

**SOCIAL CULTURAL INFLUENCES ON POVERTY OF POPULATION,
A CASE STUDY OF BISHESHE SUB COUNTY
IBANDA DISTRICT**

BY

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**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF EDUCATION IN
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DECLARATION

I Nimanya Leonidas, declare to the best of my knowledge that this project is my original work and has never been presented to any other University for the award of any qualification.

I solemnly bear and stand any inconsistency

Signature  Date... 3/08/09

NIMANYA LEONIDAS

**~~BAE~~
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APPROVAL

I hereby certify that this work has been done under my supervision and I have approved it for submission to the university

Signature  Date... 3/08/09

Mrs. TALIGoola DEBORAH NABUSETA

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my parents Mr. Kamaraika Oswald and Mrs. Kamugizi Norah for mystery of their love, encouragement and support.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all I give thanks to the Almighty God for his mercy and grace he granted me during my degree course and through this research project.

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May God bless for all.

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ABSTRACT

This research study was set to investigate the social cultural influences on poverty of population in Bisheshe, Sub County Ibanda district. The study was carried out from Bisheshe because of the increasing poverty levels and also that the place is familiar. This study was guided by questions such as what are the factors causing poverty in your region? Is it the government that has accelerated poverty in your region? How has poverty affected the economic development of your region? How has the government tried to curb poverty in your region? The research study found out that poverty in Bisheshe is being caused by number of factors and these include, low levels of education, lack of food infrastructures such as roads, increasing population growth, corruption, acute lack of employment among others. During the study 50% of the respondents believed that the government has not accelerate poverty in Bisheshe while 44% blamed the government for the scourge and the 6% were not sure. The study also found out that a number of social-economic effects have been inflicted on the people by poverty. These included school dropouts, lack of basic facilities such as shelter, food, clothings, and beddings among others, domestic violence, illegal activities and many others.

Basing on the findings the following have been recommended to control poverty in Bisheshe Sub County. Reinforcing the NAADS, modernizing agriculture, stabilization of prices for agricultural products, check on corruption and embezzlement, provision soft loans, regulating the general price level in the country (control inflation), diversification of agriculture among others

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background of the study

Poverty refers to being deprived of sufficient material good to the standard level of decent living. However, poverty is highly relative in that one may be regarded as a poor man in a given society and when he crosses one to another area in his same status he may be regarded as a rich man. Poverty has features which include; poor health, hunger, poor housing facilities, insufficient and worn-out loather, lack of educational facilities among others.

In less developed countries, poverty is abysmal. According to Thingan (1998), it is not an economic abstraction, its human condition. It is despair, grief and rain. It's a despair of a father with a family of seven in a poor country when he joins the swelling ranks of unemployed with no prospects of unemployment compensation. Poverty is the longing of a young boy playing outside a village school but unable to enter because his Parents lack money (rupees) needed to buy textbooks. Poverty is a grief of a father and mother watching a three-year old child die of a routine childhood diseases because they can not afford any medical care. This vivid picture of illiterate, hungry, malnourished, poverty stricken and survival oriented people is equally applicable countries in the Sub Saharan Africa, South East Asian countries and the developing countries in other parts of the world.

According to Arch Bishop L. Mpalangi Nkoyoyo (1995), traditionally the African social structure was organized around family. The African extended family network knitted together a blood relationship with in-laws and close friends.

However, this network aided as the insurance against all disabilities of the old age and other short-comings such as poverty.

Unfortunately, several factors have interfered with the treasured network. They include debt crisis, diseases, civil wars, migrant employment among others. It has been argued that more than 1.5 billion of the world's people are between the ages of 10 and 25 and the majority of them live in the developing world. More than half of these young people live in poverty. As the world financial crisis deepens and extends poverty, young people are finding it ever more difficult to enter the workforce or get involved in some form of sustainable livelihood (The Hunger Project Journal, 2008).

According to the World Book (2001), because of the different definitions of poverty from country to country make it difficult to determine how many people are poor. Its estimated that more than 1 billion people, about fifth of the World's population are so poor that their health and lives are endangered. The most wide spread and severe poverty occur in countries with few resources and these are the developing countries.

However, poverty throughout the world has affected societies in a number of ways for example inadequate food, medical care and education reduce the economic and social contributions of the poor. A person who is poorly educated is less likely to become a productive worker or an active citizen. A significant portion of the revenue that is collected through tax payers for programs that assist the need. Poverty is also associated with crime, urban slums inhabited mainly by the poor people have high rates of violent crime and drug abuse.

On global scale poverty has been consent such factors as failure to get and keep steady and well paying jobs, economic forces and changes in labor requirements also causes poverty. For example inflation contributes to poverty by reducing the

amount of goods that a given amount of money can buy, social forces also contributes to poverty for example in the United States some employers purposely try to avoid living blacks and other member of minority groups.

1.1 Statement of the problem

As a world macro-economic problem poverty in Uganda is on an increasing rate especially in rural areas where much of the population depends on subsistence agriculture for livelihood. This has been caused by a number of factors which include among others, low levels of education, having large families (population growth), price fluctuations, cases of insecurity for example in the Northern parts of Uganda and many others.

However, this has inflicted a lot of problems and suffering to the victims. Some of the resultant effects of poverty include; school dropout, rural urban migration, hunger, domestic violence, moral decay and many others. The following the fact that poverty has increased much in rural areas of Uganda, I find it justifiable to dig deep into the causes of poverty in rural areas basing on Bisheshe Sub County in Ibanda district.

1.2 Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study was to investigate the social-cultural influences on poverty of population in Bisheshe Sub County Ibanda district in general relating it to educational levels, family size and cultural beliefs.

1.3 Objectives of the study

The objectives of this study were as follows;

- To find out how education, family size and cultural beliefs have accelerated poverty in Ibanda district

- To find out whether the government is blamed for accelerating poverty problem in Bisheshe sub county
- To find out what the government has done to curb down poverty in Bisheshe sub county in particular and Ibanda district in general.
- To find out the effects of poverty on the people of Bisheshe Sub county Ibanda district

1.4 Research questions

This study was guided by the following questions;

1. What has accelerated poverty conditions in Bisheshe sub county?
2. How has the government made your sub county poor?
3. What has the government done to control poverty in your area?
4. What are the effects of poverty?

