

**SOCIO-ECONOMIC VARIABLES AND STUDENTS EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENTS
IN SELECTED SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN NTUNGAMO TOWN COUNCIL,
NTUNGAMO DISTRICT**

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**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, OPEN
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DECLARATION

I Tugume Denis declare to the best of my knowledge that the work presented is my own original work and it has never been presented anywhere for the award of any degree, diploma or certificate or its equivalent.

APPROVAL

This research report has been submitted for the award of a Bachelor of Arts with Education degree with Mrs. Taligoola Deborah as the supervisor.

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Date

8th feb 2016
.....

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my parents and family members who stood with me all the times as I underwent my studies and gave me words of encouragement to work hard in all activities, an inspiration that will always steer me towards exploring greater heights of academic achievements.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge the Almighty God for giving me the strength to go on, and my sincere acknowledgements go to Mrs. Taligoola Deborah for the tireless effort in going through this research report. More gratitude goes to Madam Shida Suzan for grooming me into an upright teacher.

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DEFINITION OF TERMS

Circumstances	-	Conditions we find ourselves in
Prevalence	-	A wide spread or to exist over time.
U.S.E	-	Universal Secondary Education
W.H.O	-	World Health Organization
I.L.O	-	International Labour Organization
Challenges	-	Problem that exists that cannot end in themselves
Faced	-	Experienced or felt, it also means having passed through.
Adolescence	-	Children in the ages between 16yrs -20years.

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ABSTRACT

A qualitative and quantitative study was conducted in selected secondary schools, in Ntungamo Town Council, to investigate the influence of socio-economic variables on secondary school students' educational attainment. The following objectives were formulated to guide the study To find out the prevalence of students living under difficult circumstances. to examine the nature of difficult circumstance and their effects on the education of learners, and to investigate all the possible socio economic factors leading to difficult living conditions. Seventy (70) respondents were randomly selected to participate in the investigation. The researcher used questionnaires as the instruments for collecting data. Findings reveal that The nature of such low socio-economic status and their relationship education are as a result of extreme poverty where in most schools. Over 80% of the children do not meet the requirements of proper diet, clothing and shelter. some students were not able to pay for or finance a school education, they were in fact experiencing financial problems which were consequently impeding educational success. Students also worked for too many hours at a job to keep up with class assignments yet they were limited in finances can afford proper lighting fuels such as gas. Students Lacked parental support especially those whose parents didn't go to school themselves. There are many factors that cause those conditions like students who are orphans, students affected by HIV/AIDS, child labour, abused and neglected students, traumatized and deprived/rich families. Some other factors includes; illiteracy and ignorance among the parents, natural calamity, aridity or prolonged drought, insecurity, floods. The following were recommended The management of such students living under such status includes: sensitizing the entire school community, Guidance and counseling sessions to their attitudes, educate on how to use resources, good communication methods and parental involvement both at school and at home. The government through the ministry of education and other stakeholders should provide educational materials in different forms that is to say teaching, compensatory and assertive materials.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter covers the background to the study, the statement of the problem, the purpose of the study, research questions, the scope and significance of the study.

1.1 Background

The socio-economic status of the majority Ugandans is relatively low which has a lot of implications on learners on their academic performance especially in these case secondary school students.

Socio-economic status is a combined measure of a person's work experience and of an individual or family's economic and social position in relation to others, based on incomes, education and occupation. Socio-economic status is typically broken into three categories i.e. high, middle and low socio- economic status.

According to Odinko (2002) he defined socio-economic status as a social class of the students parent belong i.e. high, average and low.

Academic excellence is an act / process of carrying out an executing action of which is facilitated by repetition (D. W Maureen and V.H Vogel) since then, the government of Uganda has taken education as a priority in its budget.

Teaching students who are living under difficult circumstances is a mammoth task for teachers worldwide. In America, Darfur, Iraq, Afghanistan and most parts of Africa, there are civil strives which only transfer into children suffering in multifarious ways. Students living under difficult socio and economic status live on survival; they are not able to do that learning like other ordinary children. This is because they are affected by various factors or as many as political, socio-cultural, and economic and health problems including poverty and famine to mention but a few. These problems retard their psychological and psycho-economic development and hinder their learning and effective participation in learning and daily life activities unlike other ordinary children or

their counter parts who live in safer circumstances. Such as land clashes /disputes, political instability/insecurity since time immemorial in Ankole region which led to internally displaced persons (I.D.Ps) in addition to cattle rustling in pastoralist regions of Uganda like Ankole.

The underlying principle of this study is to find out the prevalence, determine and evaluate challenges facing students in Ntungamo Town Council, Ntungamo District. Some students includes those who are abused and neglected, traumatized, street children, child labor, homeless children and un accompanied, refugees or internally displaced children, orphaned children, child mothers, children affected with HIV/AIDS, children from deprived families, child soldiers, children from pastoralist communities etc.

Despite the introduction of Universal secondary education in Uganda (USE) in 2007 which spells out free and compulsory education, not all aspects of education have been offered freely, there is the case of uniform, desks, and scholastic materials which most families cannot afford to provide since most people depend on farming as a way of earning income. Floods, famine have since then remained the biggest challenges that affect the individual child in one way or the other. This is one area in psycho-social development which is concerned with the relationship between needs of an individual and those of the society, which affects personality. According to the psycho-social theory, personality development is a continuous process that begins at birth and continues throughout an individual's life span.

However, the concern of this study is to analyses the relationship between socio-economic status in relation to learning.

