

**EFFECTS OF CHILD LABOUR ON ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IN  
SELECTED PRIMARY SCHOOLS OF MAKINDYE DIVISION  
KAMPALA DISTRICT**

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## DECLARATION

I Nakibuuka Margaret, I declare that this research is the original work which was presented by myself simply for the award of Diploma Primary Education from Kampala International University.

  
22/09/2009

## **APPROVAL**

This is to certify that the research of Nakibuuka Margaret has been successfully carried and it has been under my supervision and it is now ready for the submission to the Academic Board with my due approval.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to my almighty God for having helped me to carryout my research successfully.

Secondly I would like to thank my supervisor, Mr. Mabonga Erick for having helped to successfully accomplish my research.

Lastly, I thank each and every one who gave me help when carrying out my research.

## **ABSTRACT**

This study was conducted to establish and document the effects of child labor on academic performance by taking the case of selected primary schools of Makindye division Kampala district. Children below the age of 18 being economically. Socially active in activities that are done by adults exemplified the child labor. The study particularly sought to establish the effects of such child labor on the academic performance of pupils in schools that was known.

The research was conducted by cross-sectional survey, data being collected during the month of September and October 2008, using questionnaire and interview responses from 10 head teachers 30 pupils and 30 parents randomly and purposely selected from the accessible population. The data was computed percentages and frequencies mechanically, the presented in table quantitatively from where they were discussed using description techniques.

The study established that child labor is brought about by poverty, negligence of parents over their children's lives, ignorance in society about its dangers among other factors. It negatively affects the academic performance of a child in class and ends up in dropping out of school in many cases. The government since 1995, set laws against child labor and has put in place the Universal primary and secondary education for all children. Suggestions like sensitization of the masses and strengthening the law enforcement were to minimize child labor in homes.

The study concludes that child labor negatively affect the academic performance of a child in school by totally distorting it. It recommends that strengthening of the law enforcement in society and mass sensitization plus setting in place a program on anti-child labor by the government can be a remedy among other ways.

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## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1. Back ground to the study**

According to Zigler (2000), domestic child labor is one of the commonest forms of child abuse in Africa. He adds that this is a process whereby children below the age of 18 are subjected to heavy workload, forced to bear burdens which are beyond their physical and psychological capacity. There are many household chores which are done by children both in their own homes and outside their homes for commercial purposes.

The international labor organizations (ILO, 2001) report indicated that child labor was not gender neutral and it rested heavily on the shoulders of the girl-children. The report further stated that in countries below the Saharan desert. Many girls at the age of 12 are forced into marriages and bear burdens that are beyond their mental and physical scope. The report also indicates that in war ravaged areas, many children are forced to fight wars the cause of which they are quite unaware.

It should also be noted that children from financially poor families are more vulnerable to child labor. It is such children who drop out of schools at early ages due to school fees failure and thus taking up work at tender ages. It is also true that such children are expected to work and supplement on the families income. They are also expected to give/provide labor on family gardens which all have a great toll on their growing bodies (Kikonyogo 2000)

Much of the work that children do is under or unpaid. Girls are sold or contracted as bonded labor and trafficked as prostitutes or domestic servants where they may repay their families debt with the performance of abusive and un tolerable work which they are not free to leave. Because it is illegal, unpaid, and not considered



work, the burden some work of girls is rarely counted in the nation census or GWP of most if not all countries (Ziegler, 2000).

In Uganda, there are so many children below 18 who are economically active. Bitamazire (2005) also laments that the UPE program which was introduced in 1997 had its major objectives of making education free and universal to all children of school going age. Regardless of their tribe, and abilities. However, this is frustrated by the number of children who drop out of schools every year to go and work in both formal and informal sectors. She says that child labor does not affect children's growth physically but mental as well. It is this psychological torture that influences their learning as well as their academic performance.

Given the above background, child labor could have had diverse effects on the children's academic performance which this study was set out to investigate.

