

**SOCIO ECONOMIC STATUS AND FAMILY STRUCTURE IN RUBAGA  
MUNICIPALITY KAMPALA UGANDA**

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**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL  
SCIENCES IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE  
AWARD OF A BACHELOR DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK AND  
SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF KAMPALA  
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

**APRIL, 2017**

## DECLARATION

I Ahaisibwe Agnes hereby declare that this research report is my original work and has never been presented before to any other institution for any academic award.

Signature.....

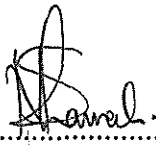
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## APPROVAL

This research report entitled “Socio-Economic Status and Family Structures in Uganda with a case study of Rubaga” is ready for submission to the college of Humanities and social sciences with my full consent and approval as the researcher’s university supervisor.

Signature..........

Date..20.04.2017..

**MADAM NASSIWA SHAMIRAH**  
**UNIVERSITY SUPERVISOR**

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Once in a great while you have the opportunity to accomplish something that leaves an inedible imprint on your life. Writing this book has been that experience for me. The ideas presented hereinafter were gestated for many years and at this opportune moment they emerge in a book form. However a project like this does not happen without guidance, talent and influence from many other people that is; Mr. Mugalula George and my supervisor Mrs. Shamirah Nassiwa. In that regard therefore, with deep appreciation I would like to thank the all the people who put in their efforts and time in encouraging me to carry on with my studies this far without fear.



## **DEDICATION**

I take this opportunity to dedicate this research report to my beloved parents my Dad Mr. Kitembo Stephen and my mum Miss. Kimigesha Magret, my Aunt Mrs. Kasoro Oliva, friends Easawu, Annet, Isaac and Robert, siblings Gorret, Geoffrey, Winne, Daphine and Juliet who have been there and stood firm with me through all my University endeavors to complete this degree. I owe all my success and happiness to you. May God bless you!

## ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to establish Socio-Economic Status and Family Structures in Uganda utilizing a case study of Rubaga Municipality. The research used both qualitative and quantitative study designs since it was a social-oriented research. The researcher opted for several designs such as the survey design, the exploratory design, and the explanatory design for this study. Under the first objective, it was concluded that fertility rates, individual, capacity, changes in rural areas, polygamy, and policy implications were among the leading factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda. In the second objective, it was concluded that; nuclear family, polygamous family, single-parent family, step family, adoptive family, foster family and the child-headed family were the different family structures in Uganda's society. In the third objective, it was concluded that child abuse and domestic violence, alcoholism, drug abuse and teenage pregnancy as well as homelessness and poverty and death, divorce and separation in the family were some of the major socio-economic problems faced by families in Uganda.

According to the findings and conclusions of the study, the researcher found it is necessary that the recommendations below are of much importance the first and most important recommendation should be through a variety of support programs, such as education and counseling for parents. The government and non-government also must build programmes to give the skill to parents on how to care and teach their children. Community members must be concerned about their neighbor, know their neighbor names and the name of their children. School counselors or teachers must help to educate their students, give motivation and give advice if students have family problem.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

Chapter one highlighted the background to the study, give the statement of the problem, presents the purpose of the study, the objectives, research questions, scope of the study, significance, and the conceptual framework and key research terms about the socio economic status and family structure in Rubaga in Uganda, the case study of Rubaga municipality

#### **1.1 Background**

Widespread variations in geography, socioeconomic structures, and culture, cannot conceal the common opportunities and challenges that have affected African families in the last ten years since the International Year of the Family in 1994. The family as a unit of production, consumption, reproduction, and accumulation, has been profoundly impacted by the economic downturns that transformed the environment in which families make their decisions. These broader socio-political and economic environments provide the contexts for understanding changes in African family structures. Opportunities have arisen from considerable socioeconomic changes that continue to alter the structure of the family away from traditional patterns to new ones generated by the expansion of education, health care, employment, and migration. Yet the same forces that engender significant visit as for families have also produced multiple constraints. (Adams and Mburugu, 2013)

As a result of these changes, there is no longer one dominant family form in the U.S. Parents today are raising their children against a backdrop of increasingly diverse and, for many,

constantly evolving family forms. By contrast, in 1960, the height of the post-World War II baby boom, there was one dominant family form. At that time 73 percent of all children were living in a family with two married parents in their first marriage. By 1980, 61 percent of children were living in this type of family, and today less than half (46 percent) are. The declining share of children living in what is often deemed a “traditional” family has been largely supplanted by the rising shares of children living with single or cohabiting parents.

African families are embedded in political and socioeconomic circumstances that are characterized by long-standing domestic dynamics of economic fragility, debilitating poverty, poor governance and civil conflicts. Throughout the 1990s, the scourge of HIV/AIDS has put additional pressures on the sustainability of families and households. Similarly, the new demands unleashed by forces of globalization have had mixed outcomes for African families, simultaneously enhancing the chances of families to seize the opportunities for participation in larger economic exchanges while at the same time heightening their vulnerability to these forces. As a result, the state of African families is clouded by the competing strains of social regeneration and economic constraints. Available evidence suggests that there have been changes in these socio-cultural factors over time. Age at marriage appears to have increased, though minimally; it is still relatively low in rural settings and higher in urban settings. (Adepoju, 2000)

In Uganda a new household structure has emerged where households are headed by widows, single women, children under 18 years of age and orphans. Widows headed households because the traditional practice of widow inheritance by brothers-in-law was disappearing for fear of contracting HIV. Also households are experiencing increased numbers of orphans whose care causes heavy burdens. The AIDS epidemic has had adverse psychological and economic

consequences leading to changes in the family structure. This has disturbed the capacity of the nuclear and the extended family to respond to the needs of the members afflicted by HIV/AIDS. Because of the effects of the epidemic, the clan system has become the locus of AIDS activity as it is designed to ensure the well-being and continuity of the family. Its leadership undertakes to sustain, reorganize or create wholly new families among populations devastated by the epidemic.(Antonie and Nanitelamio, 1991)

Furthermore, urbanization has had a negative effect on the support mechanisms that dealt with older persons. Urban living means that the old and the young are no longer living in the same households; modern arrangements have destroyed the key social welfare features that provided for intergenerational support. There is a gender dimension to the precarious nature of older persons in Africa. Studies throughout the region reveal that the number of older women living in isolation has increased owing to the outward migration of children to urban areas; older women than men consider their status within the family to have deteriorated primarily because of widowhood and economic dependency. In old age, widowed women in Africa often live on the margins of communities that are equally impoverished.(Caldwell, 1994) The scale of marginalization is more evident in rural areas where the social protection of older persons has eroded because of increasing poverty, lack of infrastructure such as health care, education, and social services. Inequalities experienced early in life, in particular access to education and health care, have critical bearings on the status and wellbeing of the aged. Because of urbanization, the young generations who traditionally catered to older persons have migrated to cities, leaving the aged behind in rural areas. Yet few urban dwellers have the means to maintain the care of the rural aged. In addition, mandatory retirement programs that are common throughout Africa relegate the aged to the rural areas without adequate economic opportunities.(Cohen, 1998)

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Socio-economic status is an influential determinant of a child's health outcomes because it has an immediate impact on access to insurance and health services (Parker & Heck, 2004). In tough economic times, the challenge to provide adequate health insurance coverage to all families remains constant. Many families do not meet the income and residency eligibility requirements. In an attempt to help to alleviate these child insurance enrollment issues. For the fact of modern families the socio economic status has been appreciated by the western way of practice, in other wards the nature and situation of family structure magnify to the extent of adjustments due to the forces of demand and supply.