1.1.1 Theoretical framework

This study is based on the Erik Erikson's psycho-social theory of personality development that highlights the relationship of low economic social status on learning of the child which asserts that the effects of early experience on the later stages of

adulthood, challenging circumstances will definitely affect the total personality of a child now and in the future. A case in point, a child who grows up under low and poor conditions will continue longing for better services as compared to the counter parts.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Students' performance in Ntungamo has been shown disparities in the past few years. Whenever the ministry of education releases the Uganda National Examinations, usually students from good and prestigious schools take a lead while those poor ones trail behind them teachers and head teachers have been blamed for the bad results. The public has however forgotten that the students who attend such poor schools come from economically lowly family backgrounds. This could also be a factor that greatly affects their educational progress and hence the need to carry out this study.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to establish the relationship between social-economic variables and students' educational attainments in selected secondary schools in Ntungamo town council, Ntungamo district.

1.3.1. Specific objectives

The following objectives were constructed to guide the study:

- i. To find out the prevalence of students living under difficult circumstances.
- ii. To examine the nature of difficult circumstance and their effects on the education of learners.
- iii. To investigate all the possible socio economic factors leading to difficult living conditions.

1.4 Research questions.

The study was guided by the following research questions;

- i. What is the prevalence of students living under difficult economic social-economic status conditions?
- ii. What are the factors leading to difficult circumstances?
- iii. What are the kinds and effects of living under poor socio- economic status?

1.5 Scope of the study

Content scope

The study focused on the relationship between socio-economic variables and students' educational attainments in selected secondary schools in Ntungamo town council.

Geography scope

The study focused on only secondary schools in Ntungamo town council, in Ntungamo district.

Time scope

The study covered the period of three months that is from November 2005 to January 2016.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter attempts to review literature as an account of the knowledge and ideas that have been established by accredited scholars and experts in the field of study.

In Uganda, systematic approaches have been engaged in policies and implementing inclusive education, the ministry of education and sports is already developing inclusive education in terms of financial allocation, staff training and employment opportunities. This is in line with the intention of realizing universal secondary education (USE).

These have opened ways for all regular schools to enroll students including those who are living under difficult socio-economic status, as a government policy. However, the enrolment and handling the approaches given to learners, those under difficult circumstances needs more effort.

According to Mbaru (2002), there was a convention on the rights of a child in 1989 which had four basic rights of the child that is to say education, medical care, food and protection.

In Uganda, it was reinforced by the government law reform commission for the enactment of the laws governing children. According to this, all children must be treated fairly, assured a better place to live in etc.

The researcher therefore bases his study on the following challenges that these learners, under low and difficult socio-economic conditions /status experience in regular schools and at home they include:-

- Prevalence of children living under low and difficult socio-economic circumstances in Ntungamo district.
- Kinds and effects of the difficult economic social conditions facing learners in Ntungamo district.
- Factors leading to low and difficult economic social status.
- The management measures for students living under low and difficult economic social status.

2.1 Prevalence of children living under low and difficult economic social status in Ntungamo district

One of the things that lead to children living under difficult economic social status is disease.

According to the world conference which was known as Salamanca conference which mainly talked about street children and children discriminated against because of HIV/AIDS or leprosy among others. In the world according to the World Health Organization (WHO) almost over 50million people live with HIV/AIDS and according to the ministry of health of Uganda in its latest report, there is about 2.6million Ugandans living with the disease and this has left a lot of orphans having lost both parents.

Over 60% of the residents of Ntungamo district live in less than one —dollar per day according to the ministry of finance and economic development. (2004) this means that poverty prevalence is very high.

It also means that parents cannot meet their obligations of properly feeding and taking care of their children. Children leave homes to go and seek employment where they are highly molested and exploited.

According to the ministry of labour (2003) report, over 60% of the Uganda's population is directly supported by the agricultural sector which contributes to 25% of the GDP. In Ntungamo district, it's over 80% with no major cash crops, only subsistence growing and fishing. This has prompted children to work in quarries and fishing in the lake and also work as domestic servants and maids. They are also in the streets asking out a living.

According to the international labour organization (ILO) in (2000), about 5.7 million children were in forced labour, 18 million in prostitution and pornography while others were victims of child trafficking. Trafficked children work under farms due to broken marriages, death of parents. All these factors have caused or influenced the prevalence of children living under difficult economic social status in the world, in Uganda and Ntungamo district in particular.

2.2 Kinds and effects of difficult socio-economic status facing learners in Ntungamo district.

2.2.1 Traumatized children

According to research (2007), conditions in many countries in the world revolves round and about politics and social up heavily political conditions that brings about wars, violence, clashes or conflicts that deprive people their freedom and brings experiences that may make regular school work quite difficult and meaningless. These children may have experience, torture or aggression in their living places.

In the intentional scene we have wars in Darfur. Afghanistan and Iraq, where most aid agencies cannot speak openly about the humanitarian situation for fear of jeopardizing their lives. This conflict, affects millions of people. In Uganda, there is the M23 rebels in DRC conflict where children were turned into sex slaves and child soldier for over 20 years a case of Ankole in 2012.

In Uganda still, a case of Ankole region we have tribal, land clashes, cattle rusting and more recently the LRA war in 2007 which led to child rape, Abduction among the school going children.

These experiences include among others beatings, rape and being turned into refugees in one's own country. These are also experiences in Ntungamo district. Thus leaving children psychologically and financially unstable or traumatized and therefore grossly affecting their involvement in learning and other only activities.

These experiences will therefore make the child be a student who needs a caring educational setting, where other students and teachers can stimulate them for a meaningful life. This is according to Wanyera (2002).

2.2.2 Abused and Neglected children.

According to Mwaura (2002), child abuse in any act or intention to threaten children badly by directly or indirectly hurting them which involves but physical and I or psychological violence for example is beating the child.

Child Neglect is rendering no care or care givers to children. It's the failure to provide daily needs, hence affecting children's social, emotional and psychological status

making them fail to participate and learn. These may include lack of affection and discouraging the child, systematic scolding, over undue protection, early or forced marriage.

