

**THE EFFECT OF CHILD LABOUR:  
ACASE STUDY OF MENGO KISENYI**

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**A RESEARCH PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF  
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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation is a result of my own findings and has never been submitted to any educational institution for an award.

Signed.....

WAMALA JOSEPH MULINDWA

Date........

## APPROVAL

This research has been submitted with the approval of my supervisor.

Signed.....

MS. NAMAJJAKHAWA

Date.....11<sup>th</sup> / 09 / 07.

## DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my family and more especially to my loving mother and father Mr and Mrs Mulindwa who sacrificed a lot for my education.

I also dedicate it to my friends who contributed with all they had; Luca Sabo, Olivia Kamuntu, Nalubega Dorah and my little Sister Nakibira Winnie.

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God bless you all

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## ABSTRACT

The study investigated the effects of child labour in Mrngo Kisenyi, Kampala. It arose out of the idea that child labour is one way of earning money. According to the study, child labour has many faces with multiple causes. Inspite of the government's efforts to stop the activities of child labour, like free education at primary and secondary level, it is still in existence.

A sample of respondents was selected from Kiti Zone I and II and Yowana Maria Muzeyi zone in Kisenyi. Using purposive sampling, 24 respondents were got from Yowana Maria Muzeri zone and 70 respondents from kiti zone and the cover area for Mengo Kisenyi.

Data was collected through self-administered questionnaires, discussions and in-depth interviews. The study revealed that child laborer were as a result of HIV/AIDS, war conflicts in the country side which affected their family which resulted in them going in for child labor as a way of surviving.

The study revealed that due to poverty, HIV/AIDS, epidemic and the political instabilities in the country side have led to child laborers increase in the area.

The researcher made recommendations and further research to be carried out so that the problem of child labour can be overcome.

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.0 Background of the study

Child labour started during the 1800's, the industrial revolution spread through out Britain. The use of and beam powered machines led to a massive increase in the number of factories (particularly in textile factories or mills). As the number of factories grew people from the country side began to move into the towns looking for better paid work. The worker's houses were usually near to the factories so that people could walk shorter distances to work. They were built really quickly and cheaply. The houses were cheap, most had between 2-4 rooms.

So with this massive increase of people in towns focused children to start looking for jobs also so as to find a living.

{<http://www.nettlesworth.durham.sch.vla/time/Victorian/uindust.html>}

However child labour is defined as exploitative work that harms the child's physical, psychological and morally. It is likely to affect with the child's education and the further development

The international labour organization {ILO} has estimated that 250 millions children between the age of 5-14 work in developing countries at least 120 on a full time basis 61% of these are in Asia,32% in Africa and 7% in Latin America.

Most working children in rural areas are found in the agricultural sector. Many rural children work as domestic helpers urban children work in trade and services with fewer in manufacturing and construction

{Human Rights watch}

The children's Rights Division at Human Rights Watch has focused its efforts on the worse forms of child labour children who work long hours often in dangerous and unhealthy conditions are exposed to lasting physical and psychological harm.

In Uganda child labour has not fully been researched on and documented but there are all indicators that this practice is taking place. This research therefore is to find the level of child labour and its effects in Kisenyi.

### **1.1 Statement of the Problem**

In Kisenyi on any given day, children are seen doing excessive workload such as lifting maize flour bags, making manicure and pedicure, looking after their age mates by providing them with shelter and health. The girls are said to be working as sex workers since their mothers are said to do the same work.

Despite the importance attached to teaching the children the skills for the betterment of their life, excessive workload and trauma have emerged hence causing grief and sadness as well as oppression to the children of Kisenyi hence child labour phenomenon. Most children in Kisenyi do not go to school. The researcher therefore wants to find out the extent of child labour in Kisenyi plus its effects on them.

### **1.2 Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study is to obtain relevant and detailed information on child labour in Kisenyi, the kind of work they do why they do it and how it has affected them.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

1. To find out what work children do in Kisenyi.
2. To find out why they are child laborers.
3. To find out how child labour has affected the child labourers in Kisenyi

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

1. What work do child labourers do in Kisenyi?
2. Why do children go for child labour?
3. How has child labour affected them?

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The research will open up new areas in the plight of working children and labour market, therefore these children will have a privileged to get assistance when they are in need. To scholars, academicians and educationists, the findings of the study will contribute to the existing literature about the government and private sector like NGO's so that it is used to wipe out child labour.