The social-economic status of the couple and its autonomy relative to mothers-in-law and other members of the extended family, clan, or community influence the choices that are made. Most research literature has focused on the impact that socio-economic factors has on the structuring of families in contemporary society and the literature suggests that the structure of a family is influenced by the factors with the environment in which they live. These could be in form of fertility arts, education levels, political atmosphere among other things like HIV/AIDS prevalence to mention but a few.

## **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study aimed to establish the impact of socio economic status and family structure in Rubaga Municipality Kampala Uganda.

## **Specific Objectives of the Study**

1. To examine the socio economic status that exist in Kampala, Uganda
2. To establish the different family structures in Uganda's society
3. To identify the changes in families brought by socio economic status in Uganda

## **1.4 Research Questions**

- i. What are the socio economic status that exist in Kampala, Uganda?
- ii. What are the different family structures in Uganda's society?
- iii. What are the families brought by socio economic status in Uganda?

## **1.5 Scope of the study**

### **1.5.1 Geography / Physical Scope**

The research was conducted in Rubaga Municipality which is one of the five municipalities making up Kampala Capital City Authority. Rubaga Municipality is found in the western part of the City bordering Wakiso District to the west and South of the municipality. Kawempe Municipality lies to the North of Rubaga Municipality. Neighborhoods in the municipality include; Mutundwe, Natwete, Lungujja, Busega, Lubaga, Mengo, Namungonona, Lubyala, Lugala, Bukesa, Naakulabye, Kasubi and Kawaala.

### **1.5.2 Theoretical scope**

Family change theory (Kagitcibasi, 1996, 2007) is an alternative approach to explain how modernization and globalization processes affect the family. The most important assumption of

the theory is that when traditional interdependent cultures modernise, they need not necessarily develop in direction of an independent family model typical for Western individualistic societies (Kagitcibasi, 2007). Instead, they may develop towards a *family model of emotional interdependence* that combines continuing emotional interdependencies in the family with declining material interdependencies and rising personal autonomy. In this chapter a preliminary evaluation of the empirical status of family change theory is given, based on a review of recent cross-cultural studies. It will be shown in how far the few studies that have been systematically conducted in this respect have found results supporting or not supporting aspects of the theory, and where the strengths and problems of this research lie.

### **1.5.3 Content Scope**

They study found out socio economic status and family structure in Rubaga municipality Kampala Uganda.

### **1.5.4Time Scope**

The study was conducted for a period of 3 Months. This time was sufficiently enough for the researcher to come up with all findings that enabled him establish a basis for compiling this report. The final research proposal was submitted to the faculty of Humanities in the department of Social Work and Social Administration.

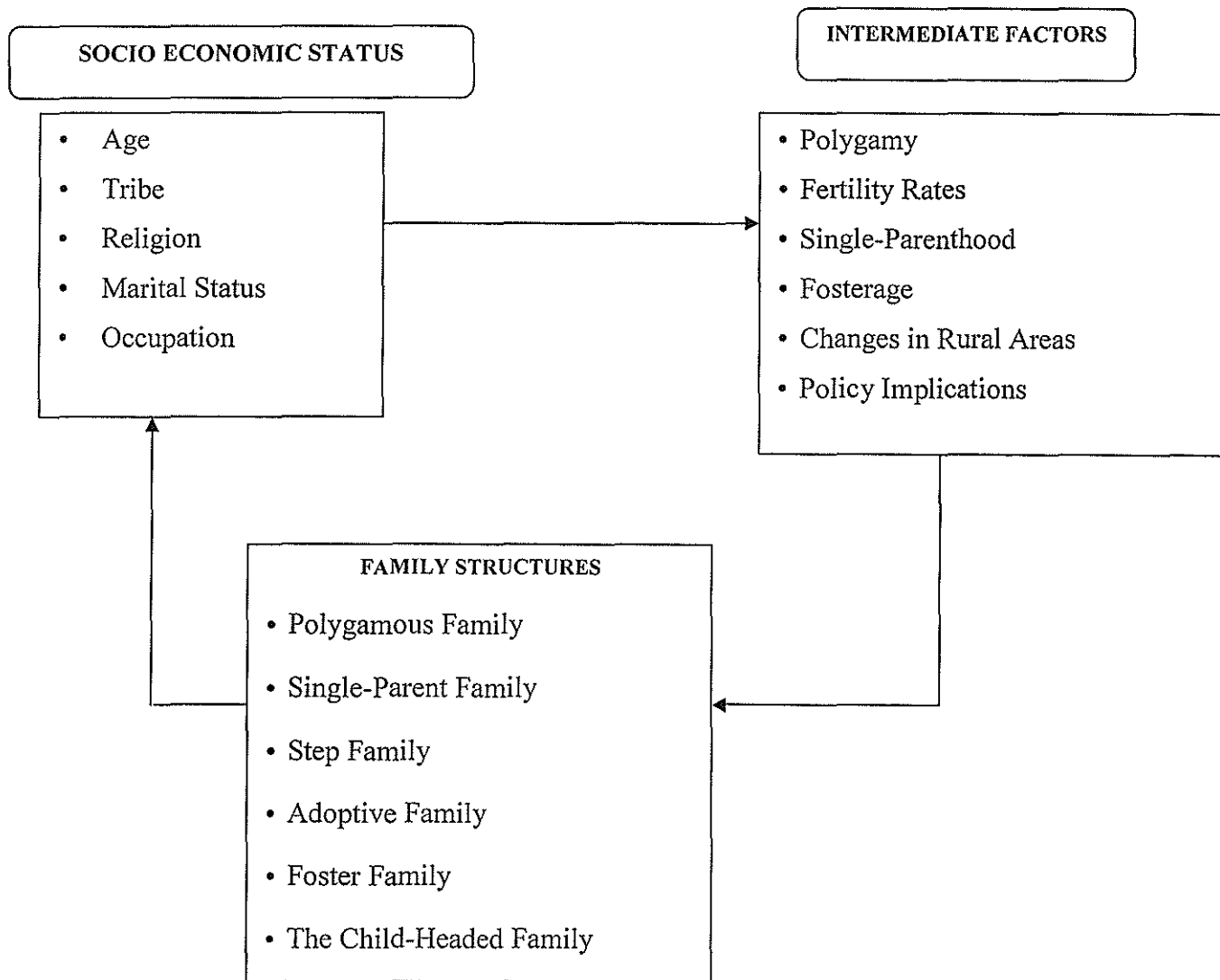
## **1.6 Significance of the Study**

This study will act as a benchmark on which social workers especially those working with children and family issues will draw conclusions on the factors contributing to changes in family



structures in Uganda and from the recommendations suggested by this research they will be able to incorporate them in their policy formulation endeavors. The research will be expected to be of great significance to future researchers and academicians as some of the literature developed in this study would be used by future researchers as secondary data for their own research as a copy of this research report will be kept in the University Library. To the families and family members of Rubaga Municipality, this study will suggest possible ways in which the government and concerned social support agencies can help them or enable them sustain their families regardless of their family structures. This study therefore will be so important for all family people in the study area and Uganda at Large. The successful completion of this study will act as one of the fulfillments for the award of a bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration from the faculty of Humanities in Kampala International University as all undergraduates are supposed to conduct a relevant study before they are eligible for graduation.

## 1.7 Conceptual framework



As illustrated in the conceptual framework above, the socio-economic aspects such as Age, Tribe, Religion, Marital Status and Occupation for they influence the family structures via the intermediate variables. The attributed family structures are polygamous family, single parent family, step family, adoptive family, foster family and the child Headed family.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

In this chapter the researcher presented the reviewed earlier studies related to this particular one as carried out by other researchers earlier on. This chapter held relevance in showing what is known of the subject coverage and what needed to be searched or established this presenting a justification for the study. The literature presented is aligned with the research objectives.