This makes the child to be withdrawn and have aggressive behavior extremes. Sometimes the child is uncomfortable with physical contact.

Another effect is the early arrival at and late leaving school late as if afraid to be at home. There is chronic runaway and also complaints of soreness or more uncomfortably and at times has inconsistent. These children may end up stealing food or begging from classmates in sex abuse, the child may have more of suicide attempt, massive weight loss, hysteria and lack of emotional control.

These experiences are seen in Uganda in war torn areas and areas where cultural practices are still a norm, where Ntungamo district is not exceptional.

2.2.3 Child labour / working children

According to Mwaura (2002), child labour has been defined by an international labour organization (ILO) to mean any economic activity performed by a person under the age of 15 years and that is detrimental and exploitative. Therefore child labour is only work that interferes with a child's upbringing and education. The working children are spread across many economic sectors with the main concentrations being domestic service. In Ntungamo districts they work in farms during the weeding season, quarrying and mining, fishing and garbage collection.

The effect is that they find the school plus this responsibility a burden and end up dropping out of school.

2.2.4 Orphaned Children

These are children who have lost both parents. Sorrow, guilty and or anger resulting from having lost both parents may overwhelm such a child. Parents might have died from illness or accidents.

Orphaned children have to content with discrimination that causes them as outcasts. Denied the essential family care by reason of death or terminal illness of their parents.

Many children are ending up in the streets from where they are likely to come into conflict with the law. These children will have neither peace of the mind and / nor motivation of learning.

2.2.5 Children affected and/or infected by HIV/AIDS.

According to Mwaura (2002), children affected by HIV/AIDS are those who have lost their parents or dear ones through the dreadful disease. Medical statistics indicates that many people die every day due to HIV/AIDS related diseases in 2013.

Those who are infected are those who have acquired the disease. Besides the rising number of orphans due to AIDS the disease is causing early painful death among children infected at birth or throughout breast feeding. It's estimated that 30-40% of the babies born to infected mothers will be infected with HIV. Most of these babies will develop AIDS and die within two years. Those who survive because of ARVs often experience social and psychological problems. They may also be stigmatized by the society which affects their self-esteem.

2.2.6 Children from deprived or Rich families

Children from deprived or poor families may drop-out of school as a result of poverty. Such children may end-up in the streets as laborers or prostitutes. This affects their learning according to Mwaura (2002).

On the other hand, some students / children from rich families develop behavioral problems as a result of lack of proper attention, involvement and care. They may also lack the guidance in the use of resources. These may be rigidity in decision made by parents. These have a negative correlation with learning as a result of low self-esteem, child development as well as lack of independence which may affect the child's learning.

2.3 Factors leading to low / difficult living status / conditions

According to Ndurumo (2002), factors that lead to low/or difficult living circumstances directly have a negative impact towards learning of the students. These factors may include: - heredity, individual differences, psycho-social factors, disability, physiological factors. Let's start with the economic factors which are the most common, because it involves poverty, diseases, social and cultural issues including the death of parents, poverty.

2.3.1 Economic Factors.

This includes the family economical status, the place of residence and general poverty. Poverty is an abuse of human rights according to the human rights day in Uganda (April 2006). This gives a background where a student cannot easily have access to necessary facilities such as recreation areas, health and quality education and others that enables one to broaden his or her mind in one's world. Economic factors also include how students have access to water and the number of meals they get in a day.

These students from low economic back grounds do not perform well in school and mostly have high dropout rates. Most of the time they are hungry, physically ill, tired from lack of enough sleep, students who live in crowded quarters or shacks and they feel physically or psychologically unsafe in such areas. Such students have low expectations on whether they will make it to college or University. They lack a feeling of belonging and love.

According to the ministry of finance report (2004), states that about 80% of the people in Ntungamo district live below the poverty line of less than one dollar a day. This is due to HIV/AIDS. In Ankole region in particular and Uganda in general, it's believed that the majority of people die between the ages group which is domestically active. Students are the ones who suffer most.

Students affected by HIV/AIDS are those who have lost their parents or dear ones through the dreadful diseases. Besides the rising number of orphans due to AIDS 30-40% of the babies born to infected mothers will also be infected with HIV.

According to Mwaura (2002) HIV/AIDS Pandemic is now the single most serious setback in the effects to fulfill the rights of children in Ankole region Uganda.

According to Research, poverty may also biting disharmony among parents which makes the home to be characterized by quarrels and disagreements which have negative effects on students. Parents in such a relationship have a productivity of directing negative behavior at their children hence having anti-social behaviors.

Poverty also influences parents to abuse their children by excessive ridicule, humiliation or any form of mental cruelty. This may lead to one feeling uneasy of others hence affecting the child's social and educational development.

2.3.2 Cultural factors

In Ankole region, the adolescence children are not supposed to sleep under the same room with their parents. This makes them to go and look for a sleeping place elsewhere. This makes the parents not to be in control of the children hence leading to anti-social behavior like drug abuse due to peer influence, early pregnancy etc. this brings about high school drop outs and lack of general commitment to school work, hence poor performance.

Also the influence of the media, for example the television, radio, journals and Newspapers. The media plays a powerful role in providing entertainment, information and also has the potential to support a child's development. Television in particular promotes sexual immorality through romantic movie that stop short of pornography, as a result, of what was viewed will lead to pregnancy to occur.

The up bring of children also influences development of sex roles, it should be noted that parents and many others do perpetuate sex-roles. This makes children mostly girls to feel that she is reading for marriage or makes boys to marry early for they cannot do some roles for themselves like cooking, fetching water and firewood.

