

**FAMILY SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS AND INCREASE INFLUX OF STREET
CHILDREN IN JINJA MUNICIPALITY, JINJA DISTRICT.**

BY

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**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES
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DECLARATION

I, Namukuve Tahia solemnly declare that the information contained in this Report is my original work and has never been submitted by anyone else for any award in Kampala International University or other institution of higher learning.

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Signature.....  Date... 17th 10/4/2019.....

APPROVAL

This is to acknowledge that this research report entitled family socio-economic status increase influx of street children in families in Jinja Municipality, Jinja district has been done under my supervision and is now ready for submission to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences; Department of applied Psychology for the award of Bachelors of Social Work and Social Administration, Kampala International University.

Academic Supervisor:

Signature:.....

Date:.....

DEDICATION

This report is dedicated to MS Nahiranda Asha, Patrick Kamwaza, brothers, sisters and friends for the financial Support. Thanks for the advice, encouragement and constructive ideas you have always given me when I could not stand on my own. May the good Lord bless you all

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	i
APPROVAL	ii
DEDICATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	viii
ABSTRACT	ix
LIST OF TABLE	x
LIST OF FIGURES	xi
CHAPTER ONE	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Statement of the problem.	3
1.3. General objective	5
1.4 Objectives.....	5
1.5 Research questions	5
1.6 Scope of the study	5
1.6.1 Content Scope	5
1.6.2 Geographical Scope	5
1.6.3 Time/duration.....	6
1.7 Significance of the study.....	6
1.8 Justification of the study.	6
1.9 Conceptual Framework	7
1.10 Definition of significance terms.....	8
CHAPTER TWO	9
2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW	9
2.1 Introduction	9
2.2 Socio-economic Family status that increase number of street children.	9
2.2.1 poverty	10
2.2.2 Family structures as leading socio-economic factor to influx of street children phenomenon	10
2.2.3 Child abuse.....	11
2.3 Effects of influx increase of the street children.....	12
2.4 Managing the Phenomenon of Street Children	14
2.5 Street children issues.....	15

2.6 Theoretical frame work	16
2.7 Summary of literature review.....	17
CHAPTER THREE	18
3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....	18
3.1 Introduction.....	18
3.2 Research design.....	18
3.3 Area of the study	18
3.4 Population of the study.....	19
3.5 Sample size and sampling techniques	19
3.5.1 Sampling size	19
3.5.2 Sampling techniques	19
3.6 Data collection methods and instruments.....	20
3.6.1 Interview	20
3.6.2 Questionnaire	20
3.6.3 Observation	20
3.6.4 Focus Group Discussion	21
3.7 Quality control methods.....	21
3.8 Data Analysis techniques	22
3.9 Ethical considerations	22
3.10 Limitations	22
CHAPTER FOUR.....	23
DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION.....	23
4.1 Introduction.....	23
4.2 Background information about respondents	23
4.3 Socio-economic factors contributing to increase of street children.	25
4.3.1: Poverty	26
4.3.2: Family structures contributing to increase in street children	29
4.3.3: Child abuse as a social factor that increases influx of street children in Jinja municipality.	30
4.4 Effects of influx increase of the street children.....	31
4.5 Managing the Phenomenon of Street Children	32
4.6 Interpretation.....	32
CHAPTER FIVE.....	34
SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	34

5.1 Introduction	34
5.2 Summary of the findings	34
5.2.1 Summary of findings on the socio-economic factors that contribute to the influx of street children.....	34
5.2.2 Summary of findings on the effects of the problem of street children.....	35
5.2.3 Summary of findings on what the Jinja municipality management done to curb the phenomenon of the street children.....	35
5.3 Conclusions	35
5.4 Recommendations	36
5.5 Suggestions for further research.....	36
REFERENCES	37
APPENDICES	39
Appendix 1: Questionnaire for the street children	39
Appendix 2: Questionnaire for the community members (parents).....	43
Appendix 3: Questionnaire for the Rehabilitation Center Administrators.....	45

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ANPPC	African network for the prevention and protection against child abuse
CRC	Convention on rights of child.
NARK	National Rainbow coalition
NFE	Non-formal education
NGO	Non-governmental organization
NPA	National Plan of action
SFRP	Street children family rehabilitation program
UNICEF	United Nations children's fund
VCO	Volunteer children officer
WFP	World Food Program

ABSTRACT

The quest for this study was to examine factors contributing to the increase of street children in Jinja municipality in Jinja district. The study was guided by three objectives and research questions. These objectives are; to establish how poverty contributes to the number of street children in Jinja municipality, to establish how socio-economic family status contribute to the number of street children in Jinja municipality, to assess how child abuse contributes to the number of street children in Jinja municipality. The study was also guided by social development theory coined by Erik Erikson (New York 1969). Relevant literature reviewed revealed that there are several factors that contribute to increase of street children in Jinja municipality. The study was mainly qualitative nature. It employed descriptive research design which was preferred because it allowed the researcher to conduct in-depth interviews and observation schedules to gather both factual information systematically and also record the characteristics of interest as they occur. Two rehabilitation centers was purposively sampled to participate in the study. Purposive, stratified and simple random sampling methods were used to determine respondents. Data was collected through open and close ended questionnaires. The categories of respondents were street children, children in rehabilitation centers and administrators from the two centers. The study revealed the socio-economic factors that contribute to the increase of street children in Jinja municipality ranging from poverty, lawlessness, alcohol and drug abuse, social permissiveness family breakup, child abuse and inadequate good will from the governments towards supporting poor families. The study concluded that there was an urgent need for the government to facilitate provision of feeding programs, in public primary schools, compulsory free primary education should be enforced and stakeholders sensitized on their roles to promote street children to access quality education. The study recommends that the church focuses on spiritual formation and teaching on marriage and family life to strengthen the basic unit of society, which is the safety net for the children. The government as well as the civil society should spearhead massive education on the rights of children. This would reduce the rampant of children rights brought about through ignorance