The study will benefit the social workers and the entire community, because the social workers will have to keep records about child labourers and seek governments and donor to help or assist them.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.0 Introduction

Child labour started during the 1800s in the industrial Revolution spread through out Britain. The use of steam powered machines led to massive increase in the number of factories {particularly in textile factories or mills}. As the number of factories grew people from country side began to move into towns looking for better paid work.

The workers houses were usually near to the factories so that people could not walk long distance to work and they were cheap so this gave children access to jobs in factories and hence child labour.

{[http://www.nettlesworth.durham.sch.uk/time/Victorian/uindust.htm/.](http://www.nettlesworth.durham.sch.uk/time/Victorian/uindust.htm/)}

So child labour is defined as exploit at ion work that harms the child physically. Psychologically and morally and is to inter fare with the child's education.

Child labour in Uganda has many faces with multiple causes for example the child domestic labour and sometime children also labour out side the home for economic gain, in the used in smuggling of goods across borders. In Kabalole they smuggle and others work on be plantation to pick tea leaves for economic gain. (Mbonye K.A and Makyobeh 1994)

A child is defined as a person below the age of 18 years in accordance with the UN convention on the fights of the child 1990.

According to Uganda, we have children working visibly the invisibly under adults supervision terming the work labour into work. Therefore child work is different from child labour. Child is that work done for socialization purposes in preparation for adult hood.

Nsiima adhere (1997) child labour in Uganda, A case of the informal sector in Kampala city

FIDA Uganda (2000) children in domestic service Uganda

Uganda's report and position on child labour (1998) the OAU / ILO African Regional tripartite conference on child labour

Kiganda C, (1998) draft national strategy and illustrative plan of action for accelerating girl's education in Uganda UNICEF Kampala program:

## **2.1 Types of Child Labour**

### **Children working on street**

Children working on street are aged from 6-17 years and they are seen see thing polythene bags, sweat, bananas, tea and food services, scrap collection, calling wads and roadside market stall attendances (FIDA UGANDA 1999)

### **Child domestic workers**

Child domestic workers, these are children who work invisibly and these children suffer appalling working conditions characterized by lack of clear terms of service with meager, or no pay. (Mbonye K.A. and Nakiyobeh 1994)

### **Children engaged in stone breaking**

These children are mostly orphans who come from the poor families for their survival they have to go to stone mines and they are over worked yet the work is too risking.

## **Commercial sexual Exploitation of children**

These children are paid for the act and they are much exploited because they want to earn lot e.g money

## **2.2 Causes of Child Labour**

Several studies have enumerated the causes of child labour. These mainly include socio economic factors therefore each other to include

### **Poverty**

Poverty has been said to be one of the major causes of child labour. Prof. Mwaka in her nation wide survey on the state of and action against child labour in Uganda observed that child labour was an invisible nation wide problem in Uganda that is mainly caused by poverty, (Mwaka V.M 1996).

On average children working for wages bring in about 20-45% of family income

### **Lack of education and high illiteracy rate**

A big number of children due to poverty, ignorance and cultural attitudes have not attained any education due to lack of institutions that offer vocational training. According to the population aged 6-12 years had never attended primary school and four out a very five girls (51.3% aged 15 years or less never competed primary school, does not equip its graduates with practical skills to raise rural incomes. Children work to study and hope to study to improve work

### **Domestic violence**

The unstable families with a lot of misunderstandings have also made it possible for children to work where they can have a peacefully live for the better survival

### **Gender inequality and cultural attitudes**

The patriarchal nature of African society relegates the women and the girl child to subordinate position that is reflected in the culture, societal attitudes, practices and beliefs with the labour sector not being exceptional.

This traditional and unequal division of labour gives heavy domestic and agricultural responsibilities, which interfere with their school attendance, and academic progress leading to high school dropouts 66% of primary school children who began school in 1989 had dropped out by 1995. So it is therefore considered normative or an actual phenomenon to have more girls than boys employed as domestic servants. (Prosymwaka 1994)

### **Weakness of the law enforcement**

Measures, limited resources on the part of the government, NGO's and in the community lack up to data and information on the problem and lack of effective co-ordination among key players evolved in child labour activities.

### **Effects of child labour**

Due to the problems and abuse face by child labourers, children suffer pro-found risk to their psychological health, physical and social development of children.