2.3.3 Natural Calamity.

Natural calamities are things like flooding, heavy rains, invasion of pests and diseases, Earthquakes, drought and famine.

Heavy rains are known to cause damages to people's environment through flooding of water into homes and farmland, washing away crops and domestic animals.

In Uganda in general and Ankole region in particular there has been flooding due to heavy rains. Most recently there has been floods in Isingiro and Mitoma districts where children found themselves out of their homes, crops were destroyed and poverty starting from then after losing everything in the homes to flood water.

In Ntungamo district, children suffer a lot when drought kill all the crops in the farmland, pests and diseases kill farm animals like cows and poultry on top of cattle rustling by the Banyarwanda warriors in the 1980's Ye cattle are used as ox-ploughs hence participating in acquisition of food security, preparation of farms for planting hence reasons for famine. Because most people in Ankole region are subsistence farmers due to drought and all these have been affected. Therefore the affected find themselves living in difficult circumstances and hence cannot afford to send their children to school.

2.3.4 Political instability (insecurity).

Ankole region is amongst the regions which have undergone a lot of suffering since time immemorial from frequent insurgencies for example the recent war of 2012 under the M23 Rebels in DRC under Bosco Ntaganda entered Uganda which claimed a lot of lives and left many windows, parentless children. More so most children were turned into child soldiers, sex slaves, raped, and abducted for example among the school going children related to that is the 1986 rebel war which left a lot of suffering in this region as most of the cattle were stolen. Ankole was, amongst the richest region in Uganda but since then the impact of insecurity has left the region in extreme poverty. This also left most children psychologically and financially unstable as others lost all their caring parents hence affecting their involvement in the learning process in relation to their counter parts from stable areas who learn with no difficulty.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter explains the methods that the researcher used to select the geographical areas, from which research was to be carried out and methods of selection of respondents. It also explains the methods used to collect process and analyze data.

3.1 Research approach.

The study included quantitative approach. It was used because data was to be collected numerically. It was adequate since it facilitated analysis and data interpretation.

3.2 Research design.

The researcher used survey design to collect the required data since it was appropriate for the study because surveys are useful in establishing the nature of the existing situation and identify factors causing students to live under difficult socio-economic status.

3.3 Target population.

The target population of this study focused on 10 secondary schools whereby some students and teachers were included in the sampling in Ntungamo district.

3.4 Sample.

The sample size was randomly selected using the simple random sampling design. And a sample size of 70 respondents was considered. These included the teachers, and students. The sample size was determined using.

3.5 Sampling Procedure.

The researcher wrote the name of the schools and students on a piece of paper, rolled it, closed his eyes, and then picks the papers at random. This gave equal chances to the schools and students for selection since he couldn't see them.

3.6 Research Instruments / Tools

The researcher used questionnaires as the instruments for collecting data. It composed of fourteen (14) questions for the school's teachers and thirteen (13) questions for the students which were appropriate and straight to the point to check on the answer to prevalence, nature and factors causing such challenges by students living under difficult socio-economic status.

3.7 Reliability and validity of instruments.

The researcher seeks / looked at the Toitmen approach and 5 point scale to be used including terms like strongly agree, agree, not sure, and was ticked by different respondents accordingly. Also objective type questions that is to say 'Yes' or 'No' were used. Respondents were also prompted to list down factors in accordance with the questions asked.

3.8 Data collection techniques / procedure.

Before data collection exercise, the researcher went with an introductory letter to seek permission in order to get ready to carry out the study.

Logistic procedures were followed downwards to the schools to be sampled. The researcher explained his visit to the principal / Head teachers. After which he was able to distribute the tools and then administer them and after this the researcher was able to proceed with data collection using the procedure so far discussed.

3.9 Data Analysis.

After data collection, the data was analyzed, organized, grouped and tabulated using simple descriptive statistics. The researcher organized the data and presented it using tables, bar graphs and charts etc.

3.10 Sources of data

Both primary and secondary data were used.

3.10.1 Primary Data

Primary data was acquired as first-hand information. Primary data was collected by the use questionnaires, interviews and observation as data collection tools given to the respondents.

3.10.2 Secondary data

Secondary data was gotten from already existing literature related to the topic of study. These sources of information included textbooks, magazines, pamphlets, research reports, journals, workshops presentation, internet and newsletters which were used in addition to various company annual reports.

3.11 Ethical Considerations

To ensure confidentiality of the information provided by the respondents and to ascertain the practice of ethics in this study, the following activities will be implemented by the researcher:

Sought permission to adopt the standardized questionnaire through a written communication to the author.

The respondents and firms will be coded instead of reflecting the names.

Solicited permission through a written request to the concerned officials of the selected firms in the study.

Requested the respondents to sign the informed Consent Form (Appendix2)

Acknowledged the authors quoted in this study and the author of the standardized instrument through citations and referencing.

Presented the findings in a generalized manner.

3.12 Limitations

The study became expensive for the researcher in terms of expenses such as library fees, photocopying and printing.

Some respondents were uncooperative through withholding certain information which was termed as "sensitive".

The researcher was faced with the problem of finding relevant information. Some secondary data was outdated and linking it to the study became difficult.

There was a problem of misinterpretation of the purpose of the research as some referred to the researcher as a 'spy'.

Despite all the above problems, the researcher used strategies such as working within his proposed budget, reassuring correspondents about the confidentiality of certain issues and also utilizing mostly the Kampala international university Main library and Ntungamo district local government.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.0 Introduction

While the previous chapter presented the methodology of the study, this chapter provides presentation, interpretation and analysis of data; the researcher used questionnaires as the main tool of study. The referred questionnaires were delivered personally to the respondents which were aimed at studying the relationship between socio-economic status and the Academic excellence of secondary school students. This chapter also intends to achieve the following objectives;

- To find out the prevalence of students living under difficult circumstances.
- To examine the nature of difficult circumstance and their effects on the education of learners.
- To investigate all the possible factors leading to difficult living conditions.