LIST OF TABLE

Table 1 The sample size of respondents that participated in the study	20
Table 2 Distribution of the respondents by the level of education.....	24
Table 3 Number of Meals Taken in a Day	26
Table 4: Pairs of clothes owned by respondents. (Street children response)	27
Table 5 Number of years spent in schools by street children. (Street children response)	28
Table 6: Street respondents on the family structure (Street children response).....	29
Table 7: Rehabilitation respondents (Street children response).....	30
Table 8: Respondent's response on the effects of the influx of street children.No=60.....	31

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: Conceptual frame work	7
Figure 2: A bar graph showing the distribution of street children by age bracket as indicated below	25

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

This research report focused on family socio-economic status that leads to increase of influx of street children in Jinja Municipality, Jinja district. This chapter presents the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the general objective, the specific objectives, research questions, scope of the study, the significance of the study, the justification of the study, the conceptual framework, the definition of the key terms and conclusion.

1.1 Background

Over the last five decades, the phenomenon of street children has become prominent globally with serious implications for the survival of these children. The presence of street children in major cities of the world has transcended the level where it was viewed as strictly uncommon occurrence to a worrisome global problem. Worldwide, the problem of children roaming the streets endlessly is escalating and alarming (Leroux, 1998). According to UNICEF (2000), it was reported that the number of street children was 100 million in the world. But then in 2005, UNICEF quantified that the debate numbers of street children have no uniform pattern in their growth but have a stochastic growth that can be determined by many factors. In 2010, worldwide, the number of street children was estimated at 150 million (Community Children Worldwide resource library) with a percentage of 30 of these being part of the Sub Saharan Africa (Mwebaze 2007). The socio-economic and politic changes play great role in the contribution of influx of street children worldwide. Street children are present in developed nations like the 'rent-boys' of London's railway termini and the homeless children of America's large cities (Shorter and Onyanha, 1999). In Calcutta, India, there are close to 300,000 street children, while in Sao Paulo, Brazil, there are about half a million street children, and it is estimated that four-fifth of the Sao Paulo's prison population are former street children (Shorter and Onyanha, 1999: 5). Estimates of street children in Colombian streets were 300,000 in 1985 (UNICEF, 1985) then 25,000 in 1987 (Goode, 1987). The differences in figures reflect the change brought about by the exclusion of working children. In 1995, there were about 3,000 street children in Guatemala, most of who were orphaned by civil war, abused and rejected by dysfunctional and poverty stricken families and further traumatized by the indifference of the societies in which they live (Alianza, 1995:1).

The United Nations Children's Fund UNICEF (2015), has labeled street children as *children in difficult circumstances*, which represent a minority population and have been under-represented for too long in many research. African countries have many good national laws and some are specifically aimed at street children, but these policies are often not properly implemented or evaluated. According to UNICEF (2015), the street children phenomenon presents one of the most complex challenges in low- and middle-income countries for policy makers today. The level of street children increased in past decades rapidly in Africa. According to Onyacha, (1999), based his study on education for street children in major urban centers in Kenya, hence noted that in 1975, there were approximately 115 street children. This number increased to 17,000 in 1990 and subsequently to over 150,000 in 1997. Other studies explain more about Socio-demographic characteristics. For example, number of studies from southern and North Africa (Egypt) showed mostly boys on the streets, while some from East and West Africa recruited a small number of street girls (less than 30%). The children were usually between the ages of 12 and 17 years, though some West African studies identified street children as young as 7 years old. The studies showed that some street children had little or no contact with their families and most of them lived in dangerous parts of the city such as under bridges, in and around the city markets and other dark places. Dropping out from primary school was a general characteristic among the participants (more than 70% have done so), though some never attended school at all. The reasons for the latter were that families could not afford school fees and that most of the children came from polygamous and big families with an average of 4 to 9 children per household. Most of the studies in southern and West Africa reported that the experiences of street girls were more severe than those of boys. On the other hand, street girls were found to be more amenable than street boys to being recruited to institutions, staying with relatives, being recruited into sex work, being deceived to fall in relationships with older men *sugar daddy*, making them less visible on the streets than boys (Salem EM, El-Latif FA. Sociodemographic characteristics of street children in Alexandria. East Mediterr Health J 2002; 8:64-73.) [[PubMed](#)].

The phenomenon has not only attracted African continent concern but has become a matter of priority to Ugandan governments as well as international organizations (Panter-Brick, 2002). According to New Vision, (2010), In Uganda, 8000 street children were estimated of which 4000

were staying in Kampala, 800 in Mbale, 500 in Jinja and the rest in other urban centers. Government of Uganda put less attention to help these street children and there are few Organizations to support them, leaving large number of them deserted. These children in Uganda are like sheep without shepherds (Mwebaze 2007). In spite of dearth of data from recent empirical studies on street children in Uganda, there is consensus in literature that various issues such as poverty, hunger, insecurity, child abuse, domestic violence, death of a parent (or both parents), need for income in the family, inability to continue with school, willful deviance in a few children, unemployment of one or both parents, illiteracy, housing challenges, drug use by children and peer influence are the major factors pushing children onto the streets (Oloko et al., 1999). And the consequences are negative social and physical development for the children and entire nation.