## **Psychological**

Work can be an important vehicle of child mental development if handled correctly because children enjoy to work. It's worthy noting that work becomes burden to some or abusive if it occupies so much time that children involved do not have an opportunity to play or to socialize with other children, their social and psychological development can be seriously stunted

The child baby maids and house hold keepers suffer psychological series, depression and low self esteem. The children in labour may damage their health minds morals and personalities they suffer significant growth deficits compared with children in school

They grow up higher and their body size combines to be smaller even when adults

## **Physical**

Children who work are more likely those adults to suffer occupational injuries owing to fatigue. Poor judgments, insufficient knowledge of work processes and the fact that equipment machinery and tools used are designed for adults. Tetanus, skin diseases stunted growth eye defects are common.

## **Socially**

The child labourers lack time to socialize with their age-mints, mostly the domestic workers stay indoors and they work for long hours end under pressure

## **Sexually**

There is high incidence of ignorance due to starting work at tender age with minds all twisted to economic gains. So it is much evidenced that the people they stay with sexually abuse these children and they are bold to keep quite. The sexual harassment is much engaged by the child labourers. This has also led to the outcome of early marriages leading to early pregnancy

There is the outcome of HIV / AIDS and STD infections. The child labourers are not aware of the infectious diseases like HIV / AIDS and STDs so they do not mind preventing or visiting the health units for advice and treatment

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

My study will be descriptive study which aimed at describing child labour in terms of what work they do, why they have been affected. Both children and adults in kisenyi regard child work a simple training. The study will lead to changes that allow working children combine work and school so that child workers reduce the risks they with out removing their means for survival

#### **3.1 Locale of the Study**

Child labour in Uganda has many faces with multiple causes' kisenyi slums are residential sites on the southern part of Kampala city migrants easily settle in this area. Many of them work in Balikuddembe market which has largest population among market. This market is very busy and services obtained are at cheaper prices

Kisenyi is a multi tribal area since people from different tribes to bring their goods. It is very true that tribes like Bakiiga, Bachapadola, Batoro and somalies have occupied the area.

#### **3.2 Sampling Technique**

The researcher will sample by the use of covenant sampling where by the researcher will interviewed child labourers available on sight for over 2 days to cover at least 15 children in child labour

#### **3.3 Instrument of Data Collection**

A structured interview questionnaire will be used where by the researcher administrate it to individual child labourers this is because the children to be interviewed use local languages like Luganda since most of them are illiterate.

### **3.3.1 Questionnaire**

Relatively comprehensive questionnaires are designed with view of collecting valuable data and the respondents will be selected. The advantage of this is that it saved time.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### RESULTS

The research was carried out in Kampala district around Kisenyi slums

Child labourers in Kisenyi are mostly in Kiti and Yowana Maria Muzeyi zones in Kisenyi. The researcher interviewed 25 respondents where by some of them were interviewed in groups and on individual basis

The researcher interviewed 13 boys and 12 girls representing 54% boys and 46% girls respectively. The respondents were aged between 6-18 years with the majority being 15 years of age.

**Table 1: Showing percentage distribution of the level of education**

Level of education	No. of Respondents	Percentage
No. education	5	21
Primary	16	67
Above primary	3	12
Total	24	100

Source: Field data

According to the survey, 67% of the respondents had their level of education up to primary level and 21% of the respondents had never been to school at all. 12% of the child labourers had gone to secondary level but did not sit for UNEB (Uganda National Examinations) just like those who stopped at primary level without sitting for their Primary Leaving Examination.

**Table 2: Showing percentage distribution of the respondents by age**

Age	No. of Respondents	Percentage
6-12	6	21
13-15	10	42
16-18	7	29
N/A	2	8
Total	25	100

Source: Field data

According to the survey results, 42% of the respondents were between 13-15 years of age, 29% between 16-18 years of age while 8% percent did not know their actual age and it was not easy for the researcher to observe and give the exact age. Thus most of the children begin their working lives as early as 6 years.

**Table 3: Showing percentage distribution of future aspirations of child labourers**

Future Aspiration	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Go back to school	10	42
Tax driver	1	4
Hair dressing	2	8
Farmer	3	13
Business man/ woman	6	25
Musician	1	4
N/A	1	4
Total	24	100

Source: Field data

Table 3 indicates that most of the respondents knew where they are heading and have a desire to see that they prosper to their aspirations except for the few who had nothing to say. 42% of the respondents wanted to go back to school, 25% wanted to become business men/ women. 13% wanted to become farmers just because they grew up in villages. While 8% were looking forward to becoming hairdressers. And wanted to become musicians and tax drivers.