4.1 Profile of the respondents

Table 1: The sex of the respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	40	57
Female	30	43
Total	70	100

Source: Primary data 2015

In the table above 57% were male respondents with the greatest percentages whereas 43 % were female with the least percentage. This implies that most respondents were men.

Table 2: Marital Status

Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Married	15	21.4
Single	50	71.4
Divorced	5	7.1
Total	70	100

Source: Primary data, 2015

In the table above 71.4% were single. This can be true since most of the respondents were students with the majority of the population. 21.4% were married and last but not least 7.1% were divorced. This implies that most of the respondents were singles.

Table 3: Respondents by Levels of Education

Educational levels	Frequency	Percentage (%)
O level	40	57
A level	20	29
University level	10	14
Total	70	100

Source: Primary data, 2015

The table above shows the level of education of the respondents, 57% were in O-level, 29% were in A-level and last but not least 14% had reached university level. This implies that most of the respondents had reached in O-level with the greatest response as seen in the above diagram.

Table 4 The age of the respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
15 – 25 years	25	37
25 – 35 yrs	15	21
35 – 45 years	10	14
45 – 55 yrs	10	14
55 yrs and above	10	14
Total	70	100

Source: Primary data 2015

In the table shown above, 37% were in the age bracket of between 15 to 25 years, 21% were in 25 to 35 years and 14% were both 35-45years, 45— 55years, and 55 years and above. This implies that most of the respondents were in the age bracket of 15 to 25.

Table 5 shows the religion of the respondents.

Religion	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Catholic	20	29
Moslem	15	21
Traditionalist	5	7
Protestant	25	36
Others	5	7
Total	70	100

Source: primary data 2015

In the table above it shows the religion of the respondents 36 % were Protestants, 29% were catholic, 21 were Muslims and 7% were both traditionalists and others. This implies that most respondents were Protestants.

4.2 The findings on the prevalence of students living under difficult circumstances.

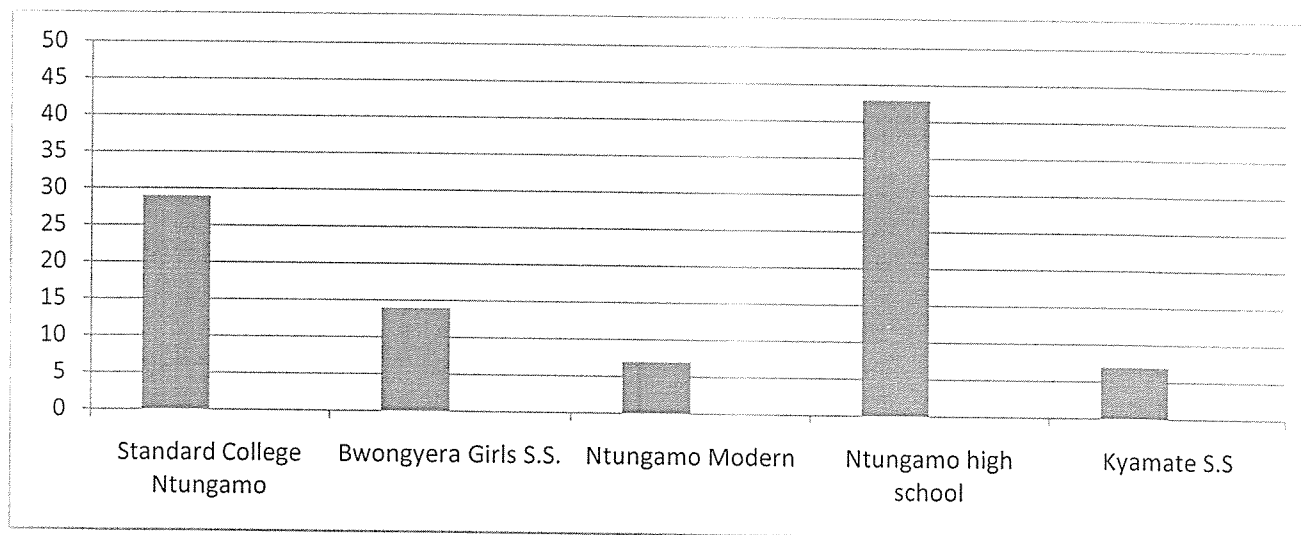
Table 6 indicate the students who live under difficult socio-economic status in schools

NO	Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
A	Standard College Ntungamo	20	29
B	Bwongyera Girls S.S	10	14
C	Ntungamo Modern S.S.	5	7
D	Ntungamo High School	30	43
E	Kyamate S.S.	5	7
	Total	70	100

Source: primary data 2015.

The table above shows the prevalence of students living under difficult circumstances. In schools like Ntungamo High School the students under low or difficult socio-economic status were 43% of the students, 29% were in Standard College Ntungamo, 14% were in Bwongyera Girls S.S, While 7% were both in Ntungamo Modern S.S and in Kyamate S.S. According to the data shown above most learners were in Ntungamo high school with difficult circumstances affecting their academic excellence this can be true because most of them are in the village where resources are not fully allocated by the government of Uganda.