The recent study conducted in Jinja district showed that Jinja is the second district with large number of street children about 500 children out of 15,000 children in Uganda (New Vision, December 23,2018). The rest are in other urban centers. The study noted that street children has increased the security threat and time bomb in Jinja district, and therefore, there a need to help them to become useful citizens. There are number of well-known organizations in Jinja district like Community Based Organization in Jinja that claim to be intervening on behalf of children living and working on the streets. However, an assessment of these efforts indicates that most of these organizations are focused more on the symptoms rather than the deeper socio economic problem that contribute to the phenomenon (The street rehabilitation program reports (SFRP Draft, 2005). In addition, it is clear that the government is unable to deal with the problem of street children effectively. Nevertheless, free primary education and existing official institutions and NGOs have been appreciated for their contributions in curbing the menace. Therefore, the current study has identified approaches to the phenomenon of street children because the problem does not only have implications for the child, rather Jinja district alone but also for the whole society.

1.2 Statement of the problem.

According to UNICEF (2002), Street children are children experiencing poverty, homelessness or both, who are living on the streets of a city, town, or village. Homeless youth are often called street kids and studies done in the past revealed that the number of street children continued to increase globally, about 150 million street children in the world (United Nation sources 2017). therefore, this makes the phenomenon as cross cutting problem which needs attention.

Allianza, (2000), estimated that 100 million children are living and working on the street of the developing world. Most of the street children (75%) have some family links but spent most of their time begging, selling trinkets, shining shoes or washing cars to supplement their family income. The rest (25%) live on the street, often in groups of other children. They sleep in abandoned building, under doorways, under bridges or car packs. Bose's research (1998) on developing countries reviewed that majority of children in polygamous families are not educated and work in the farm due to the poor family socio-economic status. Again this calls for attention to help the phenomenon of street children.

Recent study conducted in four urban centers Kampala, Mbale, Busia and Jinja shows that they are 15,000 children in Uganda living on the street (New Vision, December 23, 2018). The study noted that street children are security threat and time bomb, and therefore, need to help them become useful citizens. According to John Locke (2017), states that "Children are travelers, newly arrived in a country of which they know nothing." John Locke Street children represent a rapidly growing socio-educational challenge affecting the development of a nation hence needs help. He added that at risk for physical, emotional, social, and cognitive violation, these children are in need of interventions that appropriately address their needs in the context of their environment, and build upon the positive survival skills that they have developed as a result of street life. In addition, the government of Uganda put less attention to help these street children and there are few Organization to support them like Save Street Children Uganda (SACU), leaving large number of them deserted. These children in Uganda are like sheep without shepherds (Mwebaze 2007), hence calling for the researcher to explore more about the phenomenon and suggest measures of controlling it.

According to Bernard Atiku, (2018), noted that street children in Jinja are security threat and time bomb, and therefore, need to help them become useful citizens. There is therefore need to identify approaches to the phenomenon of street children because the problem either does not have implications for the child or Jinja district only but also for the Ugandan society. In addition, little has been done in trying to understand the socio-economic factors that contributes to the increase of street children as the aim of this study especially in Jinja municipality, Jinja district.

1.3. General objective

To find out what extend do socio-economic factors contribute to the increase of street children in the streets of Jinja district with particular reference to Jinja Municipality.

1.4 Objectives.

- i. To identify the socio-economic factors that contribute to the increasing numbers of street children in Jinja Municipality.
- ii. To identify effects of the influx of street children in Jinja municipality
- iii. To identify what the Municipality Management has done to curb the problem of street children in the area.

1.5 Research questions

- i. What are the socio-economic factors that contribute to the increasing numbers of street children in the Jinja municipality?
- ii. What are the effects of the influx of the street children in Jinja municipality?
- iii. What has the Municipality Management done to curb the problem of street children in the area.

1.6 Scope of the study

1.6.1 Content Scope

The study's general interest was to examining the socio-economic factors that contribute to the influx increase of the street children in Jinja municipality, Jinja district. It was undertaken in different streets of Jinja district and the neighboring districts. It also focused on three groups of people street children, rehabilitation officials and parents living in and around Jinja municipality to examine the nature of the street children and their mutual relation while trying to understand socio-economic factors that lead to the influx of street children.

1.6.2 Geographical Scope

The study was carried out in Jinja municipality, Jinja district. The researcher has selected this municipality because there are many complaints that street children increase is like threatening bomb to the municipality by different reporters like (New Vision 2018). Jinja District is 70 kilometers almost 43miles air travel from Kampala City of Uganda. It is located in Eastern Region of Uganda. The population in Jinja has been increasing rapidly from 1991 with nation population

census of 289,500 up to 501,300 population estimated in Jinja district census 2012. Jinja District is located in the Eastern part of Uganda. It is a small district found east of the Nile River and along the northern shores of Lake Victoria. Jinja District has an area of 767.7sq Km of which 701.9 sq km is land and the rest (65.8 Sq km) is covered by water bodies. The district is subdivided into 3 counties namely, Butembe, Kagoma and Jinja Municipality. There are 6 Sub-Counties; 46 Parishes and 381 villages. Jinja Municipality has three sub-counties and 55 villages. Jinja District is bordered Kamuli District to the north, Iganga District to the east, Mayuge District to the southeast, Buvuma District to the south, Buikwe District to the west and Kayunga District to the northwest.

1.6.3 Time/duration

The study based on the data collected on the socio-economic factors that contribute to the influx of street children in Uganda for the last 8 years from 2010-2018, because this is the period where Uganda experienced high increase levels of number of street children in many urban centers.