## **1.2. Statement of the problem**

Despite the Government and Non governments' (NGOs) campaigns against child labor many children are economically active both informal and formal sectors. In homes, children as young as 8 are expected to give a hand in washing utensils, nursing younger siblings, preparing family meals, laundry work, fetching firewood and water plus many more household chores. However, the effects of all these on the children's' academic performance were not known yet. This study therefore intended to establish the effects of domestic labor on the pupils' academic performance in selected primary schools in Makindye division Kampala district.

## **1.3. Purpose of the study**

The purpose of this study was to find out the effects of child labor on the pupils' academic performance in selected primary schools in Makindye division, Kampala district.

### **1.3. Objectives of the study**

The study intended to achieve the following objectives:

- i) To find out the factors leading to increase in child labor in Makindye division.
- ii) To identify the effects of child labor on the pupils' academic performance
- iii) To identify the measures taken by the government against labor.
- iv) To suggest possible ways of minimizing child labor in homes.

### **1.4 General objectives**

To find out how child labour affect pupils academic performance in Primary School in Makindye Division.

### **1.5. Research questions**

The study focused on answering the following questions:

- i) What are the factors leading to increase in child labor?
- ii) What are the effects of child labor on the pupil's academic performance?
- iii) What measures have the government undertaken against child labor?
- iv) How can child labor be minimized?

### **1.6. Significance of the study**

This study is of great benefit to the following:

#### **i. Government**

Officials in the ministry of education and sports will be enabled to identify the effects of child labor on the children's learning and this will come up with measures against such problems.

#### **ii. Policy makers**

- ◆ They will be able to identify children in their schools who are affected by child labor and thus will find ways of helping them to achieve their educational goals.

- ♦ They will be enabled to establish the danger of employing children and therefore will come up to stop child labor their places of work.
- ♦ They will be able to realize the effects of labor to children's mental and physical growth and therefore will stop it.

## **1.7. Scope**

### **1.7.1 Subject scope**

This study dwelt on identifying the effect of child labor on pupils' academic performance in primary schools.

### **1.7.2 Area scope**

This study was conducted in ten sampled primary schools in Makindye division Kampala district. The researcher chose to carry out the study with in this area because it was associated with the problem of child labor and thus making it suitable for this study.

### **1.7.3 Time scope**

This study has been conducted depending on the last five years.

## **1.8. Conceptual frame work.**

According to Friedman (2002), child labor is sold as man. For so many years child labor has been practical more so in African countries where cultural values emphasize the training of children by working right away from child hood.