1.5 Scope of the study

This research was carried out in Bisheshe Sub County Ibanda district to establish the socio-cultural influences of poverty. It started in August 2008 and ended in November 2009.

1.6 Significance of the study

This study was designed to benefit the following stakeholders;

Teachers and students of economics at both secondary level and tertiary institutions of learning.

To the local and central governments of Bisheshe sub county, Ibanda district and Uganda. This is because it has highlighted the socio-cultural influence of poverty.

To the ministry of finance in Uganda, since it's the one responsible for planning

To people who are carrying out research

1.7 Definition of terms

Poverty. According to the World Book Encyclopedia poverty is the lack of enough income and resources to live adequately by community standards.

Poverty line. This is a level used for identifying the poor. The poverty line is based on income that households need to eat adequately without spending more than a third of their income.

Relative poverty. This is a situation where an individual can afford to spend one dollar per day but lacking enough resources. In other words an individual is above the poverty line.

Devaluation. Can simply be defined as lowering the value of a country's currency compared to the foreign currencies.

Per capita income

This is the income that each individual earns per year

Price fluctuation. This refers to the inconsistencies in the price levels. That is, prices tend to keep on changing

Economic development. Refers to the qualitative and quantitative change in the real national output over a long period of time.

Absolute poverty. This is a type of poverty where an individual is below the poverty level.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter involves the reviewed literature on the causes and trends of poverty in Uganda.

2.1 Trends in poverty and inequalities

During the 1990s, income poverty fell dramatically. The proportion of Ugandans whose expenditure fell below the poverty line (the poverty head count) fell from 56% in 1992 to 44% in 1997/8 and even faster to 34% in 2000. these changes were driven mainly by increases in average income rather than by distribution. Inequality was basically steady from 1992 to 1997, but increased thereafter; the Gini co-efficient was between 0.37 and 0.35 until 1997, but rose to 0.39 in 2001 since 2000, the trends have been less encouraging. Income poverty increased from 34% to 38% between 2000 and 2003, and inequality as measured by the Gini coefficient rose markedly from 0.39 to 0.43.

Table 1: proportion of people below the poverty line percentage and inequality co-efficient

	1992	1993/4	1995	1996	1997/8	1999/2000	2002/3
National	55.7	51.2	50.2	49.1	44.4	33.8	37.7
Rural	59.7	55.6	54.3	53.7	48.7	37.4	41.1
Urban	27.8	21	21.5	19.8	16.7	9.6	12.2
Central	46				28	19.7	22.3
Western	53				43	26.2	31.4
Eastern	59				54	35.0	46.0
Northern	72				60	63.7	63.6
Gini co-efficient							
National	.36	.35	.37	.35	.39	.43	

Source: Poverty eradication Action Plan 2007/2008 pg 13

Table 2: Proportion of people below poverty line by occupational group

	1992	1996	1999/2000	2002/3
Occupational of group head				
Food crop	64	62	45	
Cash crop	63	46	34	
Crop farmers			39	50
Non agriculture	55	40	42	34
Manufacturing	44	34	23	28
Construction	37	35	20	23
Trade	26	21	13	17
Government services	37	32	15	13
Networking	59	60	43	38

Source: PEAP 2007/8 pg13

According to the PEAP 2007/8, poverty rose in almost all regions of the country, with a particularly sharp rise in the East. The regional shares of population changed markedly, with an increase in the share of the East and a reduction in the share of the North. This partially reflects the movement of some displaced persons to the East because of insecurity.

According to the PEAP 2007/8, the increase in poverty is particularly marked for households with metal roofing and with ratios rose over the period, as did the proportion of households eating meat or fish. Seven percent of households now use a mobile phone, and as many as 35% of households in kampala. However, recent research shows that more than 40% of households who had line stock as a bicycle at the end of the 1990s reported that they had not had the corresponding asset in 1992.

Also the PEAP 2007/8, indicates that households access to land is likely to be squeezed by population growth and land scarcity. The rate of urbanization has been gradual rather than dramatic and the proportion of households with agricultural land appears to have changed little 2000/2003. hence an increased number of households are using the country's limited resources of land. There are also some signs that land inequality is growing. The PEAP also pospukates that the village census conducted for UPPAP found that the richer households had accumalted land and other assets are the 1990s much more than other households.

The PEAP 2007/8 also holds that poverty fell between 1992/2000. this was achieved by a very high rate of consumption growth (5.3% annually per capita both in the household surveys and in the national accounts).s this reflects very high and fast rates of GDP growth in the early and mid 1990s (1992-7), which showed some what from 1997-2000. besides, consumption growth led to increased prices that produces received for their crops. Because agriculture was liberated farmers were able to benefit from the increased in the world price of coffee and the unit export price for Ugandan Coffee tripled from 0.82 Us dollar 1kg in 1992/3 to a peak of 2.55 Us dollar 1kg in 1994/5. Therefore the most dramatic poverty reduction were found among cash crop farmers. However, after 1997, GDP growth showed and the terms of trade detoriated somewhat.

According to the PEAP, although poverty decline in the early 1990s (1992-97), the recent research sheds some more light or the changes in poverty. Thus poverty and inequality have risen more steadily since 2000. this is because first, the per capita expenditures fell most dramatically in the second quintile. This corresponds with an increase in poverty in crop farming households and households with small non agricultural enterprises driven by falls in the produce prices.

Secondly, most inequality in Uganda is within, rather than between, regional as occupational groups. However, the changes in the inequality 1990s and early 2002 as due to factors such as education and community services. Also the increase in poverty since 2000, and the marked increase in inequality since 1997 one of concern to policy markers.

2.2 Who are the poor?

According to the PEAP 2007/8, the characteristics of the poor have been widely classified into four; regional inequalities, gender, occupational structure and others disadvantaged groups.