1.7 Significance of the study.

The researcher anticipated that the outcome of the study would help in highlighting the exact reasons which contributes to increase of street children especially in the streets of Jinja municipality, Jinja district. The results of the study would provide an opportunity for scholars to have access to secondary data and a wide scope of evidence to inform their research. From the findings, the study would also enable the ministry of gender and children to formulate and relevant policies, strategies, design programs for working with in curving the menace of street children. The study would provide feedback to the government and other agencies that provide funds to support rehabilitation centers occupied by street children. The study would also provide a deeper understanding of the needs of street children, this information would be essential for social workers and child counselors in rehabilitation centers.

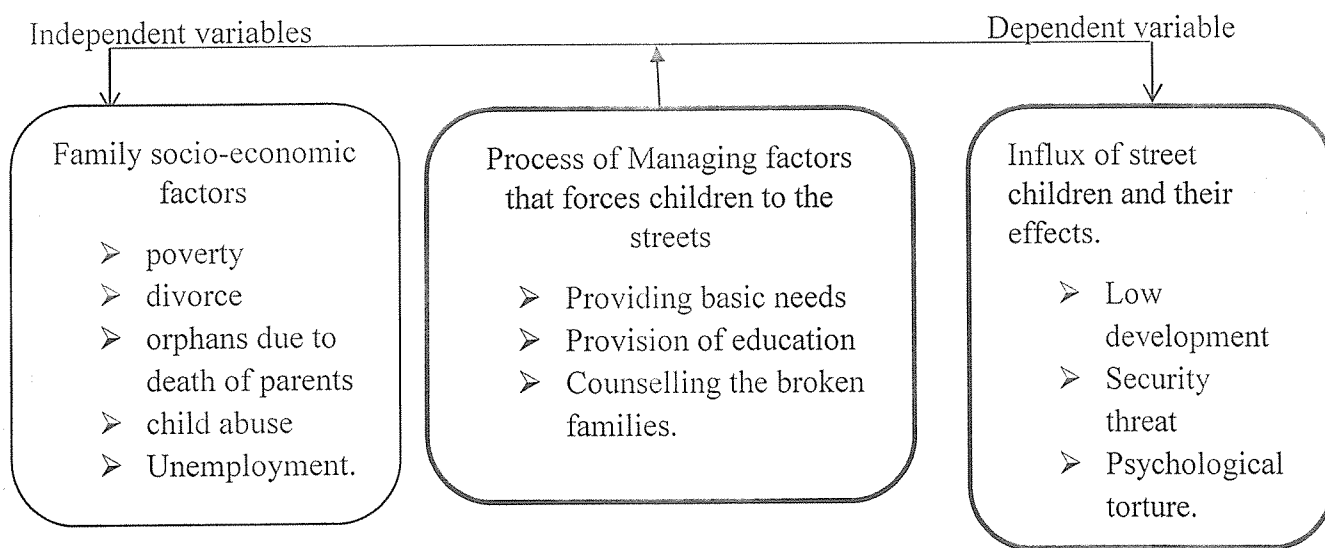
1.8 Justification of the study.

Basing on the increasing number of street children globally reported by many scholars, Uganda in particular, where street children are regarded as security threat and time bomb and the implications of this phenomenon is not only for an individual (child) but also for the entire nation at large. In short, Street children flow are often followed by immediate consequences whose empirical results

have been mixed. Much of the research about street children have been focused on aid to street children and effects of street children, rather than their socio-economic factors that contribute to the phenomenon. In other words, a study of the socio-economic family status of street children has been assumed or neglected. Therefore, the study focused on understanding the family socio-economic factors that contribute to the influx of street children in Jinja municipality, Jinja district which would be of essential for planning for them. It explored the measures that can put in place to end the phenomenon of the street children. In addition, the study was carried out as a fulfillment of the award of bachelors of social work, Kampala International University

1.9 Conceptual Framework

Figure 1: Conceptual frame work



Source: Fredrick Tailors Theory of scientific management (1911).

In this twenty-first century, it is well known that the street children are facing a lot of physical and mental problems throughout the world. In this context, it is desirable to design an appropriate road map to address such problems. The conceptual frame work is designed to identify the dependent variables and independent variables. The figure above shows the relationship between family socio-economic factors and influx of street children based on Fredrick Tailors Theory of scientific management (1911) with modification. The model shows that socio-economic factors may perpetuate the increase of street children. These socio-economic factors include; child abuse like beating, defilement, and other forms of child abuse, poverty, lack of parental care, death which

leaves child an orphan and divorce. The researcher believes that if the community members around Jinja district would be well informed and educated about implications of the phenomenon of the street children, they would work hand in hand with different stakeholders in reducing the situation. In addition, the study would enable them to enforce stakeholders at Jinja municipality, Jinja district to continue supporting and providing care to the street children for betterment of the children's future and the society at large.

1.10 Definition of significance terms.

Child abuse- This is denial of child rights

Family Status- According to this study family status may mean family living arrangements, also it is used to refer to the type of family.

Poverty- This is defined as lack of access to basic needs for survival such as food, shelter, clothing, health and education.

Rehabilitation Centre - this is defined as a place with home environment where homeless children are brought up by well-wishers (according to the study context).

Street children- these are children termed as vagrants, homeless children, abandoned children, or run away children. They live on the streets without any adult support. Their family support has become increasingly weakened and therefore must share the responsibility for family survival.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter comprises review of relevant literature on socio-economic factors in Uganda and relate with influx increase of the street children in Jinja municipality, Jinja district. It also outlined relevant literatures which might have attempted to relate family socio-economic status and influx increase of street children globally. It highlighted the connection of socio-economic factors and increase of the street children and the impacts to the children and the society at large. In short, this chapter high writes the relationship between the variables and the dependent variable.