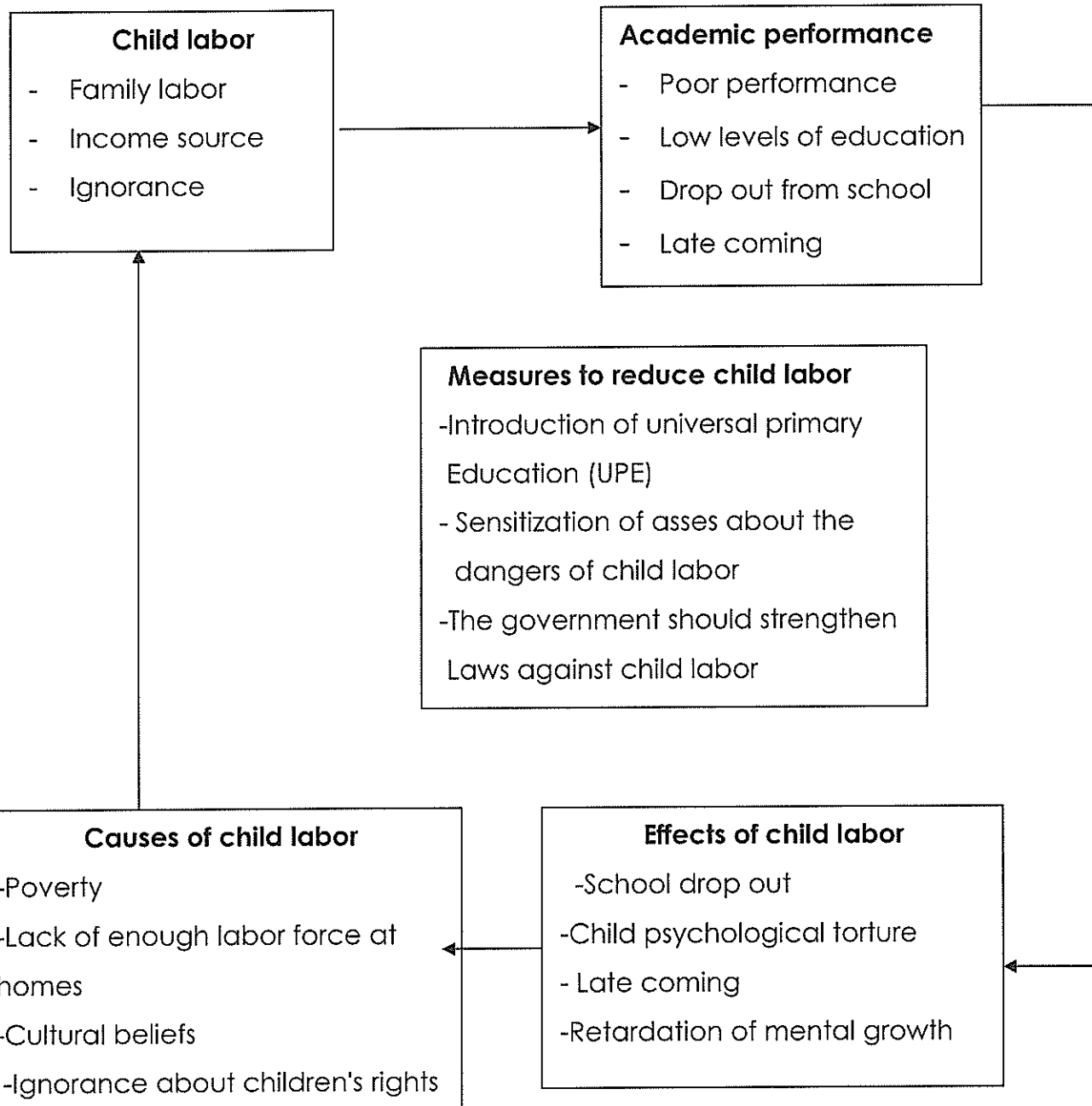
It was in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century that human rights activities started world wide campaigns against the invisible child labor in homes.

Child labor became increasingly conspicuous in the late 1990s as manual labor became quite needed in factories, homes and army. As women emancipation was

emphasized in African countries, it became a necessity for all women to get involved in commercial work, increasing demands for child house helpers inform of house girls' and house boys", to help on household chores while house wives were busy at work in their work places (Kikonyogo, 2000)

Today, child labor is a common phenomenon and many children are economically active, with many children doing petty jobs like fetching water for money, hawking polyethylene bags in car parks and selling eatables in busy places in towns and cities. Child prostitutes are also increasing from day to day which causes a threat to the future generation.

### 1.8.1 Conceptual frame



## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **2.0 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

#### **2.1. Introduction**

This chapter sites the available literature on child abuse and its effects on pupils' academic performance as viewed by other scholars in relation to the topic under investigation. The citation was based on the research questions.

#### **2.2. Factors leading to child labor**

Ziegler (2000) argues that poverty is the greatest cause of child labor in developing countries. He adds that children from financially poor families are prone to child labor as some times are forced out of school at early ages due to school fess failure. Ziegler (2000) further emphasizes that children from such families are expected to work and sustain themselves due to lack of financial backing by their parents.

Considering the above findings by Ziegler (2000), the researcher noted that poverty could be one of the greatest causes of child labor. However, the researcher also noted that it is again in rich families where children are employed as babysitters which subjected this view to further research as the study went on.

Related to the above, Keynes (1993) also argues that in financially poor families children are expected to offer manual labor on farms and gardens to cover the work which would have been done by other workers. He says that in some families, children have to work in order to get school fees and other necessities.