The study examined social economic status and family structure from three different household perspectives: single female headed, grandparent headed, and married households. Many family structure focused studies analyze and compare the impacts of the single female, single male or married households on a child's health and educational outcomes. These studies very seldom focused on the grandparent-headed households (Thomson, Hanson, and McLanahan, 1994

#### **2.1 Socio Economic Status to changes of family structures in Uganda**

Fertility behavior in sub-Saharan Africa, like other parts of the world, is determined by biological and social factors. Several factors have contributed to sustain relatively high levels of fertility in most of sub-Saharan Africa. These factors include high levels of infant and child mortality, early and universal marriage, early child bearing as well as child bearing within much of the reproductive life span, low use of contraception and high social value placed on child bearing. In the face of perceived high infant and child mortality, the fear of extinction encouraged high procreation with the hope that some of the births would survive to carry on the lineage. (Folbre, 2001) Interestingly, it is also believed that Rwanda's birth rate is on the increase

because Rwandans generally believe it is their moral duty to replace the one million or so people that perished during the genocide. The high value traditionally placed on marriage ensured not only its universality but also its occurrence early in life with the consequence that child bearing started early and in most cases continued until late into the productivity span. The institution of polygamy, which sometimes promotes competition for child bearing among co-wives, also contributed to sustaining high fertility. Use of modern contraception was traditionally unacceptable as it violated the natural process of procreation. The traditional long period of breast-feeding and postpartum abstinence guaranteed adequate spacing between children.(Harsch, 2002)

A critical continuity in African family patterns relates to the persistence of Polygamous practices. The much-anticipated decline in Polygamous households is still far from asocial reality in most African countries. In rural areas, polygamy survives largely because of the imperatives established by the sexual municipality of labor that marks the sphere of agriculture. Multiple wives, and by extension, many children, are valued because they continue to provide essential labor services in rural agricultural production. But in most African urban areas, Polygamy, once fairly common, is becoming rare, in particular among the younger generations. Monogamous households have taken a greater hold on society. Polygamy seems to be a declining form of marriage as the strength of the conjugal relationship predominates over other family and community relationships. (Jones, 1999)

Young Ugandans couples tend to have fewer children than their parents as knowledge and use of modern contraceptives has expanded. More importantly, increasing education, urban migration, and employment have created new courtship patterns that emphasize individual choice; these

patterns, in turn, provide women with relative equality in the arena of sexuality and mate selection. These changes, however, have neither reduced the importance Ugandans society places on fertility and parenthood nor altered the continuing importance of kinship networks in Uganda. Consequently, while fertility rates have declined across generations and women have gained more decisional latitude in the family, the enduring importance of kinship rooted in African social structures continues to impose significant constraints on women's individual autonomy and choice.(Madhavan, 2001)

Another factor that is undermining kinship-based family structures is the prevalence of single parenthood, particularly among young urban females. As increasing numbers of women have joined the labor force, single and female-headed households have become discernible pattern on the African social landscape. Although some societies continue to frown upon women over 30 who are still single, accusing them of prolonging singlehood, this new trend reflects attempts to adapt to secular changes in educational status, employment and occupational mobility, and in some cases, the decline of marriageable men. However, studies from most African cities have also shown that female-headed households are over-represented among the poor. (Mbacke, 1998)

Africa's unplanned urban sprawls are populated with unmarried single and poor women who face considerable obstacles in overcoming dislocation, migration, and deprivation. Coping with the circumstances of family disruption in most African countries has entailed single-parent families among lower-income groups taking their children to live with relatives, in particular, the children's grandparents. In Uganda, childcare problems and restrictions by many employers on children of their workers residing on their premises has strengthened the roles of African grandparents in bringing up their grandchildren. This has also reinforced the customary practices

of multi-generation households where mutual support between generations guarantees the well-being of person born into African families throughout their life cycle.(Modo, 2001)

Asikhia (2010) noted that family educational background and socio-economic status influence the academic performance of students; that these two are lumped together because they are related and one may rightly say that they are married and hence should not be 'divorced'. He opines that socio-class or status could be defined more objectively by using such indices as occupation, income and education. Wealth is strongly correlated with education and occupation and when socio-economic status is measured these other factors are usually included. Schulz (2005) contended that socio-economic status (SES) is an important explanatory factor in many different disciplines like health, child development and educational research. Research has shown that socioeconomic status is associated with health, cognitive and socio-emotional outcomes. In general, educational outcomes have been shown to be influenced by family background in many different and complex ways. For example, the socio-economic status of families has been consistently found to be an important variable in explaining variance in student achievement. Socio-economic background may affect learning outcomes in numerous ways: From the outset, parents with higher socio-economic status are able to provide their children with the (often necessary) financial support and home resources for individual learning. They are also more likely to provide a more stimulating home environment to promote cognitive development. At the level of educational providers, students from high-SES families are also more likely to attend better schools, in particular in countries with differentiated (or "tracked") educational systems, strong segregation in the school system according to neighbourhood factors and/or clear advantages of private over public schooling . Chen (2009) studied the effects of family background, ability and student achievement in rural China. Parental education is found to be

key determinants of student achievement, but the roles of father's education and mother's education differ across child gender and levels of ability. For example, father's education has significantly positive effect on academic achievements for both boys and girls, while mother's education only matters for girls. The effect of father's education matters for lower ability children, while mother's education matters for higher ability children. OECD/UNESCO (2003) alleged that family characteristics are a major source of disparity in students' educational outcomes. More family financial resources, which are associated with parents' occupation and educational attainment, often imply increased learning opportunities both at home and in school. Better-educated parents can contribute to their children's learning through their day-to-day interactions with their children and involving themselves in their children's school work. Parents with higher occupational status and educational attainment may also have higher aspirations and expectations for their children's occupation and education, which in turn can influence their commitment to learning.

While the Ugandan cases illustrate that the multi-generation African family is not on the decline, economic downturns and increased urban poverty in the rest of Africa have undermined the institution of fosterage that for long sustained the ties between rural and urban households. Fosterage constitutes part of the trend where the welfare of rural dwellers depends on their solidarity ties with urban kin families. A key component of this practice is the channeling of remittances from urban workers to rural areas through educational support.(NEPAD, 2001) By conferring parental responsibilities to their urban relatives, fosterage guaranteed the mobility of children from rural families. Over the years, the fosterage of African children had important demographic and economic consequences. It subsidized high fertility among rural and poor families and gave poor families the means of defraying child-rearing costs. In addition, when

poor and large families transferred the guardianship of their children to smaller and wealthier families, fosterage mitigated inequalities in resource endowment among children. Recent research, however, shows that the prolonged economic reversal witnessed throughout Africa has weakened fosterage networks, jeopardizing the welfare of rural families and the strength of rural urban relationships (NEPAD, 2002)

The breakdown in the symbiotic and mutually beneficial exchanges between rural and urban communities is equally matched by radical changes within rural households. This results from the collapse of the traditional African family economy in which husbands were the chief breadwinners. This economy has gradually been making way for wage earning family households whereby both the husband and wife have to strive to earn income primarily in the agricultural sector. Yet the transition to wage-earning households has occurred without corresponding shifts in power relations between the sexes, producing tensions that further destabilize the family as the momentous changes in household structures as control over resources has shifted gradually away from men to women. (Silberschmidt, 2001)

Freijo et al., (2006) submitted that various aspects of the family economic, social and cultural conditions have a consistent impact on the literacy performance of students in all countries. Students whose parents have better jobs and higher levels of educational attainment and who are exposed to more educational and cultural resources at home tend to have higher levels of literacy performance. Educational systems face the challenging task of compensating students from less advantaged backgrounds, for the deficit in economical, social and cultural capital they experience at home. Expanding students' knowledge of occupational choices and increasing their occupational aspirations may help them to become more motivated learners. Caro (2009) posited



that the relationship between family SES and academic achievement is referred to in the literature as a socioeconomic gradient because it is gradual and increases across the range of SES or as a socio-economic gap because it implies a gap in academic achievement between students of high and low SES families. Scholars according to Caro have shown that a socio-economic gap in the early school years has lasting consequences. Particularly, as low SES children get older their situation tends to worsen. Because of their relatively poor skills, they are prone to leave school early and are less likely to be assigned to the college preparatory track. In the longer term, they are less likely to enter the labour market successfully or pursue post-secondary education.