Regional inequalities, while most parts of the country shared in the benefits of growth between 1992 and 2000, the North was left behind. The proportion of people in the North below poverty line fell from 72% in 1992 to 60% in 1997/8, but rose again into 66% in 2000. equally important is that also in the agricultural regions such the west and central parts of the country there was a sharp decline in the general price level for agricultural produce.

There is also a wide gap between urban and rural areas, even when the higher prices for some consumers goods in urban areas are taken into account. Human development indicators are also mostly much better among urban households. Urban poverty also often reflects migration from rural areas and therefore can be addressed partly by making conditions in rural areas better. Nevertheless there are some particular problems faced by the urban poor including the shortage of decent housing and sanitation.

Gender inequalities

According to the PEAP, it is also simple to say that women are poorer than men. However, there are specific groups of women who are particularly likely to be

poor, and there are some dimensions of poverty in which women are generally at a disadvantage.

Table 3: Showing male and female headed families

	Male headed						Female headed			
	Single	Married	Divorced	widowed	All	single	Married	Divorced	widowed	all
1992	45	57	48	49	56	40	53	55	63	56
1999	18	33	20	26	33	18	45	29	40	56
2003	17	39	34	40	38	13	43	35	43	39

Source: PEAP (2007/8)pg 19

From the table above, women headed households were found to be poorer than male headed household in 1999, but not 1992 or 2003. however, households headed by female widows are consistently poorer than others, and house holds headed by married women (probably mostly married to polygamous or absent households) are poorer than households.

2.3 How to measure poverty

According to Thingan (1998), the extent of poverty is being worked and in terms of the poverty line. He holds that Boyd-orr, the first Director General of FAO, was the first person to profound the notion of the starvation line in 1945 which referred to the consumption of less than 2,300 per person per day. This idea has been transformed into the poverty line. Thingan (1998) further argues that P.D Ojha was the first economist to estimate the extent of poverty in terms of the per capita income per day expenditure. On this basis the estimated 44% of the total population lived below the poverty line.

However, according to the PEAP (2007/8), households whose expenditure per adult equivalent falls below a given level (poverty line) are considered poor. The poverty line used in Uganda is an absolute not a relative one. It measures the level of expenditure needed to secure basic food consumption needs (taking into account regional variations in food prices) and a corresponding level of non-food

consumption. Poverty can be measured by the head count-the proportion of people below poverty line or by the poverty gap and depth of poverty, which also take into account the distance below the poverty line. Currently, it is assumed that 40% of Ugandan population are below poverty line. In Uganda today a person is considered poor when he/she can not spend one dollar.

2.4 Absolute Vs Relative poverty

According to the PEAP 2007/8, absolute poverty is the type of poverty where individuals are below the poverty line. Such individuals can not spend more than one dollar per days in all their expenditures. Relative poverty on the other hand is the type of poverty where individuals are above the poverty line but still lack enough resources to live adequately.

2.5 Advanced causes of poverty

According to the PEAP 2007/8, the increase in poverty since 2000, and the marked increase in inequality since 1997, are of concern to policy makers. The pattern as a result of a number of factors as discussed below;

Slower growth in agriculture, the exceptionally fast economic growth of the Mid 1990s led to very fast poverty reduction. However, after strong growth in 1998-9, agricultural growth during 2000-2003 was disappointing except in live stock sector. This has therefore contributed significantly to the increase in poverty. The slow down in agriculture relative to other sector that was observed in 2000 and the years that have followed will have tended to increase poverty and inequality. This has been attributed to soil fertility decrease and technology does not seem to be responding fast enough. Moreover, between 1985 and 2020, Uganda will have lost 14% of its agricultural labor force because of AIDS. Thus it follows that Uganda's agricultural potentials are remaining unexploited (PEAP, 2007/8).

Also declines in farmers prices have accelerated poverty and inequalities in many parts of Uganda. According PEAP 2007/9, Uganda's terms of trade have been

declining since the coffee boom in 1994. during the last three years, there have been very dramatic falls in the price of several export crops.

Overall, the terms of trade declined by about 10% between 2000 and 2003. while the devaluation partially shielded cash crop producers from this, it also produced an increase in the price of tradable good relative to the price of food. Hence those farmers who depend on selling food have seen drop in the real price they were receiving. The ratio of food crop prices to other consumer good price in the CPI fell by 19% between 2000 and 2003. it is also important to note that the effect of terms of trade on poverty and inequality are likely to be temporary as the terms of trade are expected to recover.

Additionally the income diversification and population movements in a context of agricultural slow down and insecurity. Households throughout the country are diversifying into a wider range activities. For the particular household, this is usually income enhancing. However, as new people enter a sector, prices for the output of that sector will fall if the out puts of the sector face inelastic demand. For example people have moved into sectors of production that serve local markets. As a result prices and income per capita in the non agricultural rural sector appear to have fallen.

Also another structural factor leading to cause poverty and inequalities is similar rate of fertility. According to the literature review, poor households tend to have more children and therefore their assets are subjected to greater sub division across generations. On average a Ugandan woman who lives through the bearing years has 6.9 children and this is higher for the poorest families. A high fertility rate, even of constant tends to cause increase inequality among households over time, as high fertility is associated with relative poverty and households with high fertility have top sub divide their assets at a higher rate than households with lower fertility.

Related to the above, similar effects have come from AIDS related mortality and polygamy. Some studies have found AIDS susceptibility to be correlated with poverty. Moreover, the illness or death of a productive adult is likely to lead to loss of income as well as after absorbing expenditures for health care and funerals, further impoverishing affected households. In case of polygamy, this is thought to be associated with low educational levels and hence with poverty. Often polygamy has the effect that instead of investing in physical assets or children's education, the household invests in extra married women and in due course more children.

Another advanced cause of poverty is that of social and cultural factors. Recent research indicates that high alcohol consumption is perceived by women as a serious and increasing problem. The reasons for this problem include the availability of a wider range of drinks and the effects of past conflict and trauma on some of the population. A high share of alcoholic drinks in expenditure and in consumption is associated with poverty and domestic violence.