On the other hand, Friedman (2002) points out that child labor is perpetuated by cultural factors. He asserts that in some families where cultural values are still emphasized, children are trained to work right away from child hood, preparing them for future responsibility as husbands and wives. In some cultures, the best ways of

training children is to teach them how to work and therefore are exposed to heavy work at early ages.

The researcher also noted that child labor is perpetuated by cultural beliefs, where by some cultures emphasizes exposing children to heavy work at early ages. However, this is also subjected to further research since with the prevailing modernity, cultural values could have lost strength.

Kikonyogo (2000) also argues that there is ignorance about children's right and many parents force their children into heavy work with out knowing that what they are doing is abuse of children's rights. Ignorance of law is also a great problem that employers employ children out f ignorance.

### **2.3. Effects of child labor on academic performance**

According to the international labor organization's (2002) report, many children dropped out of schools due to child labor, the report further indicated that many children dropped out of school to go to work in mines, industries so as to earn some money for a living. Many children were not in school because they were working and children were working because they were not in school.

It can therefore be noted from the above that child labor has greatly affected pupil's learning. However, this study intended to establish ways through which child labor affects pupils' academic performance while in school.

Guy (2000) also argues that domestic labor greatly hinders the academic performance of pupils in schools. He says that it does not only keep children out of school but also psychologically tortures them, and thus hindering the concentration on class work. Guy (2000) further laments that at home, children do not get time to

revise their work since they have to accomplish a lot of tasks before they go to bed or to school.

Domestic child labor is more of a menace to the children mental growth also makes children late for school and the fatigue which they develop after doing a lot of chores at home before they walk for long hour to schools all affects their concentration on class work. (Gathes, 1997)

One also realizes that domestic labor reduces on the time which pupils have to revise their work. However, it is also noted that there are some pupils who study in boarding schools and are not subjected to domestic labor as day scholars. This made the study quite significant in order to establish the validity of this matter

#### **2.4. Governments efforts to minimize child labor**

According to Busingye (2000), one of the objectives of the inception of the universal primary education (UPE) program was to increase pupil's access to primary education and thus saving them from child labor. She further argues that the government intended to benefit all the children who were not in school but were working to also attend school free of charge.

The researcher noted from the above argument that what tool when the government has used to minimize child labor is the introduction of UPE program to enable all working children to go to school. However, this is liable to future research since there are still some pupils who drop out of school because of failure to acquire scholastic materials.

Coleridge (1993) reports that Government and non-Government organizations (NGOs) are taking serious campaigns against child labor through avenues like the



media. Through this they sensitize the masses about the dangers of child labor and this makes children aware of their rights.

It can therefore be noted that government could have decampaigned child labor through the media and other avenues. However, it should be noted that there are many people especially in rural areas who can not get access to the media especially the newspapers, magazines, televisions etc.

### **2.5. Ways of minimizing child labor**

Erikson (1999) suggests that in order for child labor to be minimized, government should strengthen laws against child labor as a way of scaring away the culprits. He further says that government should pass serious punishments for the culprits who employ children below the age of 18 and set the age at which one is to be employed.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **3.0 METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1. Introduction:**

This chapter explains the methods that were used in data collection (instruments), the study design, population, sample and methods of data analysis. It also explains the procedures that were followed in data collection.

#### **3.2. Research design**

This study followed a cross section survey design investigating the effects of child labor on pupils' academic performance. It was both qualitative and quantitative and instruments of data collection were; questionnaires and interview guide.

#### **3.3. Population**

The following categories of respondents were used in data collection.

- Head teachers
- Parents and
- Pupils

They were selected from sample primary schools which were also chosen from Makindye division Kampala district.

#### **3.4. Sample**

Ten (10) sample primary schools were selected from Makindye division from which respondents were selected. Simple random and purposive samplings were used. The schools were selected by simple random sampling by writing the name of all schools in Makindye and randomly picking one by one without replacing the tenth school.

A head teacher was taken from each of the ten sampled schools, hence a total of ten (10) head teachers.

Fifty (50) pupils were selected; taking five (5) from each of the ten sampled schools they were selected from the top class of P.7 because at this level, pupils are expected to be old enough to give sensible responses. Simple random sampling will be used.