With rampant unemployment and dwindling resources, men's central roles as breadwinners have been redefined, making it impossible for most men to fulfill these roles. As a consequence, men have felt a loss of power, and, unable to provide for their families, they have frequently turned to alcoholism, brutality, rape, and extramarital sex for succor. In contrast, women's main role as daily household and farm managers remains in close conformity with the traditional expectations and thus they have been better able than men to achieve the social values embedded in their gender roles. Yet as men are threatened by societal changes, the persisting patriarchal structure of powers allows men to nullify women's economic contribution to the family, thus heightening poverty and marital stress.(United Nations Population Municipality, 2003)

Widespread availability of economic, education, and health opportunities will continue to have remarkable influences on the changes in African family structures. What is noteworthy about these changes is the complexity, adaptability, and flexibility of family forms within their respective social and cultural contexts. Thus there is a universal consensus that policies that strengthen such adaptability remain critical to maintaining the intricate balance between

traditional norms and emerging forms of family organization. In particular, there is need for policies that: Enhance the status and importance of women in the attainment of fertility reductions. The driving force for fertility reduction has been the ability of African women to control their reproduction, particularly in the use of contraceptives. Since the persistence of high fertility rates are correlated with minimal involvement of women in reproductive decisions, family planning schemes that empower women regarding the use of contraceptives need to be given more priority in policy plans. Successful family planning programs with strong political support invariably undermine the preference for large families.(UNAIDS, 2000)

## **2.2 The different family structures in Uganda's society**

The ideal family for a child is one which is intact, meaning both biological parents are present. Unfortunately, in reality, many children today are not so privileged. Many children have either only one parent, live with step-parents or relatives, are abandoned in the streets, or orphaned at a young age without a family to care for them. (Adams and Mburugu, 1994)Each of these forms of family or non-family composition is becoming more and more commonplace today, and each has unique characteristics. Below are the different types of family composition in more detail.

### **2.2.1 Nuclear Family**

The nuclear family is the traditional type of family structure. This family type consists of two parents and children. The nuclear family was long held in esteem by society as being the ideal in which to raise children. Children in nuclear families receive strength and stability from the two-parent structure and generally have more opportunities due to the financial ease of two adults. (Adepoju, 2000)

### **2.2.2 Polygamous Family**

In some parts of the world, such as in Muslim countries and some African countries, men are allowed to have more than one wife. These multiple wives may live together in one household, with the husband visiting them occasionally. Even under the best conditions, jealousy, and competition for the husband's attention and wealth, is unavoidable between the wives. In this kind of family, children often have only limited access to their father's attention. They may develop resentment and distrust towards others for taking their father away. Even though they have a biological father, in many ways their life is similar to that of the single-parent family.(Ainsworth, 1996)

### **2.2.3 Single-Parent Family**

The single-parent family is headed by one parent. This single parent is usually the mother. More than 90 per cent of single-parent families are headed by women. There are different reasons why a family has only one parent. Teenage pregnancy, out-of wed lock pregnancy, marriages dissolved by divorce or separation, the loss of parents through death or desertion, or simply, choice. Most single parents tend to be economically disadvantaged. In addition, they lack emotional support.(Amin, 2002)

### **2.2.4 Step Family**

The step-family is also known as a reconstituted or blended family. Along with the increase in divorce and re-marriage, the number of step-families is growing rapidly. Children end up in a step-family through their parents' remarriage or polygamous marriages. They often have step-brothers and step-sisters, and other step-relatives as well. Family relationships in a step-family

are more complicated than in the normal family, as there are often different sets of norms, values, disciplines and expectations. Arguments, conflicts and abuse among members of a step-family are common. Stepparents need to work harder to love all children equally, whether they are biological children or step-children. A parent's favoritism towards certain children tends to create hard feelings between step-children. The incidence of street children and child abuse sometimes originates here.(Antonie and Nanitelamio, 1991)

### **2.2.5 Adoptive Family**

Some children are adopted by their relatives. In the past, adoptive parents were told to hide the fact of adoption from their children. They believed that if children did not know about the adoption, they would grow up without any problem. Research, however, showed that when adopted children eventually found out that they were adopted, they often felt cheated and outraged. Nowadays, we believe that it is better to let the child know that he/she was adopted, and that he/she was specially chosen for adoption. We now know that if adopted children are loved and treated with honesty, they will grow up into healthy and well-adjusted adults. Whether they are adopted or not makes little difference. What is important is the adoptive parents' attitude towards the adopted child.(Caldwell, 1994)

### **2.2.6 Foster Family**

Some children are placed with foster families because they do not have a family of their own, or because their family does not meet their safety and welfare needs. In extreme cases, children are taken out of their biological families and put into foster care because of the severe and abusive conditions in the home. Often, these children are placed in a foster family only for a short time,

until social workers are able to help reunite the family again. However, it sometimes happens that children are moved from one foster family to another, because the biological family cannot solve its problems, and is unable to care for the children properly. Because of the transient nature of the placement, children may have difficulty in the foster family. If children are moved too frequently they are not able to form an emotional attachment with foster parents. However, if foster parents love and the placement is a stable one, children often benefit from it.(Cohen, 1998)

### **2.2.7 The Child-Headed Family**

Recently in Uganda due to the HIV/AIDS impact, many orphans have sprung up to head their own families by looking after their siblings. Recently, a new family composition has emerged. This is the family where a number of children have lost both parents. These children may not have relatives to take care of them, or are too many for someone to take in. In these circumstances, the eldest child becomes the head of the family.(Folbre, 2001)

## **2.3 The major socio-economic problems faced by families in Uganda**

There are severe problems affecting families in Uganda that need immediate attention. These are where families can no longer cater for the physical, effective and emotional needs of its members. They are called dysfunctional families. There are many causes of dysfunctional families. Some are inter-related and others are isolated. We will describe the problems that affect today's families which concern you. They are: child abuse, teenage pregnancy, alcoholism, drug abuse, domestic violence, death/divorce/separation in the family, homelessness, poverty, and the uprooted family.(Harsch, 2002)

## Child Abuse

The family is where a child is supposed to receive love and care, to build up basic trust of the world and of other people. However, the cruel reality is that millions of children throughout the world each year have been abused by the people they love and trust the most - their own parents. This is the ultimate betrayal of trust. There are many kinds of child abuse. There are physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and verbal abuse. Physical abuse may produce the 'battered-child syndrome'. In this case, a child's growth and development is seriously traumatized by harsh and cruel physical treatment. Emotional abuse and sexual abuse can be even more destructive than physical abuse in the long run. Often, they go undetected and unrecognized for many years, partly because the family tries to keep it a secret, or partly because some people simply do not believe that sexual abuse of a child can happen in the family. Victims of emotional or sexual abuse often have interpersonal problems as adults. They may go into fits of depression and have outbursts of hostility and anger that they cannot control or understand.(Jones, 1999)