More to that, the use of public expenditure has also accelerated poverty. A high proportion of the increased public expenditure over the period went into social services. These certainly improved access to health care to the CPI used for the circulation of real expenditure. However, this has not directly increased the incomes of the poor, and the income benefits to public servants mostly accrue to people above the poverty line. Some of the increases have gone into salaries, public administration and defence. It is important to note that increase in education has had a significant impact. However, this impact has been mainly experienced by the better off households. This may be because the impact of UPE on adults education has come with a lag.

Secondly, asset distribution as well as income become more unequal during the late 1990s and early 2000s. In general, this reflects the underlying causes of

increased poverty and inequalities. However, recent land reforms may lead to increases in the rents paid by Kibanja holders on Mail land, which have previously been controlled at a very low level. There is some risk that this could increase inequalities, reflecting a transfer of income from Kibanja holders to Mailo owners.

Lastly, insecurity also accounts for poverty in Uganda. Even though the level of insecurity is constant, this can generate increasing inequalities and poverty because its effects is to restrict investment and this growth, not merely to reduce the current level of income. Some areas such as North, South Western, and East, have experienced an increase in security related poverty, partly because there has been distress migration.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter involves the methods that were used to collect, analyze and interpret data. Interviews, questionnaires among others were used.

3.1 Research design

This research study was designed in a qualitative, quantitative and discriptional manner using the cross section survey.

3.2 Area and population of study

This research study was carried out among the people of Bisheshe Sub County, Ibanda district in South Western Uganda. It consists of business men, farmers and others and therefore their main activity is agriculture.

3.3 Sample selection techniques

Individuals for interviews were randomly selected from the population of Bisheshe sub county but at least considering a total number of 10 people from each village in the sub county in general 111 people were interviewed. Yet with questionnaire, selective sampling was used where by the questionnaires were supplied to selected individuals and total number of 70 questionnaires was given out and a total number of 49 questionnaires was returned.

3.4 Procedure of data collection

The permission to do research was sought from the university. The research moved to the area under investigation, while interviewing the resident population, supplying the questionnaires to the selected individuals and observation of what was happening on the ground. Two types of questionnaires were used. The first type of questionnaire was given to the ordinary people and the second set of questionnaires was given to the local council leaders of the various villages, and the chairperson local council III, Bisheshe sub county.

Respondents were given enough time to fill in the questionnaires depending on their conveniences, but at least a maximum time of these weeks was given.

3.5 Data collection instruments

The following instruments were used in collecting data:

Two sets of questionnaires, one set of questionnaires for ordinary people and the second set of questionnaires for the local council leaders. A recorder phone was also used, and lastly, pens and papers were also used for recording the information/data gathered.

3.6 Type of data gathered

Primary and secondary data were collected. Primary data was collected through interviews, questionnaires, and observation. Secondary data on the other hand was gathered through the reviews of related literature.

3.7 Data analysis

In data analysis both qualitative and quantitative were used. Data was analyzed using the following methods. The data concerning the structural background of the sample population has been tabulated and presented graphically, after which interpretation are made at the end of each table. For the causes of poverty also a table and a graph has been used. However, these factors in the table are further discussed in abid to explain them thoroughly.

3.8 Limitations

A number of problems were faced during this research study and these included, financial constraints to facilitate movements from Kampala to Ibanda, typing and printing this work, language barrier, and misinformation as well as weather problems such as much sun shine among others.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION, DISCUSSION AND PRESENTATION

4.0 Introduction

This chapter examines the empirical data collected, processed, and analyzed in the chapter one, two and three in order to establish the factors that have caused or accelerated poverty in Bisheshe Sub County, Ibanda district. The discussion of these factors has been organized under the heading of characteristics background of the people in Bisheshe Sub County.

4.1 Characteristic background of respondents

In this section the findings of the study in relation to the characteristic background of the study population has been analyzed, assessed, tested and even tabulated.

4.1.1 Educational level of the respondents

Table 4: Shows the education level of respondents

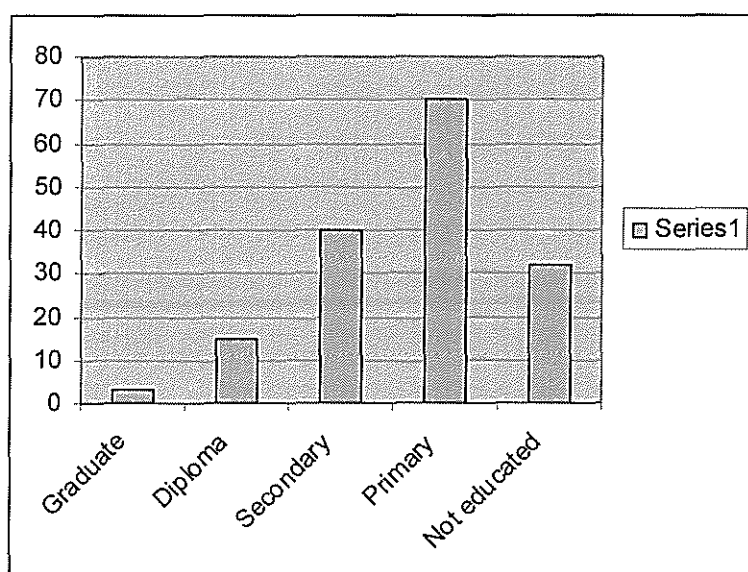
Level of education	Frequency	Percentage
Graduate	3	2
Diploma	15	9
Secondary	40	25
Primary	70	44
Not educated	32	20
Total	160	100

Source: Primary data 2009

From the table above majority of respondents were of low educational levels, and non educated with a total frequency of 142 and a percent of 89%. It is only 11% of the respondents that had managed to finish post secondary education. This explains why poverty is high among the people of Bisheshe. This is because

such a population can not find well paying jobs and therefore resort to subsistence agriculture where they end up producing for consumptions and a little for commercial. Hence justifying the reasons why poverty is rampant in Bisheshe Sub County in particular and Ibanda district in general.