2.2 Socio-economic Family status that increase number of street children.

The 21st century presents a hostile face to many millions of children in many African countries. There is an increase in number of children being forced to the streets as a result of poverty, rape, abandonment, homelessness, landlessness or orphaned by AIDS. Human rights violations against children between 1990s to date have become common and disturbing occurrence in many African countries. Indeed, denial of basic human and legal rights including right to life, liberty and security as a person to children are now a defining feature of the African socio-economic landscape. Street children in Ugandan urban centers are one of the greatest challenges to urbanization process. This is not a phenomenon peculiar to Ugandans but also in other developing countries. According to Waghid, (2004), street children phenomenon is an alarming and escalating worldwide problem, representing one of the most pressing issues in child welfare. The phenomenon is causes by number of factors and socio-economic factor is one of them. According to research done by ANPPCAN, (1991), street children take to the streets because of poor relations at home that lead to frustrations and overcrowded homes, hence they consider street as an alternative home. Ebigbo, (1986), observes that some street children prefer street life to family life because of poor relations in their families. Thus some children opt to take to street life because of their dislike of what goes on in their homes. According to a research done by Hussein (1998) 82% of street children indicated that they were forced to escape or leave their homes and reside in the streets because of maltreatment, abuse and exploitation they witnessed. Hussein further points out that majority of the street

children explained that neglect led them to have direct dairy contact with street life due to various reasons such as lack of parental supervision, parental attitudes to the children as burdens due to large family size, sickness of parents/guardians, fathers who favor females to males or the opposite. Other socio-economic factor that may contribute street children to take off to the streets are explained below.

2.2.1 poverty

Poverty simply means lack of basic needs like food, clothes, shelter, education and health care to mention but a few. According to Forastleri (1997), in his study on factors leading to child abuse in Africa, he noted that the causes underlying child abuse are poverty, insufficient or unbalanced economic growth and structural adjustment programs. In his study, he noted when the family is poor, it is likely to fail to provide children food, clothes, shelter, scholastic materials and even health care, consequently, children leave their homes to escape to the streets for safety, protection, help, livelihood and overall survival. It is within this backdrop that we seek to explore the family poverty as the underlying cause of influx of street children in the Ugandan urban centers.

2.2.2 Family structures as leading socio-economic factor to influx of street children phenomenon

According to Kenya, Philistia, et al (1991), in their study, they observed that the underlying denominator for the influx of street children has been the interference with the family structure through industrialization and modernization that have adversely weakened the family institution and focused more on individual parenting. It is noted that the family structure in pre-colonial Africa existed as a solid unit of the social structure. It was not only responsible for procreation, but was the pinnacle for the perpetuation, economic development and survival of the culture (Erlbaum, 2005; Boakye-Boaten, 2006). The family as a self-enabling institution has been the most instrumental institution of socialization. As part of the process of rapid demographic and socio-economic change mainly due to urbanization and modernization, patterns of family formation and family life are continuing to undergo considerable change, altering the composition and structure of families in our societies. The traditional family structure under pressure from rapid social change is undergoing erosion, and is generally splitting up to such an extent that it is failing to fulfill its primary role of socialization. More prominent in urban areas is the dominance of the nuclear family system that seems to lack the sense of cohesion for the wider society. It is a matter of the individuals' life: one's house, possessions, and not the traditional usage of our farm, our

home, sharing all happiness, woes, successes of the extended family loyalty and the collective obligation. Here, the emphasis is on private property ownership and the rights of the individual. The processes of modernization, westernization and urbanization have severely affected the traditional social bonds, social networks and collective conscience. Therefore, families are “left” to vent for themselves and where survival is not forthcoming, the parents and children opt for alternative means, which contravene the societal and cultural expectations. For instance, begging in the streets, stealing, gambling and prostitution, among others. This is common in urban settings especially among the low income households characterized by chronic indicators of poverty and deprivation. It is also common in rural settings especially in households that are either polygamous or with a single parent, but with strong cultural beliefs about gender of the children. In his study on migration patterns among street children in Kisumu Municipality, Sorre (2009), observed that there were more male than female street children on the streets of Kisumu Municipality. This was partly explaining the effects which are associated with family structure as a leading cause of street children in different street in the developing countries.

A research carried out in Karnataka village in India by Moriojose (1999), revealed that majority of children in polygamous families are not educated and work in the farm. Since technically two families stay together, there is jealousy between the two wives and their children. This results in quarrel between wives and children which gives negative impact in the children’s mind on family. In most cases children leave home to look for peace and end up in the street and eventually become street children. Due to the ill treatment of the step mother or father.

(David et al.1991) lack of responsibility on the part of the parents, family conflicts and parental behavioral problems, for example giving priority to material gains, substance use and gambling, leads children taking to the streets. (Nzioka,2002) in his study pointed out that most street girls come from single families as a result of divorce, separation or death of one’s parent He notes that most of them are from impoverished social economic back grounds.

2.2.3 Child abuse

According to another study carried out in India (2007), the study pointed out another reason that increase the street children as child abuse in the different homes. It stated that 42 percent of Indians total population was children. It was also pointed out that children are abused in the country emotionally, physically, economically and sexually. Traditional practices such as

children marriage, caste system, female feticide, child labor, increased children's vulnerability. Bose, (2003), India has the largest population of street children who suffer from destitution, neglect, abuse and exploitation and it estimated that in urban areas alone there are 11 million children on the street. These children have their rights abused. They have their daily lessons on the streets. They learn to survive in the streets. They learn to go hungry for hours, they learn to eat whatever is shoved towards them, and they learn to take risk by jumping signal, running after cars. Bose (2007) pointed out that some children are forced to street life by their adoptive families who keep all the taking including little food that they get from dustbins. Young children of unwedded mothers and sex workers are taken to far places and abandoned in railway stations bus stations. Bose, (2007), also noted that when husbands favor one wife and her children in a polygamous family. Other children are neglected they lack fatherly love and become subjected to rejection and abuse. They lose fatherly love which every child has a right to an essential in life. These children develop a negative attitude towards father. In most occurrences these children take to street to find somebody to compensate for the lost love.