Incest is a form of child abuse where the parent or parent-like figure has sexual contact with the child. In many cases, a girl is the victim. The shame and guilt associated with this form of sexual abuse are so severe that they inevitably leave everlasting scars on the child's psychological adjustment. Child neglect is also a common form of maltreatment, and the most destructive. Many deaths, injuries and long-term problems have been due to child neglect. In some cases, for example, infants are starved to death or undernourished. Some are undernourished emotionally - their parents rarely touch, talk or play with them. Finally, many childhood accidents, which are the leading causes of childhood death and serious injury, can be

traced to neglect. Because children are dependent upon the care of parents, they usually have nowhere to turn when their own parents abuse them. Often social workers are the only support and hope they have.(Madhavan, 2001)

### **Teenage Pregnancy**

Adolescence is the stage when someone reaches sexual maturity while he/she is still dependent upon his/her parents for shelter and support. During adolescence, the person's social and emotional development usually lags far behind that of sexual development. In other words, their thoughts may not be as ready for sex as their bodies are. There are two major contemporary issues involved in teenage sexual behavior. The first one is sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS included, and the second one is teenage pregnancy. Teenagers may be physically ready to have sexual relationships, though often they do not have the psychological and mental maturity to handle the responsibilities and consequences. Today when AIDS is widespread, teenagers have to be alerted to the danger of sexually transmitted diseases.(Mbacke, 1998)

The second major contemporary issue involved in teenage sexual behavior is teenage pregnancy. Although teenagers are physically ready to be parents, they do not have the financial means, nor the psychological maturity, to be responsible parents. Unwanted pregnancies often disrupt family life, and create a major obstacle in teenagers' life. This is especially so when teenage girls bear the burden of caring for the child. Teenage mothers often drop out of school, are unemployed or settle for low paying jobs. In consequence, their children do not receive adequate care. In the traditional African family, teenage parents could leave children with grandparents. In modern society, however, grandparents are becoming younger and younger, and are themselves working.

They have little time to care for their grandchildren. Teenagers and their children tend to be poor and without family support. They usually need social welfare services.(Modo, 2001)

## **Alcoholism**

While alcoholism is generally recognized as a problem, it is not as widely recognized as a family problem. In reality, it is one of the major family problems. The consequences reach far beyond the alcoholic to the spouse, children, and others. Some of the debilitating effects of alcoholism are job loss, alienation of friends, and abandonment by family, imprisonment, institutionalization, and even death. Alcoholism is a serious family problem. In most instances, it results in child abuse and spouse beating. When one parent is alcoholic, the lives of all members of the family are seriously affected. Spouse abuse and beating, financial difficulty, and emotional conflicts associated with alcoholism, all contribute to the long and silent suffering of the spouse. The children of alcoholics are also affected in many ways. The children of mothers who drink heavily during pregnancy can be born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. (NEPAD, 2001)

Children with this syndrome tend to have a higher risk of infant mortality, are born prematurely, grow up with delayed motor development, disfigurement, immature physical development, hyperactivity, and learning problems. In addition, Alcohol Syndrome is the third largest cause of mental retardation. Physical problems may also occur when the father is alcoholic, although the evidence may be indirect and more subtle. Alcoholism also affects the children's emotional development. Those reared in alcoholic families are often neglected, abused, and lack proper care and interaction with their parents. The alcoholic family is often volatile, repressive or inconsistent. One of the most basic needs of children, the need for security, is often unsatisfied.



An inadequate sense of security, in turn, diminishes the quality of the children's interactions and personal relationships with others.(NEPAD, 2002)

### **Drug Abuse**

What may have appeared a distant problem - drug abuse - is now a painful reality in African societies. Abuse of drugs takes place in school premises, in the playground outside school hours, and even in the home. Commonly abused drugs include Indian hemp and, increasingly, hard drugs like Mandrax and cocaine. The effects of drugs can be observed in such things as petty thieving among the young, disobedience, violent individual and group behavior, sustained delinquency leading to probation, as well as an inability to concentrate on studies. Drug abuse also leads to the many physical and emotional problems faced by families with an alcoholic member.(Silberschmidt, 2001)

### **Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence often accompanies alcoholism in the family. Domestic violence and spouse beating can be instigated by either the husband or the wife. However, the wife is often the victim of the violence. Beaten wives carry a variety of psychological scars, including an extremely low self-image, a lack of self-confidence and security, a sense of hopelessness and helplessness, and a feeling of guilt that they provoked the alcoholic, and deserved the punishment. Children from violent families suffer many emotional traumas. Domestic violence happens more often when there are strong gender stereotypes, and unequal status, between men and women. In societies where men are supposed to 'rule' and to 'keep their wives in order' through physical means, there are serious consequences, such as the creation of dysfunctional families.(UNAIDS, 2000)

## **Death, Divorce and Separation in the Family**

Death of a loved one in the family creates deep emotional grief. It is hard for adults to accept the loss of a spouse through death. The financial hardship, that often follows the loss of the wage earner in the family, can be devastating for the surviving spouse. For children, the death of a parent is even more traumatic, as their understanding of death is very limited. They are often confused by the reasons for death, and experience a period of depression. Even though they often cannot put their sorrow into words, they still have a profound sense of loss. They feel insecure and fearful. Their school performance usually suffers for a year or more after the death of a parent. Many parents prefer not to mention the dead parent in the presence of the child in order to spare the child sorrow. (United Nations Population Municipality, 2003)

However, the child needs to have a chance to talk about his/her loss, and to express its grief and confusion. This is the time when the child needs a lot of support, love and communication, in order to deal with death. Divorce is the dissolution of a marriage. It is the disintegration of a legally recognized state of marriage. Separation is when a couple formally live apart without going through the legal procedure of divorce. Divorce and separation signal the death of a family relationship, and therefore, create much emotional trauma in the family similar to that of the death of a spouse. Perhaps divorce and separation are actually more difficult than widowhood, as the couple, who harbor emotional resentment towards each other, may still have to face each other when dealing with their children and making financial settlements.(Antonie and Nanitelamio, 1991)

## **Homelessness**

War, poverty, unwanted pregnancy, and family break-up, are common causes of child abandonment. In many developing countries, children as young as six or seven years old roam the streets, forming their own gangs, living on begging, stealing and scraping from rubbish dumps, because their families do not want them. In the urban centers of many developed countries, a similar phenomenon has appeared in recent years. Homeless people are everywhere, young and old alike. They loiter in the streets; sleep on pavements, in train stations or in parks. They have no place to go, nobody to turn to, no job to do, and no money. For adults, the main causes of homelessness are unemployment, alcoholism, mental problems, poverty, old age or illness. (Amin, 2002)

Homelessness usually leads to prostitution, early marriages, or loveless affairs in a homeless person's bid to obtain love and affection. In many parts of the world, war and political turmoil, bloody tribal conflicts and ethnic hostilities, have pushed millions out of their traditional homelands. They are homeless refugees who live marginally on the courtesy of the host countries. However, most are less lucky. They have not only lost their homes but their families as well. The brutal experience of war and the harsh reality of living as a refugee make these people desperately in need of social services.(Adepoju, 2000)

## **Poverty**

Nothing makes a man more humble and unsure of himself as poverty. It wrecks personal happiness and interpersonal relationships. When a family is poor it means that basic necessities

and other needs cannot be provided. Often a poor person seeks refuge in alcohol, which only compounds the problem.(Ainsworth, 1996)