Figure 1: Showing the educational level of the sample population



Source: primary data 2009

4.1.2 Marital status of the sample population

Table 5: Showing marital status of the sample population

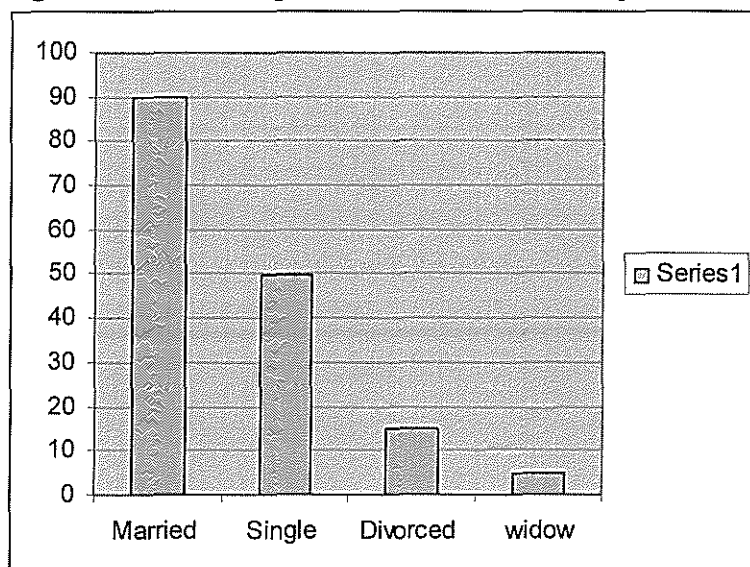
Marital status	Frequency	Percentage
Married	90	56
Single	50	31
Divorced	15	9.3
widow	05	3
Total	160	100

Source: Primary data 2009

The data in the table above reveals that most of the respondents were married with a highest frequency of 90 and a percentage 56%. This was followed by those who are single with a total frequency of 50 and a percentage of 31%. This

means that there is a large number of infants since children are looked at as a sign of blearing in marriage. Thus there is a large level of dependency and the marginal propensity to consume is higher than the MPs (marginal propensity to save), thus leading to the prevailing of poverty.

Figure 2: Showing marital status of respondents



Source: Primary data 2009

4.1.3 Religious background of the sample population

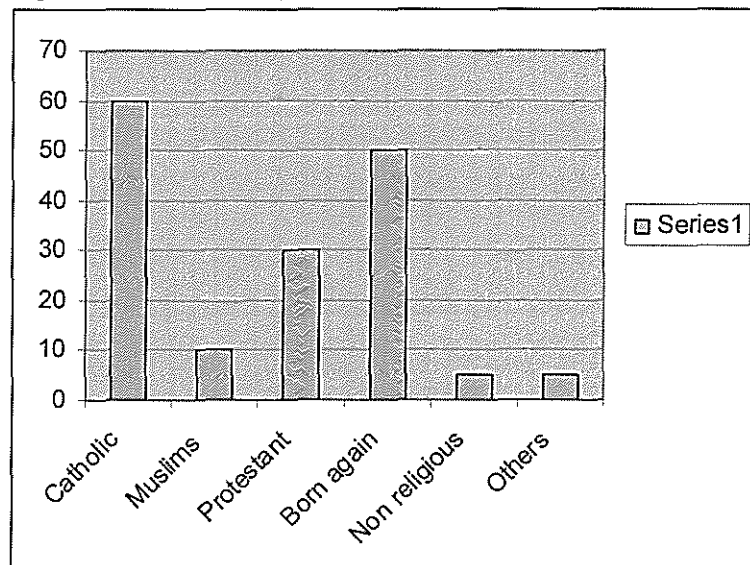
Table 6: Showing the religious background of sample population

Religion	Frequency	Percentage
Catholic	60	38
Muslims	10	6
Protestant	30	19
Born again	50	31
Non religious	05	3
Others	05	3
Total	160	100

Source: Primary data 2009

From the table above most of the respondents were Christians with a total frequency of 140 and a total percentage of 38%. There were followed by the Muslims with a frequency of 10 and 6%.

Figure 3: Showing the religious background of sample population



Source: Primary data 2009

4.1.4 Age of respondents

Table 7: Showing the age of respondents

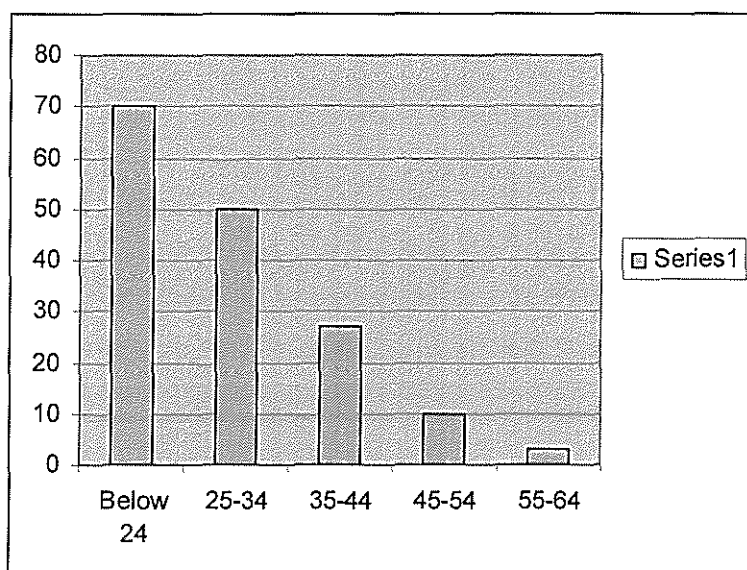
Age	Frequency	Percentage
Below 24	70	44
25-34	50	31
35-44	27	17
45-54	10	6
55-64	03	2
Total	160	100

Source: Primary data 2009

The table above reveals that most of the respondents interviewed were between the ages 24 and 35 with total frequency of 120 and a total percentage of 75%, followed by those between 35 and 44. Thus this means that the population is mostly comprised of the youth who pay less attention to work especially agriculture. Thus they involved in non economic agriculture. Thus they involve in

non economic activities such as gambling, among others hence keeping them in a vicious cycle of poverty.