According to Huihambos, (2004), study on factors contributing to child abuse, it was noted that in Africa there is inadequate regulations aimed at restricting child abuse, in effective enforcement of relevant legislation and lack of public awareness. These are among the major contributing factors to street children, economic stagnation, unemployment and rural – urban migration which lead to accelerated urban poverty. These factors aggravated by the rising cost of living contribute to the inevitability of child abuse pushing children to the street with hope of getting better life. He added that girls engage in commercial sex in order to survive. In a report on sexual abuse of Ugandan women and girls aged 15 years and below he indicated that girls aged 15 years and below provide sexual services for less than 10,000 shillings for their survival.

2.3 Effects of influx increase of the street children.

According to Lugalla and Mbwambo, (1995), there are lots of causes for this problem, some are natural and others are man-made. Children have lost contact with their parents or families, which results the loss of the children in the streets'. Some children are the offspring of prostitutes. Some families reject their children if there are handicapped. Some "respectable" parent disowned their own child because he/she is an outcome of an affair.

According to Harding, (2010), for a very cause there is effect, and there are devastating effects on street children themselves and on the society they belong to. The children without education are without future, which means that they will not be able to defend their future and they will face lots of difficulties to have a better life. Moreover, being undernourished from such a very young age causes bad side effects on their health like malnutrition which effects their immune system and as a result shorter life expectancy. There are approximately 48 million young ones whose are not registered in their country's archives, which represents around 47 percent of the child population around the world. 20 out of every 100 births in Latin America never registered. That mean that all of those 47 percent are not on paper which means they do not exist. This is a huge problem as those poor kids do not have identity, which exclude them from other right like the right to vote or the right to have a proper education or even low level education. Moreover, criminal gangs which really represent a huge disaster, as they use those unregistered children to do criminals and violence. Those children have no criteria to know what is right and what is wrong. They may expose themselves to very cruel situations like prostitution, sexual violations, drug consumption and other forms of modern slavery. According to stolenchildhood.net "Street children in the third world, having no access to basic needs always become an easy prey of flesh traders. The demand of street children is high among the pimps and the brothel owners because these children sell themselves at cheap rates. These children are at high risk because they neither use contraceptives nor ask the clients to use them. Thus the chances of getting pregnant or catching a sexually transmitted disease is high". A finite circle is problem, because when children grows to be adults. They will be the best shape for crime, they will be evil walking on his/ her feet. There will be individual illiterate adults with low moral beliefs, with damaged psychology. Those lovely poor children in the past will be the evil which will oppress other helpless and innocent children. All of this means that street children of today will be criminals of tomorrow.

According to Harding, (2010), The enormous problems faced by the street children in the last several years were stated by different scholars in different times and topic of diverse philosophy. The problems are widely dispersed (psychological, physical, and sexual abuses), but for several years they were not in societies' program. They are excluded from economic, social, and political process, however, only few institutions are involving in helping them to sustain their livelihood. This may lead the future of hopeful children as well as the coming generation to uncontrollable

bad habits, which have an impact on political (peace), social (norms, culture), and economy (on GDP, GNP) conditions of these countries.

2.4 Managing the Phenomenon of Street Children

Street children problem is becoming a cross cutting issue that needs to be managed well in order to curb it. The United Nations (1990) has estimated the size of the population of street children worldwide to be 150 million and the number rises daily. Although it is not possible to accurately estimate the number of street children in any country, Namibia, and the other member states of the SADC alike and Uganda is not exceptional, are faced with the fact that the problem of street children is threatening to get out of hand. A lack of understanding of the phenomenon of street children in countries increases the risk and failure to curb the problem. According to Southern African Development Communities (SADC, 2001), reported that due to the rising numbers of street children, in spite of measures being taken to empower its children, has forced the Namibian Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare to make addressing the phenomenon of street children one of its highest priorities. It states that addressing this problem is, however, no easy task. In Namibia the phenomenon of street children is one of high complexity and variability. The children are found in the street at any hour of the day not only in the urban areas of Namibia, but also in the most rural towns which are exposed to violence, criminality, drug abuse and delinquency. The Ministry of Women Affairs and Child Welfare believes that, in order to introduce an intervention programs or strategy that will lead to an improvement in the lives of the street children of Namibia, a clear understanding of the problem within the Namibian context has to be obtained. Furthermore, recommendations regarding such a strategy should take the realities of the problem at grass roots level into account (Southern African Development Communities (SADC), 2001).

According to Richter, (1990), state that it is a well-known fact that many children, all over the world, turn to the streets in an attempt to resolve problems that arise out of the socio-economic structures and situations they find themselves in their homes. These children share one common factor “working the streets” to make a living. There is, however, a world of difference between the “runaways” or homeless youth found in first world countries, and the “street children” found in third world countries. In contrast to “runaways”, who mostly turn to the streets in search of adventure, excitement, or independence, the “street children” of the Third World turn to the street

as a result of neglect or abandonment (Richter, 1990). These children use the street in different ways. Therefore, Richter, (1990), stated that to curb the problem of street children simply means to manage or remove all factors that pushes them to the street children.