**Table 4: Showing percentage distribution of the type of work done by respondents**

No.	Type of work	Frequency	Percentage
1	Welding	1	4.2
2	Manicure & pedicure	1	4.2
3	Picking scrap	1	4.2
4	Selling merchandise	6	25
5	Artisan	1	4.2
6	House help	6	25
7	Factory workers	7	29
8	Entertainment	1	4.2
	Total	24	100

Source: Field data

Most of the respondents work as factory workers as observed that 29% of the respondents work in factories because they can lift heavy loads followed by the merchandise sellers (25%). Girls worked mainly as house helpers that are 25%. The rest of the respondents 4.2% each worked as welding workers, manicure & pedicure workers.

**Table 5: Representing the percentage distribution of the reasons why children work.**

No.	Reasons for working	No. of Respondents	Percentage
1	Abandoned	4	17
2	Parents died	3	12.5
3	Earn living/Poverty	13	12.5
4	For school fees	1	4
5	Pregnancy	3	12.5
	Total	24	100

Source: Field data

To earn a living is a result of poverty. So poverty is a predominant factor that has led children into being child labourers. 54% of the child labourers are in Kisenyi working to earn a living due to poverty. 17% of the respondents were abandoned by their parents and relatives and 12.5% of the respondents were orphans who had no alternative but only to be forced into child laborer. Others were out of school just because of pregnancy.

**Table 6: Showing percentage distribution of how labour has affected child labourers.**

Problem faced	No. of responses	Percentage
Taxation	1	2.3
Tiresome / No sleep	5	11.4
Lack shelter	1	2.3
Lack customers	1	2.3
Sexual harassment	5	11.4
Under / No pay	9	20.4
No time for school	3	7
Exploitation	6	14
Poor working conditions	10	23
Disease / injuries	3	7
Total	44	100

Source: Field data



**NB** Some children had more than one response

23% of the respondents are affected by the poor working conditions like verbal abuse and being physically abused which ranked first, followed by under payment or no payment with 20.4%. Exploitation comes in (14%) followed by sexual harassment 11.4%.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND CONCLUSION

#### 5.0 Summary

In summary, it was observed that child labourers in Kisenyi are carry out different actives like welding, entertainment, manicure and pedicure, housekeeping

In this research I cortically observed that most of the child labourers are hot doing on type of work like a child labourers can be selling sweet bananas and polythene bags but when it some time for grasshopper they chief do selling grasshoppers which is seasonal.

To some few who go to school, they work after school since their contributed income is very essential to the up keep of their homes.

Sexually there is a high incidence of sexual abuse suffered among the child labourers due to the concealed nature of the problem, many cases are never given the attention they desire. The problem of sexual abuse is hot properly handled. Many of the cases go un reported

The child labourers in the end are affected by some STDs like gonorrhea, Syphilis but to worsen the condition they are affected by HIV / AIDS and they do not know where to seek you help you medical health services.

## 5.1 Discussion

Much as there are laws in place to protect workers generally, there are no effective laws that protect children in the informal sector especially those in child labour.

Child labourers work visibly or invisibly almost in every major city in the world making it a global issue hence need to find a long- term alternative to the problem of having child labourers

Most child labourers have at least attended primary level but most of them did not sit for Primary Leaving Exams implying that Universal Primary Education has not been utilized. The study found that there were various reasons why child labourers left their homes and schools to towns as such as Kisenyi slums. The findings confirm that the majority of child labourers due to poverty so they want to earn a living and most of them feel they want to experience a chance of education.

Some of the respondents come from polygamous families with so many children. In some of such cases, the step mothers of such children influence their fathers so much that they deter the fathers from catering for these children's fees.

To quote one respondent "I fell out with my father one time he beat me up to death point. I ran to my mother for safety, unfortunately she could not offer my school fees and instead she suggested that I work."

There are some existing interventions that target child labourers like ACSO (All children's Support Organization in Kisenyi). It was set up in April 1998 targeting child labourers servants. It provides basic literacy mainly to children in Kisenyi.