Figure 1: Prevalence of students who live under low/difficult socio-economic status



Source: primary data 2015

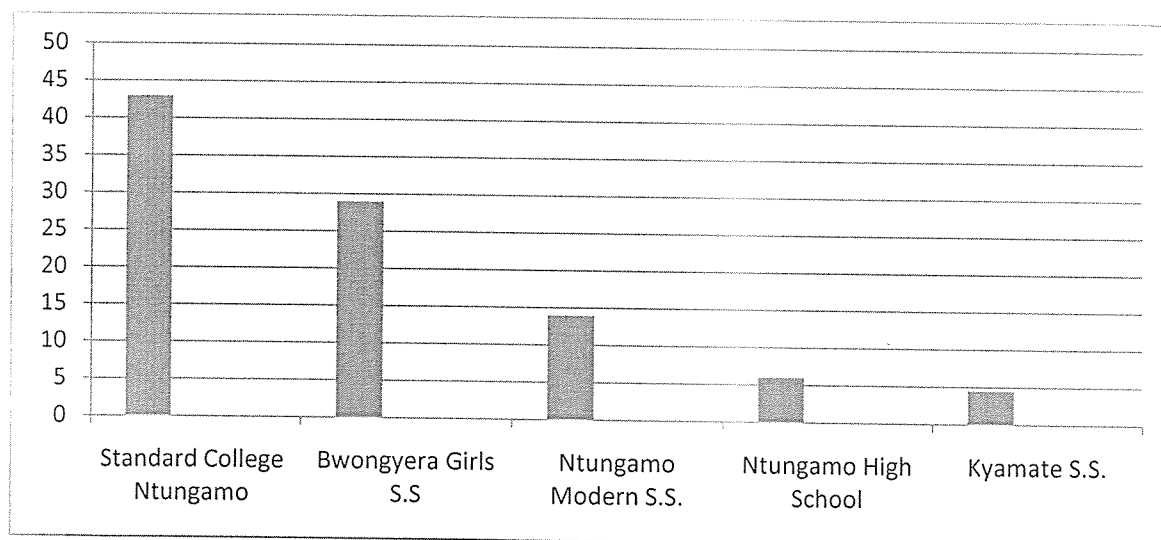
Table 7: Number of students who have neat, clean and complete school uniforms including shoes and socks

NO	Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
A	Standard College Ntungamo	30	43
B	Bwongyera Girls S.S	20	29
C	Ntungamo Modern S.S.	10	14
D	Ntungamo High School	4	6
E	Kyamate S.S.	6	8
	Total	70	100

Source: Primary data, 2015

From the table above 43% were from Standard College Ntungamo, 29% were from Bwongyera Girls S.S, 14% were from Ntungamo Modern, 8% were from Kyamate S.S and 6% were from Ntungamo high school. This implies that most of them were from Standard College Ntungamo number of students. According to research, it was found out that poverty is a major issue in most schools. This is evident when most students cannot have complete uniforms as it's a basic need and this reflects the financial ability of their parents.

Figure 2: Number of students with neat, clean and complete uniforms



4.3 The findings on the nature of difficult circumstance and their effects on the education of learners.

Table 8 Kinds of difficult living conditions found among learners in the schools.

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Orphans	10	14
HIV/AIDS	15	21.4
Child labour	25	36
Abuse / Neglected	5	7
Traumatized	5	7
Deprived/Rich	10	14
Total	70	100

Source: Primary data, 2015

The table above shows Kinds of difficult living conditions found among learners in the schools. 36% was child labor, 21.4% was HIV/AIDS, 14% was orphans and deprived/rich, and 7% were both abused and traumatized. This implied that child labour was the most dominant factor as shown in the findings in the above table.

4.4 The findings on factors leading to difficult conditions

Table 9 Shows the factors leading to difficult conditions

Factors	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Economic	20	28.5
Cultural	20	28.5
Natural calamities	20	28.5
Political instability	10	14
Total	70	100

Sources: primary data 2015

The above diagram shows the factors leading to difficult situations in most schools 28.5% were both economic, cultural, and natural factors and 14% were political instability. This implied that most factors were difficult to avoid due to high risk and high funds needed to be used to prevent.

Finances

Assuming a student is able to pay for or finance a school education; financial problems can still impede success. Some students don't buy textbooks and other class resources because of the costs. They may invest thousands in school fees and room and board yet choose to save hundreds of dollars by not buying books, which are important to success in classes. Students may also work too many hours at a job to keep up with coursework. Limited finances can affect a student's ability to budget for gas or car repairs, impacting school commutes. Applying for any scholarships available in your local community or through the school can help. Some graduated seniors also work in the summer to save money. Completing financial aid requests early can offer insight to help in financial planning.

Lack of Support

Some students go to school because of parental pressure or influence. However, others may go to school because of their own emotions and have little or no financial or emotional support from parents and other family members. This is especially true for first-generation students whose parents didn't go to school themselves. Friendships with people who don't support your college education or who try to lure you to parties and social activities in line of school can get in the way as well. Getting to know school and using the school's academic support center can help. Some students also develop more positive relationships by getting involved in program-specific clubs and school leadership programs, such as student government.

Poor Study Habits

Even with financial means and family support, students may struggle with personal drive and poor study habits. New school students may not have developed adequate study and work habits during high school. To succeed in class, you normally have to schedule regular reading, study and work time. Poor test-taking and a lack of confidence on tests are also common issues. Students often have access to school academic support services and instructor help, but they need self-motivation to take advantage of these resources.

Poor Preparation

Along with poor study habits, students who struggle generally don't show up to class consistently. Even when they do attend, they aren't always ready to learn and perform. Along with an attitude to learn and effective listening skills, prepared students have ready material before class, ask questions, take organized notes and participate in class and small-group discussions. Disengagement in classes leads to students being out of the place, missing important instructions and failing to learn content.

Table 10 Do students living under difficult conditions learn the same way like those ordinary children.

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	50	71
No	20	29
Total	70	100

Source: primary data 2015

The table above shows whether students who live under difficult conditions can learn the same way like the ordinary children. 71% were saying yes, and 29 % were saying no. this implied that most students couldn't learn the same way just like their counterparts under normal conditions.