Five (5) parents were selected from each of the ten (10) sample primary schools, making a total of fifty (50) parents. Purposive sampling was used here since the parents were the parents of the pupils who as well were also used in data collection. A total of a hundred ten (110) respondents was used.

### **3.5. Instruments**

The following were used in data collection:

#### **a. questionnaires:**

They were both open and closed ended. They were administered to the head teachers. The purpose of using this instrument was that it was giving time to respondents to answer questions, given the busy schedule of their official duties.

#### **b. Interviews guide:**

They were structured oral questions which were administered to the parents and pupils. The purpose of using this instrument was that it would allow explanation and clarification on the questions by the researcher to the respondents (parents) who were illiterate and unable to answer the questionnaire independently.

### **3.6. Procedure**

- i) The researcher sought for permission to conduct research from relevant school authorities where the study was conducted.
- ii) Questionnaires were administered to the head teachers and Responses were collected after wards as were agreed upon with them.
- iii) Interviews were administered to the pupils as responses were written down.

iv) With the help of the pupils, the researcher met the parents to whom interviews were administered.

v) All the responses were compiled; analyzed and a reported and written down

### **3.7. Data Analysis**

The raw data collected was computed to percentages and frequencies mechanically. Tables were constructed on which the statistical data was presented quantitatively. The data was then discussed using description techniques qualitatively.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4.0 DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS INTERPRETATION

#### 4.1 Introduction

The researcher attained all her objectives. In this chapter, the researcher is putting forward the results got from the research study. Presentation and analysis of results is going to revolve around the questionnaire administered to head teachers as a research tool. It was a list of twelve questions. Other tools as like the interview guide will be dealt with in the next chapter while discussing the findings of the study. Below is the data presentation and analysis according to the questionnaire.

#### 4.2 Section A: Found in this part is the Background Information

The first question thought to find out the Names of Schools in which questionnaires were administered. The findings were from the ten (10) sample schools selected.

The second question sought to find out the age of the respondents and below was how the ages corresponded.

AGE:	20-25	25-30	30-35	35-40	40-45	45 and above
NO.	0	2	3	1	3	1
Percentage	0	20	30	10	30	10

Two of the respondents were under the ages of 20-25, three under 30-35, one was between the ages of 35-40, then three were under 40-45 and only one respondent was from 45 years and above.

The third question sought the gender of the respondents. Below are the findings:

<b>Sex:</b>	<b>Number:</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Male</b>	8	80
<b>Female</b>	2	20

Amongst the ten respondents, eight were male and two were female.

The fourth question probed the qualification the respondent held as showed below:

<b>Qualifications:</b>	<b>Certificate</b>	<b>Diploma</b>	<b>Degree</b>
<b>Number:</b>	1	3	6
<b>Percentage</b>	10	30	60

Amongst the ten respondents, one was a certificate holder, three were diploma holders and six were degree holders.

**4.3 Section B:** This part of the questionnaire was meant to find out the factors leading to increase in child labor and the measures taken to help victims attain educational goals were as follows:

Do you have child laborers in your school?

		<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Yes</b>	7	70
<b>No</b>	3	30

Seven head teachers accepted having child laborers in their schools while three had no child laborers.

What do you think are the factors leading to increase in child labor in the community?

Amongst the reasons gathered were: poverty, alcoholism, and need for cheap labor, ignorance, violence, losing parents, child neglect, and influence of extended and polygamous marriages.

As a Head Teacher what measures have you taken to assist the child laborers in your school to achieve their education goals?

Child laborers in schools were assisted to achieve their education goals in the following ways as gathered by the researcher: sensitization, giving bursaries to the helpless, guidance and counseling.

**4.4 Section C** of the questions aimed to find out the effects of child labor on academic performance and two questions were designed as:

How is the academic performance of pupils in your school?

Academic performance	V. Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Number	1	3	6	1
Percentage	10	30	60	10

From the ten head teachers, one reported the performance of pupils to have been very good, three good, then six to have been fair and one reported the performance to have been poor.