The aspirations of child labourers was observed that according to their own understanding they aimed at reasoning the way they thought but if at all they were given an opportunity to join some institutional trainings like catering, modeling should be

offered. These children could make their dreams come true except for the few who had nothing to say. Hence if those vulnerable children are helped they will reach their desired state of affairs.

The child labourers' income is very important to the live hood of poor families. As stated by one respondent of Yowana Maria Zone during the interview that "I come from Masaka, I lost my brothers and sisters (4 girls and 4 boys). I earn 15000 per month.

When I get paid I send it to my father in Masaka

## **5.2 Recommendations**

There is a high incidence of child labourers in Uganda and other countries of the world. It is a global problem. The forms and conditions of work of child labourers in Kisenyi are poor their salary is not arranged and the where scanty provisions relating to labour arena exist enforcement is poor. The children suffer various forms of violence and the child labourers suffer yet more abuse.

Hence, the recommendations of this research are given at different levels as indicated below

### **Individual and house hold level**

There is need to sensitize parent's children and relatives of their responsibilities in the up bringing, growth and development of their children. Girls should be encouraged to stay in schools and not to be given out to other irresponsible people as house girls.

Both parents and children have to realize that towns are not heavens one has to be prepared for the challenges to migrate to towns. Families should be strengthened to reduce material instabilities and be in position to meet the needs of their children.

The notion of stepparents should be as a result of fashion but accident. Extended families networks should be strengthened more especially in times of crisis and parental deprivation.

Counseling and guidance is important for both children and their parents because there times when children are more expectant in life.

### **Community level**

There is need to establish Community Based Children Counseling and Guidance services plus children's courts at village level. Communities should support NGOs dealing with child labourers. And also realize that investments in girls are worthwhile development strategies.

At the same time labour work apportioned to children should be realistic depending on their age, strengthen their mental capacity to perform the given roles.

Community should realize that child abuse is a violation of the children's rights and legally viable for punishment.

### **Employer level**

Employers should be sensitized on the terms and conditions of the work of child labourers.

The employers should play a guardian role to the child labourers and offer guidance and respect for his or her rights and responsibilities.

### **Government level**

Government should come up with alternative training targeting children who are not embraced by UPE.

### **5.3 Conclusion**

According to the research, it was found out that child labourers carry out different activities like welding, entertainment (Karaoke), manicure and pedicure, factory workers among others. This is due to different reasons such as being abandoned, orphans and poverty.

These children have been affected as they lift heavy loads, their mental development is damaged, and physiological stress, depression and low self esteem that is why most of them do not gain the recommended body size.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix I: Questionnaire for Community Leaders

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am currently carrying out a research project and the research focuses on the topic “the effects of child labour” A case study of Mengo Kisenyi.

Please try to answer the questions and the information will be treated with confidence.

Thank you.

Age .....

Sex .....

Gender .....

Responsibility .....

Type of work .....

1. What kind of work do child labourers do in Kisenyi?

a) House Keepers ☐

b) Scrap collectors ☐

c) Hawkers ☐

d) Grain sorting ☐

e)

f) Others (specify) .....

2. How much do you get from Kisenyi? .....

.....

3. Do you employee any of the child labourers?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, why .....

.....

4. How do you help them to overcome them? .....

.....



## Appendix II: Questionnaire for child labourers

Dear sir/Madam,

I am currently carrying out a research project and the research focuses on the topic “the effects of child labour” A case study of Mengo Kisenyi.

Please try to answer the questions and the information will be treated with confidence.

Thank you.

Age .....

Sex .....

Gender .....

Responsibility .....

Type of work .....

1. What kind of work do you do? .....

2. What problems do you face? .....

3. If given a chance would you go back home? Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, why? .....

4. What is your education level?

Primary ☐ Secondary ☐ None ☐

### Appendix III: Questionnaire to NGO in the Area dealing with Child Labourers

I am currently carrying out a research project and the research focuses on the topic “the effects of child labour” A case study of Mengo Kisenyi.

Please try to answer the questions and the information will be treated with confidence.

Thank you.

Age .....

Sex .....

Gender .....

Responsibility .....

Type of work .....

1. Name one of the organizations that is helping children in the area? .....

.....

2. How do you help the child labourers? .....

.....

3. Which problem affect the child labourers? .....

4. What is the main cause of child labour? .....

.....

5. What kind of work do child labourers do in Mengo Kisenyi? .....

.....

**GOD BLESS YOU**