## **2.4 Conclusions and Research Gap**

A family has a mother, father and children as well as other relatives. The father is responsible for the well-being of the family and has to ensure the continuity of the lineage by begetting children. The mother is responsible for the upbringing of the children and caring for her husband and other family members. The child is greatly desired in the family and is regarded as a guarantee of the continuance of the family lineage. The child is cared for by the parents and contributes to the family by helping the parents with household and farm work. The grandparents are part of the extended family system, and are regarded as important in the upbringing of children. Communities throughout most of Africa have mainly consisted of polygamous extended families united under dominant heads; in these families co-operation and reciprocation have been the norm.(Antonie and Nanitelamio, 1991)

However there is little research examining the impact of the HIV/AIDs pandemic on the family structure in Uganda. This is because the extent of the HIV pandemic has not been observed from the family structure perspective. There was therefore a need for this research to investigate factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda among which HIV./AIDS is among. The large numbers of orphans overwhelm and weaken the family or kinship network which often abandons them. The orphans and their families are sometimes victims of discrimination due to misunderstandings about AIDS, and most of the relatives who become responsible for their well-being are old, sick or poor. (United Nations Population Municipality, 2003)They cannot give adequate care to the orphans who, under such conditions, may be

neglected, abused and dislocated. The AIDS epidemic has significant economic and social effects including high levels of orphan hood and widowhood, and the disruption of household management. Female heads of households, in particular, do not own or have direct access to the necessary finances to meet the family's health needs as expected of them. As they take on the additional burden of caring for those with HIV/AIDS, their social and economic resources become inadequate. Ugandan women are mothers as well as workers and have an important role in the community. In a country of patrilineal societies, resources are controlled by husbands while women remain a property to be inherited. In the epidemic, the inherited widows have become carriers of HIV. The large number of orphans running their own households indicates the demise of the true family structure with the husband as the head, the mother responsible for caring for the children, and other family members.(Adams and Mburugu, 1994)

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

The chapter showed the research design, data collection tools, data sources, data analysis, sampling procedure and methods, data presentation, ethical standards to be followed, and the expected study challenges.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The research used a correlation study design that uphold the socio-economic status and family structure in Rubaga; this is because it explained the data collected and their statistical treatment as well as all relevant results in relation to the research problem you are investigating. Interpretation of results is not appropriate in this section. Whereas exploratory designs were used where the researcher needed to find out answers the research questions such as why, how, when, among others. It was then that the explanatory design could be adopted to avail deeper and logical explanations about the factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda. Quantitative and qualitative methods of approach was used because they gave a clear and elaborative in depth information which was supported with quotations from the respondents which assisted the researcher to collect both qualitative and quantitative data using questionnaire, interviews and document verification.

### **3.2 Study Area**

The research was conducted in Rubaga Municipality which is one of the five municipalities making up Kampala Capital City Authority. Rubaga Municipality is found in the western part of the City bordering Wakiso District to the west and South of the municipality. Kawempe Municipality lies to the North of Rubaga Municipality. Neighborhoods in the municipality include; Mutundwe, Natwete, Lungujja, Busega, Lubaga, Mengo, Namungonona, Lubyala, Lugala, Bukesa, Naakulabye, Kasubi and Kawaala.

### **3.3 Study Population**

The study focused on both men and women and from this simple Random Sampling, technique was used by the researcher to select 50 respondents who were distributed in different categories like: mothers, fathers, family members, family social workers, community elders/leaders and selected random respondents making a total population of 50 respondents,

### **3.4 Sampling Techniques and Procedures**

#### **3.4.1 Simple Random Sampling**

Under this technique, consultation of individuals was done so as to get information that was needed. Interviewing some people was also done so as to get opinionated information from especially random respondents for example, friends and relatives of family members.

#### **3.4.4 Sample Selection and Size**

The researcher used both random and non-random sampling methods. Among the random methods, the researcher used simple random sampling. While for non-random sampling was

preferred especially as far as specified information was concerned. The researcher opted to use the three sampling methods owing to the nature of the research designs which used quantitative in nature.

Where N is the known Population

$e$  is the level of significant which is fixed at 0.05, basing in the formula the minimum sample size was

$$n = \frac{96}{1 + 96(0.05^2)}$$

$$n = \frac{96}{1 + 96(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{96}{1 + 0.25}$$

$$n = \frac{96}{1.25}$$

**$n = 76$  Respondents**

### **3.5 Data collection tools**

#### **3.5.1 Interview Methods**

Personal interviewing was used because it enabled the researcher to get satisfactory results, during the interview process; the main aim was to make sure that the questions are understood and answered in a full and in a uniform manner. It was mainly about the current and historical events in relation to the study objectives using an interview guide.



### **3.5.2 Observation**

Through observations, developing questions was done and it enabled the researcher to get answers. Personal observation enabled the researcher to get a deep understanding of the factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda by critically interacting with different people whose interpretations were understood and analyzed on spot.

### **3.5.3. Analysis of Documents and Records**

The researcher used a historical approach to give a perspective from the past to understand present issues, problems, and plans of action to questions which helped to alleviate dissatisfaction situations. This was accomplished through reviewing original documents, library work, Internet surfing and audio programs. It was mainly done through the comparison of the existing data and literature about the factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda.

### **3. 5.4 Focus Group Discussions**

The researcher consulted different people who had significant knowledge about the socio economic status to changes in family structures in Uganda and who were willing to give information in the form of grouped arguments. These were through an open debate with the people especially those who were willing because it was not by force and hence 5 groups of 10 discussants were gathered to aid the study.

### **3.6 Research instruments**

A self administered questionnaire was used in the study. Section “A” included Socio Economic status, section B included different family structures and challenges faced. This involved the full acceptance of the respondents by answering on 1= Yes and 2= No.

The second phase of the data collection involved face to face interviews among some of the working staff members.

### **3. 7 Data sources**

The major sources of information will entirely be primary and secondary as were sought by the researcher. Data on the research variables under investigation will be obtained from the various sources depending on availability and ease of access.

#### ***Primary Data***

Primary data was obtained from respondents who were selected to participate in the study and responses generated from structured and semi-structured questionnaires that was prepared by the researcher. Field research was conducted by the researcher where interviews and questionnaires were administered to the selected respondents to obtain information from the selected area. Hence interviews and questionnaires constituted instruments for primary data collection.

### *Secondary Data*

The whole process involved a critical examination of existing literature from textbooks on the socio economic status and family structures in Uganda, search engines for journal articles, company records, magazines and thesis reports to comprise the literature.

### **3. 8 Data Analysis**

Data processing was done both manually and also with the help of computers. Quantitative data was edited, coded and tabulated. Editing aimed at checking for comprehensiveness, completeness, accuracy uniformity. It was assisted in discovering possible errors, items that would be misunderstood and the gaps in the data. Coding involved classifying responses into categories that would bring out their essential pattern. Due to open-ended questions, codes were constructed according to answers obtained for specific questions. Ms Excel and SPSS packages was used to derive descriptive statistics and accompanying tables, diagrams and graphs relevant for the study. Each finding was classified, analyzed and interpreted in line with the objectives to bring more clarity to the study findings and make them understandable to any reader of the research report.

### *Test of variables*

The study used bio data of respondents that was analyzed by use of frequency table which the objectively used method of frequency and percentage. The study tested using Cronbach's coefficient alpha ( $\alpha$ ). Specifically, coefficient alpha is typically used during scale development with items that have several response options (i.e. 1=strongly disagree to 5=strongly agree and responding in Yes or No).