4.5 The findings on how to determine and evaluate management measures for students living under difficult circumstances.

Conditioning yourself to your workspace:

Create a space or choose a place where you only do academic work. In this way, you create a dynamic way in which the place is associated with work and so your productivity increases. If you need to worry or procrastinate by socializing, surfing the net, or writing letters, then leave that place so that it does not become associated with putting off work.

Be Process-Oriented, Not Outcome-Oriented:

The bases are loaded, it's the last inning of the game, and you are up to bat. If you start thinking about how much the outcome of the game depends on you, you will miss the ball. As they say, keep your eye on the ball; that is all you have control over. The same is true with papers and exams. Obsessing about what might happen to your GPA takes away from your focus on showing what you know in every question.

Dealing with Academic Setbacks:

When you make a mistake in answering a question in class or do poorly on an exam, there is the temptation to tell friends how badly you did or to ruminate on the error. If you do this, you end up unconsciously rehearsing the error over and over. Instead, rehearse success. For example, ask yourself what the problem was or what skills do you need to develop to do better the next time. Instead of recounting the failure, say' how you will do it successfully the next time. If you watch elite athletes when they are interviewed after making a mistake, they will usually avoid rehearsing what they did wrong and will focus on how one does it better.

Dealing with Anxiety Contagion:

When you are surrounded by people who are preparing for exams or papers, such as during midterms or final exams, excessive anxiety can spread like wildfire in the dorm or the department. What happens is that students become anxious not because they

need to be, but because everybody else is anxious. Ways to deal with this include: 1. Acknowledge the anxiety contagion and make fun of it as a way to distance yourself; 2. Give yourself ways to get perspective like studying someplace else or going to the mall or Chicago for a little while; 3. Clarify your priorities; do not let others contaminate you with their expectations or their less- than-productive study strategies.

This article originally appeared in the Observer in October 1998, updated in 2003. The intent of this series of articles is not to provide counseling but to provide information about a variety of mental health topics. To seek help with your individual concerns, please contact the University Counseling Center at 631-7336 to schedule an appointment.

Performance enhancement training

The school Counseling Center can offer a five-stage training module seminar at enhancing performance. Although the information is drawn from the field of Sport Psychology, it is applicable to domains beyond a sport context. Participants learn techniques that develop arousal management, attentional focus, positive thinking, goal setting skills and confidence building. The purpose of this training module is to add to the repertoire of skills already at the disposal of the participant. Moreover, the objective is to facilitate peak performance in the face of objective competitive events.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

The general objective of the study was to examine the relationship between socio-economic status and the academic excellence among secondary school students in Ntungamo town council, Ntungamo district. It was broken down into smaller major objectives upon which the conclusion, recommendations and suggestions were based.

Over 80% of the people living in Ntungamo town council in Ntungamo district, according to the ministry of finance and economic planning, live below the poverty line therefore there are many challenges facing students living under low socio- economic status in the district.

Students living under low socio -economic status are the ones who suffer from lack of meeting some basic requirements at school. Such students suffer from lack of personal confidence, emotional stability and lack of interest in school. They end up not doing well hence becoming a liability to the society.

The study therefore was conducted by the researcher after going through several literatures of reknown writers and researchers who among others mentioned that students from low socioeconomic status are those who are traumatized due to war, cattle rustling problem, child labour etc. According to research, it revealed that 14% were found to be orphans, 21.4% were those- affected with HIV/AIDS while those who are orphans were found to be 36%. Abused/neglected children and the traumatized were 7%.

5.1 Discussion:

In Ntungamo district, socio-economic status of the students have a direct relation with their excellence at school for example, the low socio-economic status have a negative impact on students academic excellence unlike the counter parts.

So such low economic social status facing most students include, poverty, Natural calamity insecurity, cattle rustling etc. so among the causes of this may include:

Poverty and low levels of employment, famine and other catastrophes, cattle rustling, death of parents or siblings, child abuse and neglect.

However, in the student's upbringing, there are some parents who show very little interest in their activities. They are not interested or concerned with the student's education, and do not encourage them to do well in school.

In Ntungamo district, children do sleep away from their parent's homes or houses according to most clan elders, this makes the students to be out of their parents monitoring and control. This causes poor discipline and parents are inconsistent in their style of up bring them. Students begin to feel uncertain and confused. This causes child mothers and early marriages.

5.2 Summary

On the basis of the objectives of study, it was found out that the prevalence of students who live under low socio-economic status in Ntungamo district is in the ratio of 1:4.

The nature of such low socio-economic status and their relationship education are as a result of extreme poverty where in most schools over 80% of the children do not meet the requirements of proper diet, clothing and shelter.

There are many factors that cause those conditions like students who are orphans, students affected by HIV/AIDS, child labour, abused and neglected students, traumatized and deprived/rich families. Some other factors includes; illiteracy and ignorance among the parents, natural calamity, aridity or prolonged drought, insecurity, floods etc.

The management of such students living under such status includes: sensitizing the entire school community, Guidance and counseling sessions to their attitudes, educate on how to use resources, good communication methods and parental involvement both at school and at home.

5.3 Conclusion

In view of the discussion of the findings, the researcher was able to make the following conclusions.

There was a significant relationship between socio-economic status and student's academic excellence. Low socio-economic status makes learners to learn with greater difficulty hence poor performance. While students from better economic back grounds will always excel at all levels.

The research also indicates that students from good economic backgrounds will learn to read with no difficulty unlike their counter parts from humble backgrounds who will learn to read with greater difficult.

The prevalence of students living under low socio-economic status are quite high at the ratio of 1:4 in most schools.

The nature of challenges faced by students is mostly socio-economic, socio-cultural and political factors.