2.5 Street children issues.

Majority of street children move in groups, some of the street children work and live on the streets, but there are a few of them who still have close ties with their families and return home for meals (Wainaina,1981). There are also those who establish relationship with business people who own shops in town and are able to get some food by offerings services such as washing the shops, fetching water, shoe shining or sometimes from generosity of these people (Undugu society 1999). Studies have reported that street children face a lot of insecurity while in the streets, for instance; most street children express lack of food, shelter, clothing and harassment as their major problems. Frequent fights and police arrests have been reported as usual experiences of street life. These situations may deny street children the opportunity to grow and become useful members of the society. Even though the problem of street children is understood as an urban phenomenon, the factors exacerbating the problem are originated by and large in the rural villages. Rural-urban migration to urban towns across the countries of the world.

According to Monitor (2018), research done in Kampala, Uganda, she stated that three in four children in Uganda experience violence and street children are not exceptional. In 2014 report by Human Rights Watch, revealed violations against street children by police and local government officials, as well as abuses by members of the community and older homeless children and adults. According to the report, there is a widespread belief that street children are all criminals and are often the first suspects, for instance, when theft is committed. In the end, they expressed fear of the authorities and a total lack of protection on the streets in Uganda.

Sexual abuse is a common problem to most street children, especially the young new children and females, which is often associated with violence. Many street children fear that they might be arrested by the police and be sent back to their families that they ran away from or to institutional care which they have no idea about the services or care the institutions provide (Sedik 1995). Street children take substance and abuse drug for various purposes such as relief from the pressures of the street, to sleep easily, to be able to endure pain, violence and hunger. Female street children consume substances which include; cigarettes glue and tablets. The substance according to the

street girls is connected with street life, peer pressure and a means to endure pain and torture. When girls are under the effect of substance abuse, they expose themselves to attacks and sexual exploitation.

2.6 Theoretical frame work.

The study was guided by social development theory coined by Erik Erikson (New York;1969). Erik sees people as rational and logical in making decisions and solving problems. His theory lays a lot of emphasis on the psycho historical setting in which the child's ego is molded. He takes into consideration the fact that every significant thing that a person encounters in life helps shape the personality of that person, depending entirely on how the person reacts to each crisis in the life cycle. Erik maintains that every social crisis furnishes challenges that are conclusive to growth and mastery over the world. He maintains that inadequate mastery of early problems hinders an individual's ability to deal with later problems. The theory maintains that each crisis is made up of both a positive and negative component. If crisis is handled in a satisfactory way, the ego enjoys the achievement and the individual gains basic trust and autonomy. If on the other hand the crisis is resolved in an unsatisfactory way the ego suffers damage, a negative component, so mistrust, shame and doubt are incorporated in the ego.

The theory also notes that a person must resolve each crisis in order to progress to the next stage. Erikson sees stages falling in a staircase hierarchy all arranged in chronological order with each stage building upon the resolution and integration of previous psychological conflicts. Erikson sees these crises to be potentially present at birth but differentiating at its material time according to an inherited universal structure Erikson notes a sense of inferiority may develop if a child discovers his religion, his race, his sex or social economic status is what determines his worth as a person. He may lose confidence in his ability to take part in the working world.

According to Erikson if there is a deviance in the child someone else not the child is responsible. To Erikson society plays an important role in shaping a person's personality but the person plays an equal important role in the development and organization of his personality. Erikson's theory is fairly optimistic in the way he demonstrates that each stage of psychosocial growth has the potential for both strength and weakness, so that failure at one stage of development does not necessarily indicate doom at a later stage.

2.7 Summary of literature review

According to the literature review it has been noted that today the presence of street children is recognized to be a serious problem that requires urgent attention. The number of street children has not decreased for years because there is constant inflow that keeps on replacing those rehabilitated. It has been reviewed that the number of street children rises due to homelessness, evictions and violence. In Uganda poverty levels in rural settlements is very high it is experienced more in large families. Children suffer most and as a result they take to streets to beg and scavenge. Children take street as an alternative where home is frustrating. In cases where parental supervision, parental attitude towards children due to large family size is not friendly children run a way. Children made to work for families benefit also are known to take to streets. However, street children are regarded as deviants and criminals and not as people who have been deprived of their rights. Therefore, the study will explore the solution that be applied to combat the problem.

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter represents the research design and methodology that was used in the research. It provided the process and rationale used by the researcher in choosing the design, the target population, sample size, sample selection, data collection procedures, data analysis methods, ethical consideration and limitations.

3.2 Research design

The study used non experimental research design in order to enable the investigator to come up with solutions to the problems in various stages of the research (Kothari 1992). Research design was helpful in collecting systematic and depth information which gave a clear picture of the socio-economic factors that contribute to the influx increase of the street children in Uganda. It offered the researcher to study families and villages in the municipality to get detailed information about the phenomenon of street children in Jinja municipality, Jinja district. The researcher used non experimental quantitative design which explored the results of socio-economic factors that lead to increase of street children and numerical data was provided that was analyzed statistically and it also provided confirmation of the hypothesis of the phenomena. For example, how many children and families were effected with the phenomenon of street children in Jinja municipality, Jinja district.

3.3 Area of the study

The study was carried out in Jinja municipality, Jinja district. Jinja District is 70 kilometers almost 43miles air travel from Kampala City of Uganda. It is allocated in Eastern Region of Uganda. The population in Jinja has been increasing rapidly from 1991 with nation population census of 289,500 up to 501,300 population estimated in Jinja district census (2012). Jinja District is bordered Kamuli District to the north, Iganga District to the east, Mayuge District to the southeast, Buvuma District to the south, Buikwe District to the west and Kayunga District to the northwest.