### **3.9 Validity and Reliability of the Study**

Reliability of the instruments was achieved through pre-testing of the instruments. The researchers administered the questionnaire to the 10 random respondents in a pilot study and compare the results to see whether they correlated. Respondents' feedback or responses were taken up in the main phase. The pilot study was not used in the study.

Validity, consistency and reliability of contents in the instruments were put into consideration right away from the stage of planning the instruments, through instruments, through instrument design, up to the application of the instruments. In particular, the instruments were designed considering wording and types of questions meant to yield valid, consistent and reliable responses.

### **3.10 Ethical Consideration**

The study was conducted while observing high standards of ethics. Confidentiality of the answers supplied by the respondents that emphasized and this hopefully increased the response rate. The study was conducted in languages that were well understood by both the researcher and the respondents.

### **3.11 Anticipated Study Limitations**

In conducting the research the researcher was faced with a number of methodological and practical problems as highlighted below;

Respondents were willing to avail the researcher with the required information due to a defensive attitude, lack of time trying to beat dissertation deadlines and ethical suspicions. In this case the

researcher sought to highlight the importance of the study and also created awareness with the help of community elders/leaders.

Bureaucratic tendencies, which made it hard to access various sections of the study area like family social workers and community elders/leaders, slowed the pace of the study and thus affected the time and schedule planned for the study.

The time allocated for conducting the research was not enough for the researcher to cover the area of study due to academic obligations. Therefore, the schedule was prioritized according to deadlines in order to utilize the given time effectively and efficiently.

The researcher also encountered financial constraints since the study involved such costs as typing, printing, travel and telephone costs. To address this problem, some money was saved prior to conducting the research to help facilitate research costs.

Securing appointment say interviews was rather hard; the researcher thus, looked for alternative respondents and also became more aggressive in that regard.

Communication inefficiency as a result of language barrier was a major obstacle for most respondents to read and interpret the questions. The researcher therefore, where necessary adjusted to simpler informal English.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION, ANALYSIS AND

### DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS

#### 4.0 Introduction

This chapter was about presentation and analysis of the data related to the study of examining the factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda utilizing a case study of Rubaga Municipality.

#### 4.1 Socio Economic status

From the questionnaires given to the respondents, information about their backgrounds was studied and therefore tabulated as seen in figure 4.1.1. That was their age, gender, marital status and educational level. Responses to their personal information were tabulated as seen below;

**Table 1:** Gender of Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage percent
Male	25	50
Female	25	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** *Primary Data, 2017*

From table 4.1.1 it was clearly found out that the researcher interviewed 25 respondents (50 perecent) who were male and equally 25 were female respondents (50perecent). Therefore the researcher used the aid of gender balance in conducting his research as he interviewed an equal

number of male and female respondents. The information in table 4.1.1 was further represented in a graph as shown in figure 4.1.1 below.

**Table 2:** Age Bracket of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage percent
20-30 years	8	16
31-40 years	17	34
41-50 years	12	24
50 + years	13	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** *Primary Data, 2017*

Table 4.1.2 shows that the majority 34percent were aged between 31-40 years, 26percent were aged between 50 + years whereas 24percent were aged between 41-50 years. 16percent of the respondents were between the ages of 20-30 years. The researcher therefore found out that the majority of the respondents interviewed were aged between 31-40 years and 50 + years whereas the minority was aged 18-30. The information in table 4.1.2 was also presented in a graph as seen in figure 4.1.2.

**Table 3:** Level of Education of Respondents

Level of Education	Frequency (f)	Percentage (percent)
Diploma	18	36
Degree	16	32
Postgraduate	6	12
Masters	3	6
Other	7	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100percent</b>

**Source:** *Primary Data, 2017*

Table 4.1.3 shows that the majority of the respondents (36percent) were Diploma holders, seconded by 32percent who were Degree holders. Those who had other qualifications made up 14percent of the respondents interviewed in this study whereas postgraduate degree holders accounted for 12percent of the total number of respondents. The minority of the respondents (6percent) were Master degree holders.

**Table 4: Occupation**

<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Frequency (f)</b>	<b>Percentage (percent)</b>
Self employed	14	28
employed	20	40
Not employed	6	12
Other	10	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** *Primary Data, 2017*

Table 4.1.4 shows that the majority of the respondents (40percent) were indeed employed, 28percent of the respondents were self-employed, 20percent of the respondents did not disclose their occupational status and thus were grouped under otherwhereas12percent of the interviewees were not employed. The researcher therefore found out that the majority of the respondents were employed, a considerable number of respondents were self-employed while according to table 4.1.4 very few were unemployed despite some of them not disclosing their occupational status.

## **4.2 Factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda**

The first objective of the study was to examine factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda. To achieve this objective, the respondents were asked to give their opinion



on the possible factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda and their responses were tabulated in table 4.2.

**Table 5:** Factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda

<b>Factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Policy Implications	9	18
Polygamy	15	30
Changes in Rural Areas	12	24
Single-Parenthood	6	12
Fertility Rates	8	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100percent</b>

**Source:** *Primary Data, 2017*

Table 4.2 revealed that the majority of respondents 30 percent cited polygamy was one of factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda, 24 percent commented that changes in rural areas had a lot to blame for factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda.18 percent of the respondents argued that perhaps policy implications contributed to factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda whereas, 16 percent and 12 percent suggested that single-parenthood and fertility rates were leading factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda.

### **4.3 The different family structures in Uganda's society**

The second research objective of the study was to find out the different family structures in Uganda's society. To achieve this objective, the respondents were asked to give their opinion on

the conflicting views about the different family structures in Uganda's society. Their responses were presented in table 4.3.

**Table 6:** The different family structures in Uganda's society

<b>The different family structures in Uganda's society</b>	<b>Frequency (f)</b>	<b>Percentage (percent)</b>
Polygamous Family	13	26
Foster Family	7	14
Single-Parent Family	10	20
Nuclear Family	8	16
Adoptive Family	4	8
Step Family	6	12
The Child-Headed Family	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** *Primary Data, 2017*

From the above table, the study found out that majority of the respondents interviewed were of the view that the most outstanding family structure in Uganda's society according to 26 percent of the respondents was polygamous family. 20 percent of the study population was of the argument that single parent family was yet another significant family structure in Uganda's society while 16percent of the interviewees were of the view that nuclear family was also one of family structures in Uganda's society. 14 percent of the study informants were under the impression that foster family was also a noteworthy family structure in Uganda's society. Step family was cited by 12 percent of the sample size as yet another family structure in Uganda's society. Adoptive family was suggested by 8 percent of the study population whereas the

minority of the respondents 4 percent were of the view that the child-headed family was also another family structure in Uganda's society.

#### 4.4 The major socio-economic problems faced by families in Uganda

The third research objective was to explore the major socio-economic problems faced by families in Uganda. To achieve this objective, the respondents were asked to mention what they thought could be the major socio-economic problems faced by families in Uganda. Their responses to the questions given to them were put in table 4.4 below;

**Table 7:** The major socio-economic problems faced by families in Uganda

The major socio-economic problems faced by families in Uganda	Frequency (f)	Percentage (percent)
Child Abuse and Domestic Violence	15	30
Alcoholism, Drug Abuse and Teenage Pregnancy	10	20
Homelessness and Poverty	10	20
Death, Divorce and Separation in the Family	15	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100percent</b>

**Source:** *Primary Data, 2017*

Table 4.4 shows that 30 percent of the respondents were of the opinion that child abuse and domestic violence was a major socio-economic problem faced by families in Uganda. Another 30 percent of the respondents argued that death, divorce and separation in the family were another major socio-economic problem faced by families in Uganda. 20 percent of the respondents were of the opinion that perhaps alcoholism, drug abuse and teenage pregnancy was another socio-economic problem faced by families in Uganda and again 20 percent of

respondents believed that homelessness and poverty was another major socio-economic problem faced by families in Uganda.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND AREA FOR FURTHER RESEARCH**

#### **5.0 Introduction**

This chapter mainly deals with summary, conclusions and recommendations related to the study to examine the factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda utilizing a case study of Rubaga Municipality. The study was conducted in Rubaga Municipality. The specific purpose of the study was to examine factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda, to examine the different family structures in Uganda's society and to identify the major socio-economic problems faced by families in Uganda.