The factors leading to low /difficult living status were also found to be many and varied including ignorance, Natural calamities, cattle rustling, insecurity and cultural factors etc. The management of such students requires parental involvement, proper use of the available resources, good communication etc.

5.4 Recommendations

On the basis of the comprehensive study findings, the researcher made the following recommendations to the concerned stakeholders.

Incentives should be given to the students so that they can enjoy what they do which will eventually improve on their excellence and hence yield results.

There should be more awareness and institutionalization of the notion of social economic status so that they can readily know its outcome.

The government through the ministry of education and other stakeholders should provide educational materials in different forms that is to say teaching, compensatory and assertive materials.

Good communication should be used at school and in the community like understanding there difficulties and conditions, thus using the language that does not remind them of their situation they underwent or are still undergoing.

5.5 Suggestions for further studies.

The researcher concentrated much on the variables with the topic. "The relationship between social economic status and academic excellence among secondary school students in Ntungamo town council, Ntungamo district" and the researcher came out with the following suggestions.

The researcher recommends further research and base line study on appropriate approaches suitable for learners from low and difficult socio-economic status. This will help the stakeholders such as government, educators, curriculum developers among others in planning and improving the quality of education and academic excellence of learners.

A replica of the same study should be conducted in other areas of Ntungamo district and other districts in Ankole and Uganda in general. This will help establish the general overview of academic excellence.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: TRANSMISSION LETTERS TO THE HEAD TEACHERS.

Head Teachers,
Ntungamo Town Council

Dear Sir /Madam,

RE: PERMISSION TO USE SCHOOL FOR RESEARCH

I am a graduating student from Kampala International University. I am writing in request for permission to carryout research in your Institution.

The Research is based on the "Relationship between socio-economic variables and students' education attainments in selected secondary schools.

Any assistance rendered to me to complete the research will be highly appreciated.

Yours truly,

TUGUME DENNIS

APPENDIX II A: QUESTIONNAIRE: FOR TEACHERS

KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, OPEN, DISTANCE AND E-LEARNING.

Dear respondent,

I request you to kindly fill in this academic based questionnaire intended to study the relationship between social economic status and Academic excellence among secondary school students in Ntungamo Town Council in Ntungamo District.

SECTION A: ABOUT YOU

1. What is your gender? (Tick)

(a) Female ☐

(b) Male ☐

2. What age group do you belong? (Tick)

(a) 18-25years ☐

(b) 25 -35year ☐

(c) 35-45years ☐

(d) 45- 55years ☐

(e) 55years and above ☐

3. What is your Religion? (Tick)

(a) Catholic ☐

(b) Protestant ☐

(c) Moslem ☐

(d) Traditionalist ☐

(e) Others ☐

4. What is your level of Education?

(a) Degree ☐

(c) Certificate ☐

(b) Diploma ☐

(d) S. 6 ☐

5. What is your teaching experience?

(a) 1-3years ☐

(c) 5-7years ☐

(b) 35years ☐

(d) 7-10years ☐

(e) 10years and above ☐

SECTION B: About your school.

6. How many students live under low or difficult socio- economic status in your school?

Forms/class	Boys	Girls	Total
1			
2			
3			
4			
Total			

7. How many students have neat, clean and complete uniforms including school shoes and socking?

Forms/class	Boys	Girls	Total
1			
2			
3			
4			
Total			

8. To which occupation do most is the parents of your school belong? (Tick)

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (a) Employment | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) Doing business | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c) Farming | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (d) None of the above | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

9. According to you, which are the three main factors that lead to difficult socio-economic status.

(i) _____

(ii) _____

(iii) _____

(iv) _____

10. Choose by taking the factors leading to difficult economic social status in your school area?

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Economic | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Natural calamity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Political insecurity | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| HIV/AIDS | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cattle rusting | <input type="checkbox"/> |

11. Do most of your students come from their homes or normally sleep away from them (Tick)

- | | | | |
|---------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | (c) I didn't know | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) No | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

12. Has the teacher's parents' involvement been found to be a successful approach to the teaching of student under low socio-economic status in your school? (Tick)

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| (a) Strongly agree | <input type="checkbox"/> | (b) Agree | <input type="checkbox"/> | (c) Not see | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|

13. Do students living under low/difficult economic-social status learn the way as ordinary students?

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not sure | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|

14. Would you let your students go to children's homes especially those living under difficult socio-economic status if the chance comes?

- | | | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Not sure | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-----|--------------------------|----|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|

APPENDIX II B: QUESTIONNAIRES FOR THE LEARNERS

SECTION A about you

1. What is your gender (Tick)

Female ☐ Male ☐

2. What age group do you belong (Tick)

12-15years ☐ 19-22 ☐

15 - 19years ☐ 22-25years ☐

3. What is your religion (Tick)

Catholic ☐ Protestant ☐ Moslem ☐

Others ☐

4. Which class do you study (Tick)

S. 1 ☐ S.2 ☐ S.3 ☐ S.4 ☐ S.5 ☐ S.6 ☐

5. Are both your parents a live?

Yes ☐ No ☐

6. What is your parent's occupation?

Business ☐

Employment ☐

Farming ☐

Others (specify) ☐

7. How many meals can you afford to have per day?

Three ☐

Two ☐

One ☐

Others (specify) ☐

8. Do you always sleep at home?

Yes ☐ No ☐

9. If no where do you sleep?

.....
.....

10 What difficulties do you encounter at home?

(i).....

(ii).....

(iii).....

(iv).....

11. What difficulties do you encounter at school?

(i).....

(ii).....

(iii).....

(iv).....

12. Would you wish to go to children's home if a chance is given to you?

Yes ☐ No ☐

13. In your own words, how best can you be helped to attain your education successfully? List down.

(i).....

(ii).....

(iii).....