What do you think are the effects of child labor on pupils' academic performance? Below were the responses to the research question: absenteeism, failure to concentrate in class, poor performance, mental retardation, school dropout, frequent escaping from school before time, late coming, losing interest in studies, misbehaving.

**4.5 Section D:** This section of the questionnaire wanted to discover the possible Measures undertaken by government against child labor, they were two questions and they went:

Do you think the government has taken any measures against child labor?

		Percentage
Yes	9	90
No	1	10

About the measures taken by the government against child labor, nine respondents answered in acceptance while one denied any measure to have been taken.

If yes, give them?

Respondents gave the following answers to the above question:

- i) Punishing people violating children's rights for example imprisonment.
- ii) Sensitization of the masses about the dangers of child labor.
- iii) Introduction of the Universal Primary Education (UPE) and the Universal Secondary Education (USE).
- iv) Government's concerted efforts to protect the rights of children.
- v) The government has established legal reforms on the rights of children (1995 constitution).
- vi) The government has put laws against child labor through the ministry of labor gender and social development.

**4.6 Section E:** This section aimed at finding ways of minimizing child labor in homes. The question was:



Suggest possible ways through which child labor in homes could be minimized?

The possible ways suggested by the respondents to minimize child labor in homes were as follows;

- i) Strict implementation of laws against child labor.
- ii) Observing the children's rights.
- iii) Giving guidance and counseling to the parents and children about the dangers of child labor.
- iv) The government should create more jobs for parents and guardians.
- v) Children should be enrolled in UPE and USE.
- vi) Promoting gender equity.
- vii) Reducing stigma and discrimination of children.
- viii) Strengthening partnership within the existing faith-based and community based organizations like churches.
- ix) Parents should encourage children to go school.
- x) The government should set and enforce laws against the violation of children's rights.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **5.0 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter contains the discussion of data from the respondents as the researcher gathered it down, then conclusion and recommendation pertain the work of the study by the researcher. The discussion is conducted according to the research objectives taken as guidelines to the research study arranged as below:

#### **5.2 DISCUSSION**

The first objective was to establish the factors leading to increase in child labor in Makindye division. Data analysis and interpretation of interview and questionnaire responses from the head teachers, pupils and parents revealed these major findings under this objective: poverty, need for cheap labor, ignorance, loss of parents, child neglect, and influence of polygamous marriages. These findings indicate that the outstanding problem of poverty to almost all classes of people, the need to combat it down and as well the need to accumulate wealth left children to be the target group for a cheap factor of production (labor) hence the child labor cause. This could owe to the ignorance of the public about the dangers of child labor as well as the ever increasing demand for fending for one's dear life.

The second objective was to identify the effects of child labor on the pupils' academic performance. Data analysis and interpretation of interview and questionnaire responses from the head teachers, pupils and parents revealed these major findings under this objective: absenteeism, failure to concentrate in class, poor performance, mental retardation, school dropout. These findings indicate that child labor negatively affects the academic performance of a pupil and ends up forcing the pupil out of school. This could owe to the routine absenteeism from school, leading to poor concentration and poor performance, hence a misfit in school.

## APPENDIX B

### TIME FRAME

TIME	ACTIVITY
July –Aug 2009	Proposal writing and Approval
Aug 2009	Pre –Testing of Instruments
Sept-Oct 2009	Data collection
Oct 2009	Data analysis Report writing
Nov 2009	Submission of Final Report.

## APPENDIX C

### BUDGET

ITEM	QTY	AMOUNT
I Stationery		
a) Duplicating Papers	2 Reams	15.000
b) Pens	1 Packet	10.000
c) Pencils	1 Packet	5.000
d) Correcting Fluid	2 Tins	5.000
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>35.000</b>
II Data Collection		
a) Travel	10days	100.000
b) Meals	10 days	50.000
c) Substance	30 days	200.000
Sub Total		350.000

<b>III) Typing and Binding</b>		
a) Typing	1 copy	40.000
b) Photo copying	2 copies	50.000
c) Binding	3 copies	6.000
Sub Total		51.000
Grand Total		436.000