labour. Negative cultural practices depressed on the lives of children forced them into child labour. Socio economic activities such as domestic work, farming activities were found to be undesirable for the age and abilities of the child laborers. Poverty, domestic violence and loss of parents forced children into child labor. Child laborers were engaged into labor activities that put their lives at risk. Undesirable cultural practices undermined children's right and forced them into child labor. xvi Families should be sensitized about the socio economic factors that influence child labor. The study recommended that parents should be advised to carry out family planning in order to adequately support the children they produce. Families should engage in income generating projects to reduce household poverty. The community should be sensitized about the life styles and cultural practices that threaten lives of children and influence them into child labor. Government should provide adequate resources in schools for children to complete their education. There is a need for all stake holders to support orphans and other vulnerable children to continue with school and complete their education. Government should create awareness about the law and policies that address the plight of child laborers. The contribution of this study to the science is that high fertility rates, young motherhood, orphanage and lifestyles in families contribute to high population growth and reduction in material resources that eventually influence children into child labor. Child labour is an economic construct by a society whose consequences and benefits disregard the wellbeing of the child despite the vulnerability and conditions under which they work.