Figure 4: Showing the age of respondents



Source: primary data

4.1.5 Occupational status of respondents

Table 8: Showing occupational status of the sample population

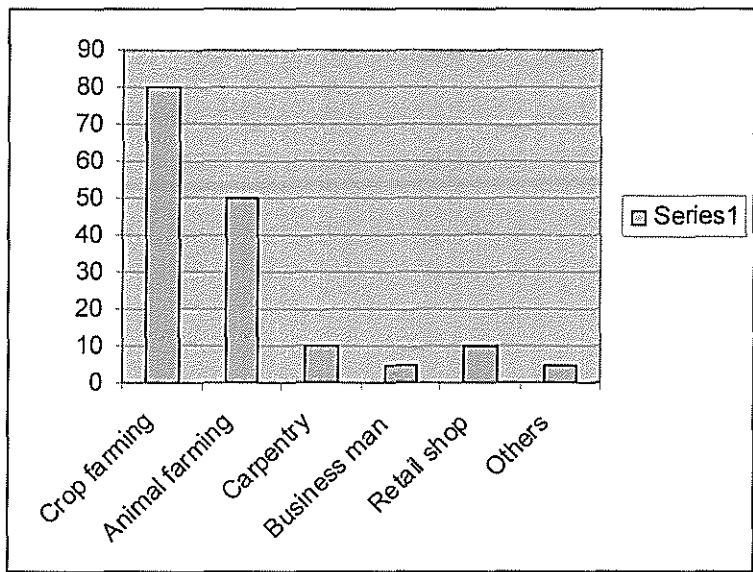
Occupation	Frequency	Percentage
Crop farming	80	50
Animal farming	50	31.3
Carpentry	10	6.3
Business man	05	3.1
Retail shop	10	6.3
Others	05	3.1
Total	160	100

Source: primary data 2009

The table above indicates that majority of the respondents were employed in the primary sector of production especially agriculture where they practice crop and animal husbandry respectively. Two actually accounts for the rampant poverty in

the region since agricultural products suffer a lot from price fluctuations. Besides, that the people in the investigated villages such as Mahega, Nyakatokye, Kyeikuchu, Rwampaga among others tend to practice subsistence farming with low levels of technology and hence leading to low outputs hence making poverty unavailable.

Figure 5: Showing occupational background of the sample population



Source: Primary data 2009

4.2 Factors causing poverty in Bisheshe sub county

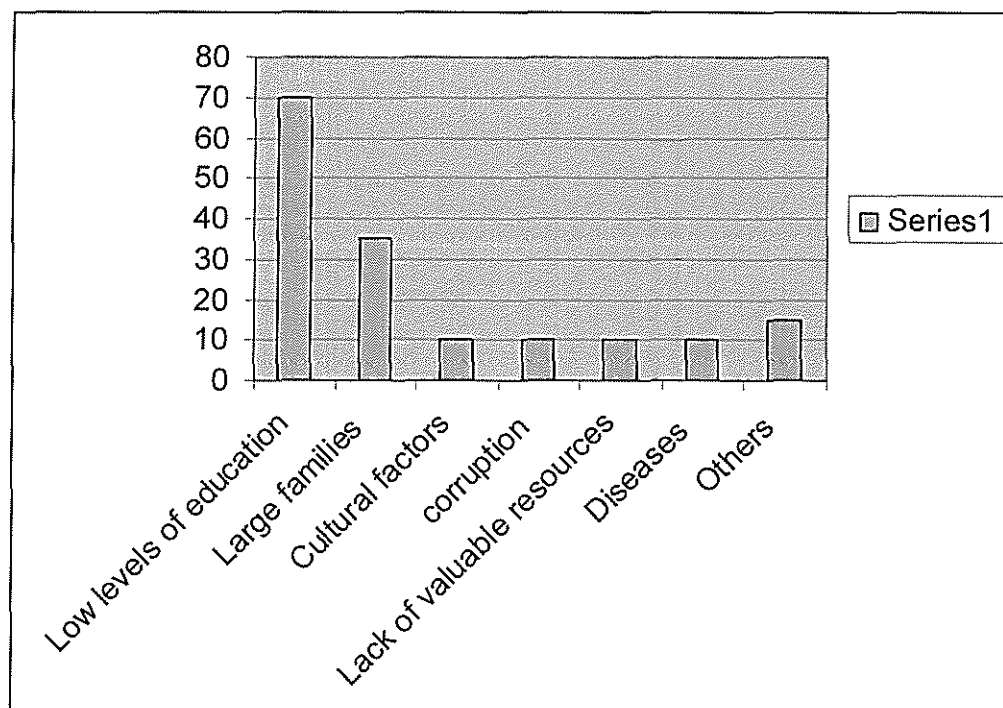
A number of factors were advanced by respondents through interviews and questionnaires to account for the poverty cases in BishesheSub County. These have been tabulated and analyzed graphically using a graph as below;

Table 9: showing factors causing poverty in Bisheshe Sub County

Causes of poverty	Frequency	Percentage
Low levels of education	70	44
Large families	35	22
Cultural factors	10	6.3
Corruption	10	6.3
Lack of valuable resources	10	6.3
Diseases	10	6.3
Others	15	9.4
Total	160	100

Source: Primary data 2009

Figure 6: Showing the causes of poverty in Basheshhe Sub County



Source: Primary data 2009

Interpretation

To begin with low level of education from the investigation carried out, it was found out that most of the people have not accessed post secondary education. Thus they are not able to acquire good jobs that command high payments. As a result, people have ended up resorting to subsistence agriculture thus Keeping them subsistence agriculture thus keeping them vicious cycle of poverty.s

Also some respondents pointed out remoteness as a major cayuse of poverty in Bisheshe Sub county. Some of the villages such as Rwampara, Kashangura among others have poor or no access routes like roads. As such their products can not easily reach the attractive markets in the urban centers like Kampala, Mbarara among others.