#### **5.1 Summary of Findings**

The summary of the findings were presented in accordance with the research objectives of the study.

The first objective of the study was to examine factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda. The study revealed that the majority of respondents cited polygamy as one of factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda, some of the respondents argued that perhaps policy implications contributed to factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda, several respondents commented that changes in rural areas had a lot to blame for factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda. Whereas, the rest of the respondents suggested that single-parenthood and fertility rates were leading factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda.

The second research objective of the study was to find out the different family structures in Uganda's society. From the summary of findings, the study found out that majority of the respondents interviewed were of the view that the most outstanding family structure in Uganda's society was polygamous family. Some of the study population was of the argument that single parent family was yet another significant family structure in Uganda's society while a few interviewees were of the view that nuclear family was also one of family structures in Uganda's society. A significant number of the study informants were under the impression that foster family was also a noteworthy family structure in Uganda's society. Step family was cited by a notable section of the sample size as yet another family structure in Uganda's society. Adoptive family was suggested by a considerable number of the study population whereas the minority of the respondents were of the view that the child-headed family was also another family structure in Uganda's society.

The third research objective was to explore the major socio-economic problems faced by families in Uganda. Research shows that some of the respondents were of the opinion that child abuse and domestic violence was a major socio-economic problem faced by families in Uganda. A significant number of respondents were of the opinion that perhaps alcoholism, drug abuse and teenage pregnancy was another socio-economic problem faced by families in Uganda, another group of respondents believed that homelessness and poverty was another major socio-economic problem faced by families in Uganda. The rest of the respondents argued that death, divorce and separation in the family were another major socio-economic problem faced by families in Uganda.

## **5.2 Conclusions**

The conclusions of the study were presented in accordance with the research questions.

The first research question was “What are factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda?” It was concluded that fertility rates, individual, capacity, changes in rural areas, polygamy, and policy implications were among the leading factors contributing to changes in family structures in Uganda.

The second research question was “What are the different family structures in Uganda’s society?” It was concluded that nuclear family, polygamous family, single-parent family, step family, adoptive family, foster family and the child-headed family were the different family structures in Uganda’s society.

The third research question was “what are the major socio-economic problems faced by families in Uganda”. It was concluded that child abuse and domestic violence, alcoholism, drug abuse and teenage pregnancy as well as homelessness and poverty and death, divorce and separation in the family were some of the major socio-economic problems faced by families in Uganda.

## **5.3 Recommendations**

According to the findings and conclusions of the study, the researcher found it necessary that the recommendations below are of much importance;

The first and most important recommendation to the challenges affecting family structures in Uganda should be through a variety of support programs, such as education and counseling for parents, the provision of respite care services etc. The government and non-government agencies

such as UNICEF and UWESO must organize more campaigns to help parents, children and family members sustain their family structures.

The government and non-government also must build programmes to give the skill to parents on how to care and teach their children. For examples, parents' education, respite care services and community center programme can help parents to develop new parenting skill, especially they can learn how to manage and control their emotions. So parents must donate their time and money to join the programs.

Community members must be concerned about their neighbour, know their neighbour names and the name of their children. As community members we must also cooperate to call the police or report to local child welfare agency when a child is being abused or neglected or a wife battered or a son drug abusing or a father being alcoholic in order to save our society's family structures.

School counsellors or teachers must help to educate their students, give motivation and give advice if students have family problem. Teachers also must cooperate with parents through PTA meetings and plan some activities that involve parents and their children. So that it can create a good relationship between them and eventually in their family structures.

Electronic and print media must advertise about the importance of families in our society and the factors that therefore influence family structure changes within our society. Media such as internet or television must show drama about family structures, so that the parents and public are alert and more aware about this case. Media campaigns should be educational, highlighting socio-economic problems faced by families in Uganda and offer information on how it can be stopped.



Parents can be taught how to deal with and control their own emotions, as well as teaching their children the difference of what is acceptable behavior towards or involving them when dealing with other family members or friends.

#### **5.4 Areas for Further Research**

In regard to filling the missing gaps that could be left by this researcher in the due course of conducting this study, more research is called for on the challenges faced by family social workers in addressing family structural changes.

This is because of the fact that it is social workers who are more qualified to deal with family problems that may lead to socio-economic changes in the family structures and in addressing this concern they face several limitations which this research has not tackled hence leaving a literature gap ready to be filled by future researchers.

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**APPENDIX**  
**QUESTIONNAIRE**

Questionnaire No: .....

Date filed: .....

This research is meant for academic purpose. You are kindly requested to provide answers to these questions as honestly and precisely as possible. Responses to these questions will be treated as confidential. Please tick where appropriate or fill in the required information on the spaces provided.

**SECTION A: Socio Economic status**

**1. Occupation**

- a. Managers
- b. Procurement officers
- c. Program officers

**2. Gender of the respondent**

Male ☐

Female ☐

**3. Indicate your Age group**

25 years or less ☐

26-35 years ☐

36-45 years ☐

46-55 years ☐

With 55 years and above ☐

**4. Education Level**

Diploma..... ☐

Undergraduate Degree..... [ ]

Postgraduate Degree..... [ ]

**SECTION B families brought by socio economic status**

4. Which kind of income you (and your husband/wife/partner) receives?

- i. Earning from employment or self-employment
- ii. State retirement pension
- iii. Pension from former employer
- iv. Child benefit
- v. Job-Seekers allowance
- vi. Income Support
- vii. Family Credit
- viii. Housing Benefit
- ix. Other state benefits
- x. Interest from savings and investments (e.g. stocks & shares)
- xi. Other kinds of regular allowance from outside your household (e.g. maintenance, student's grants, rent)
- xii. No source of income

5. Which of the groups represents your and your husband/wife/partner's) income from all these sources before any deductions for income tax, National Insurance, etc.?

.....  
.....

6. What are the different family structures in Uganda's society?

.....  
.....

7. Which family structure do you belong?

Polygamous Family ☐

Foster Family ☐

Single-Parent Family ☐

Nuclear Family

Adoptive Family

Step Family

The Child-Headed Family

7. Does anyone else in the household have an income from any source?

1. Yes

2. No

8. What are the factors contributing to family structures in Uganda?

.....  
.....

9. What are the major socio-economic problems faced by families in Uganda?

.....  
.....

.....Thank you.....

**APPENDIX II**

**THE TIME FRAME**

Activity	March, 2017	April, 2017	May 2017
Proposal Writing			
Proposal editing and submission			
Field Data Collection			
Data editing and analysis			
Report Writing			
Correction/Supervision			
Report Submission			

### APPENDIX III

#### BUDGET

Items	Total Cost
Secretarial Services	200,000/=
Transport expenses	160,000/=
Accommodation	600,000/=
General Welfare	150,000/=
miscellaneous	100,000/=
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,210,000/=</b>