Also traditional tendencies or beliefs explain the poverty of some people in Bisheshe Sub County. Such people cherish and carry forward the traditional cultural values like inheritance, producing many children and practicing polygamy in an attempt to command respect in society yet the resources available are insufficient. As a result they end up consuming which ever produce hence marginalizing further investment which leads to increased poverty.

Also labour on cultural and religious basis also account for poverty in Bisheshe Sub County. For example an unemployed Muslim can not at any one single moment take on a job in a bar or a pork joint. He would rather remain poor than going against this religious affiliation.

Also over dependency on agriculture as the backborn of the Uganda's economy has also led to increased Poverty cases. Majority of the local population in Bisheshe depend on agriculture both crop growing and animal rearing using traditional technologies. However agricultural products especially the crop yields have always suffered from price fluctuation to the decrease in the world's

market for the Ugandan products. These fluctuations demotivate people and hence some tend to withdraw from producing for commercial purposes.

Additionally, lack of capital is yet another cause of poverty in Bisheshe sub county, Ibanda District. Many people in the region lack capital for starting up even small scale business. This is because people even fear getting loans from commercial banks and local micro finances since they attach high interest rate on their loans. Therefore lack of capital and soft loans in the region has kept and maintained the poverty cycle among some people in the villages of Bisheshe Sub county.

According to the LC I Chairman of Rwampara Village Mr. Nimanya George William, poverty has been cancelled by the deterioration of morals whereby many young people have ended up as drunkards, drug abusers and gamblers instead of engaging in constructive work to wipe out poverty.

Also a high marginal propensity to consume explains why poverty is much in Bisheshe Sub county. Given that low incomes are earned they are spent within a very short time lag thus saving almost nothing for future production hence keeping themselves in poverty.

More so, lack of valuable, natural resources in the sub county and the district in general. Natural resources may look at as forests, minerals, water resources and virgin fertile land. Therefore the sub county and the district in general lack valuable resources for harnessing to foster development and curb down poverty.

The high corruption in sensitive offices in the district and sub county all together have enhanced poverty in Bisheshe. This is because some of the officers embezzle funds yet others have direct public funds for personal benefits.

However it is these funds would have been used to provide social services in the country hence making poverty to long.

Additionally, acute lack of employment, poverty also on the increase with the rise of unemployment in Bisheshe sub county. The number of unemployed people has been increasing because of the growing population.

Inflation, continuous rising prices are another cause of poverty in Bisheshe sub county. When the price rise the purchasing power of the money falls and they lead to the impoverishment of the lower middle and poorer sections of the population. Today the inflation rate is estimated to be a double figure (14%) in Uganda. Thus inflationary pressures have further increased the number of poor people in Bisheshe Sub County in particular and Ibanda district in general.

High growth rate of population, the growth rate of population in Ibanda and Uganda in general has been very high as against the growth rate of the economy. This has failed to bring about the required improvements in living standards. During the 2001-2 population Uganda had a total population of 24.6 million people and today its estimated to be between 31 million people. Such a high growth rate of population accompanied by the low growth rate of the economy brings down the per capita income.

Lastky diseases have also accelerated poverty in Bisheshe Sub county. The region has been afflicted with many diseases which weaken people of Malaria, HIV/AIDS among others. Thousands have so far dead. Its deases to face victimized families. Many dead have left thousands of orphaned children hence keeping them in poverty.

4.3 Whether the government has accelerated poverty in the region

It had been found that the government of Uganda had accelerated poverty in Bisheshe region through failure of connecting roads from villages to the market centers. This has led to failure to get access to market centers for their produce. The government has also failed to control population like through family planning methods to reduce on high fertility rate.

Table 10: Showing responses on whether the government has accelerated poverty in the region

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	70	44
No	80	50
Not sure	10	6.3
Total	160	100

Source: Primary data 2009

From the table above 50% of respondents reputed the allegation that the government of Uganda has accelerated poverty in Bisheshe considering the fact that the government has started many schemes to curb down poverty. For example through NAADS (National Agricultural advisory services, the Bona Bagagawale fund (propensity for all) among others. However 44% of the respondents had a feeling that the government has failed to reduce poverty in their region.

Citing out that, there have poor roads connecting the villages to the market centers, price fluctuations and unequal distribution of resources. Its only 6% of the respondents that was not sure.

4.4 Effects of poverty on the people of Bisheshe Sub county

Poverty scourge has had a number of land marks on the people of Boshes Sub county in particular Ibanda district in general these have been discussed below;

Poverty has led to poor housing facilities in the region. Most of the people can not afford buying cement, iron sheets and bricks as well. Therefore they have resorted to construction of houses using wattles and grasses. These have on many cases caused fire break out which have claimed lives and property of people.

Additionally, poverty has led to low levels of education in the region. Inspite the fact that UPE is in existence, the educational levels of people in Bisheshe have remained low. This is because they can not afford Post primary education in secondary schools and technical colleges and its of recent that universally secondary education has been introduced. Therefore poverty has left the low levels of education.

Also poverty has denied the local people the potential to access the basic requirements of life such as food, sugar, medicine, shelter clothes among others.

Poverty has also led to increased cases of domestic violence in many villages of Bisheshe Sub County. This violence has emanated from men's failure to supply the essentials of life such as salt, sugar, scholastic materials, clothing, and beddings among others. According to Mr. Kalyegira the Chairperson Mahega LC I, many cases concerning domestic violence have been caused by poverty.

More to that, poverty has led to increased cases of rural urban migration thereby many youth have run away from the villages in Bisheshe to Ibanda town and Kampala City in search for better employment opportunities and the good lives in urban centers. This has however, reduced the labor force that involves in agricultural production.

Illegal activities such as gambling, drug abuse, robbery and hunger among others have increased tremendously in many villages such as Kyeikuchu, Rwahura among others. This has however left these villages in particular and the sub county in particular less developed. And on some occasion death cases have been registered.

Lastly, poverty has led to moral decay among the people in Bisheshe both adults and the children. This is because the peer has resorted to drinking to forget their problems. However as they get drunk they end up using villagers languages. Hence leading to the decaying of the morals.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter gives you the summary of findings, conclusion and the recommendations to various stakeholders.

5.1 Summary of findings

In summary, this research study was set to find out the factors that have consent increased poverty in Bisheshe Sub County. A number of factors were raised by the people and some were observed by the research. These include among others, diseases such as malaria and HIV/AIDS, accelerating prices, the increased unemployment, low levels of education, growing population, over dependence on subsistence agriculture, lack of valuable resources, corruption and others.

This study also sought to investigate the effects of poverty to the people in Bisheshe sub county. The investigation have educated that poverty has led to problems such as moral decay, school drop out, lack of basic necessities of life such as food, medical care, clothing, beddings among others, poor housing facilities, domestic violence, increase and illegal activities such as robbery and hunger which have increased murder cases in the region.

The research has also indicated that the government though condemned foe failure to wipe out poverty in the sub county, it has done a lot to reverse the situation for example through the national agriculture advisory services (NAADS), diversification of Agriculture, modernization of agriculture, improvement of the social infrastructures such as roads to open up the region to the Market centers. However those who condemned the government for failure to reduce base on

the following; governments failure to regulate the prices for agriculture products, failure to check on corruption and embezzlement of funds, failure to open up more employment opportunities for the youth in the sub county.

The study has also revealed that most of the people in Bisheshe live in absolute poverty that is below the poverty line as they can not even spend at least one dollar per day. Many people even fail to buy fuel for lighting.

5.2 Conclusion

In conclusion, the study was set to find out the factors causing poverty in Bisheshe Sub County Ibanda district. Many villagers were visited; they include among others Mahega, Nyakatokye, Rwampara, Kywikuchu, and Kashangura. Therefore the findings of this study are vivid to the whole region of Bisheshe Sub County in Ibanda as for the year 2008/9. however, there is a possibility that the conditions are likely to linger on despite the fact that the government is struggling hard to reverse the situation. Therefore there is an urgent need for serious action to fight poverty in the region by both stakeholders, that is the local government, village councils, sub county councils, district council and the central government as well as the people of Bisheshe sub county.

5.3 Recommendations

Basing on the findings of the study I would like to recommend the following both to the government and the ordinary people.

The government should try to stabilise the prices for agricultural products. This will help the farmers to benefit from their efforts given the fact that most of the local population in the region is employed in agriculture.

The government should re-enforce the NAADS program. This will help the farmers in Bisheshe to improve on the technology used in the modern agriculture which lead to high outputs hence leading to increased incomes.

The government should restore the cooperative societies and the marketing boards. These will help farmers to avoid loses in case of price fluctuation an over production.

Also the government should put much emphasis on education. Now that there is Universal primary and secondary education in the country, the government should ensure that people go to schools. This ill uplift the education levels and hence opening up chances for better employment.

There is also need to improve on the road infrastructure in the region of poverty is to be curbed down. The region has marrum roads that are impassable during the wet season thus cutting off the farmers from the market.

Extension of social services to the area such as power, good schools, water and hospitals will help to reduce on poverty.

There is also need to check on the population growth rate in Bisheshe. This can be achieved through emphasizing birth control measures such as pill plans, injector plans, use of condoms among others. This will reduce to rate of dependency and the expenditures on consumption commodities.

Additionally there is need to check on inflation that is persistent rise in the price level. Inflation has drained people's income thus leaving poor.

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APPENDICES

Appendix A: Questionnaires for the local people

Dear Respondents,

I am carrying out a research on the **factors causing poverty in Bisheshe Sub County in relation to educational levels**, family size and traditional beliefs. Your response will be treated with confidentiality and data obtained is strictly for educational purposes.

Tick the best alternative

Age

Below 25 ☐

25-34years ☐

35-44 years ☐

45-54 years ☐

55-64 years ☐

Sex

Male ☐

Female ☐

Marital status

Single ☐

Married ☐

Divorced ☐

Widow ☐

Educational level

- Primary ☐
- Secondary ☐
- Diploma ☐
- Graduate ☐
- Not educated ☐

What is your religion?

- Catholic ☐
- Muslim ☐
- Protestant ☐
- Born Again ☐
- Non believers ☐
- Others ☐

What is your occupation?

- Businessman ☐
- Farmer ☐
- Carpenter ☐
- Retail shop attendant ☐
- Not working ☐

What has caused poverty in your sub county?

.....

Do you think the government should be blamed for poverty in your sub county?

.....

.....

What has the government done to control poverty in your region?

.....

How has poverty affect your regional development?

.....

.....

Appendix B: Questionnaires for the local council leaders

Dear Respondents,

I am carrying out a research on the **factors causing poverty in Bisheshe Sub County in relation to educational levels**, family size and traditional beliefs. Your response will be treated with confidentiality and data obtained is strictly for educational purposes.

Tick the best alternative

Age

- Below 25 ☐
- 25-34 years ☐
- 35-44 years ☐
- 45-54 years ☐
- 55-64 years ☐

Sex

- Male ☐
- Female ☐

Marital status

- Single ☐
- Married ☐
- Divorced ☐
- Widow ☐

Educational level

- Primary ☐

Secondary ☐

Diploma ☐

Graduate ☐

Not educated ☐

What is your religion?

Catholic ☐

Muslim ☐

Protestant ☐

Born Again ☐

Non believers ☐

Others ☐

What is your occupation?

Businessman ☐

Farmer ☐

Carpenter ☐

Retail shop attendant ☐

Not working ☐

Do you consider your self poor?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Why

.....
.....

What has caused poverty among the people you lead?

.....
.....

Do you attribute poverty to government's failure to help the local people, why

.....

.....

.....

.....

How have you helped your people to get rid of poverty?

.....

.....

.....

.....

What has the government done to control poverty in your sub county?

.....

.....

How has poverty affected the development of your sub county?

.....

.....