3.4 Population of the study

The population of the study was of all stakeholders in Jinja municipality, Jinja district who were concerned with street children. The target population of the study was 120 and sample size 60 which includes; 40 street children, 10 parents/ guardians and 10 Organizations officials in rehabilitation centers within Jinja municipality, Jinja district.

3.5 Sample size and sampling techniques

This subsection included the sampling techniques, the sampling forms and the samples as presented below.

3.5.1 Sampling size

A sample was defined as a finite part of statistical population whose properties were studied to gain an understanding about the whole. Determining the size of the sample was central in the survey research for the purpose of gaining an insight into how many observations were needed in a sample so that the generalization about the population can be made.

The sample size of the study consisted of 60 informants or respondents by its distribution 40 street children, 10 parents/guardians and 10 organizational officials in the rehabilitation centers within Jinja municipality, Jinja district.

3.5.2 Sampling techniques

According to Merriam Webster (1985), a sampling is the process of selecting a few (a sample) from a bigger group (the sampling population) to become the basis for estimating or predicting the prevalence of an unknown piece of information, situation or outcome regarding the bigger group. The study employed the following methods to select target population and informants (Kumar 2005).

The study included 120 respondents but sample size was 60 respondents and these were distributed evenly according to the streets in Jinja municipality that is to say amongst street children, parents/guardians and rehabilitation official. The study adopted simple random sampling and random sampling where necessary. However, for the simple random, the respondents were given chance to actively involve themselves into the practice and this was by show of hands and these were given questionnaires.

Table 1 The sample size of respondents that participated in the study

No=60

PARTICIPANTS	SAMPLE SIZE	SAMPLING TECHNIQUE
Parents/ Guardians	15	Questionnaire
Street children	40	Interview guide
Rehabilitation officials	5	Questionnaire
TOTAL	60	

Source: Field data, 2019

3.6 Data collection methods and instruments

There are various methods of collecting primary and secondary data for research projects. For the purpose of this study, two methods will be used. These include interviews and questionnaires as described below.

3.6.1 Interview

This is two-way systematic conversation between an investigator and informant, initiated for obtaining information relevant to a specific study. It can be in form of questionnaire or face to face interview. The study used this method because it provides quality and instant and primary information needed by the research. It involved the researcher taking notes on whatever the participants contributed.

3.6.2 Questionnaire

Questionnaire consists of questions that are in typed form in definite order on a form or set of forms. Questionnaires were designed to be easily filled with respondents while they proceeded with their daily duties. The researcher used both open-ended and close-ended questions form of questionnaires which were given to all targeted population to fill.

3.6.3 Observation

The researcher travelled to various parts in the Jinja municipality during data collection and critically observed the causes, impacts of the street children influx and also observed how

rehabilitation officials tried to manage these street children. The researcher also attentively observed the gestures when the respondents were answering the questionnaires.

3.6.4 Focus Group Discussion

Morgan in his 1996 book, he regards Focus Group as qualitative research, Morgan discussed the applications of focus groups in social science qualitative research. Patton (2002) argued that focus group interviews have provided quality controls because participants provided checks and balances on one another that could serve to curb false or extreme views. Focus group interviews were usually enjoyed by participants and they were less fearful of being evaluated by the interviewer because of the group setting. The group members got to hear what others in the group said which stimulated the individuals to rethink their own views.

In the focus group interview, the researcher did not try to persuade the group to reach consensus. It was an interview. Taking notes was not easy but the researcher opted for it because taking audios and video recording was not easy due to break down of the camera. Certain group dynamics such as power struggles and reluctance to state views publicly were limitations of the focus group interviews. The number of questions that could be asked in one session was limited. Obviously, the focus group should be used in combination with other data- gathering techniques.

3.7 Quality control methods

This section explains more about the validity and reliability of the study. All the tools that were used in the study were pre-tested to identify and change any ambiguous words and questions to show the validity of the data to be collected for the research. Reliability on the other hand refers to a measure of the degree to which research instruments yield consistent results. (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2003). This was verified by the consistency of the observation of an outcome. The test-retest technique was used to assess the reliability of the research instruments.

The researcher pre-tested the research instruments in different streets of Jinja Municipality, Jinja District. This helped to find out whether the questions set delivered the required information for the study and this also helped to remove vague questions and clarify them before leaving the field, the researcher was responsible for the storage of the questionnaires.

3.8 Data Analysis techniques

The data was collected using the mixed methods approach which requires a combination of qualitative and quantitative data analysis tools. The content analysis was used to analyze qualitative data. The semi-structured interviews which was qualitative in nature was evaluated for identification of themes and patterns.

The quantitative data was solicited using the questionnaires and the use of computer software called Micro Excel, word. The descriptive statistics were employed to describe data and visually.

3.9 Ethical considerations

The researcher obtained an introductory letter from the University before carrying out the study. This assisted the researcher in obtaining permission from the relevant authority that is to say the owner of rehabilitations centers and other stakeholders concerned with street children like Gender, labour and social Development offices. The researcher explained to the respondents all about the research process so as to obtain informed consent before being given questionnaires. This include ensuring the Respondents about confidentiality regarding the information that they provided.

3.10 Limitations

The researcher faced a challenge of limited time allocated for carrying out the research and this did not enable proper data collection.

Uncooperative respondents were not able to participate in the study and give out clear information.

Being the first time for the researcher to conduct research, it was hard to conduct research due to inadequate knowledge and skills. In addition to that, the researcher faced financial constraints for processing data collection tools, typing and printing, Language barrier especially when conducting interviews because some of the respondents preferred local language than English.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter comprises presentation, interpretation and analysis of the findings from the data collected from the field. The data was collected through personal interaction with different respondents regarding factors contributing to the increase of street children in Jinja municipality. The research questions formed the themes along which the analysis is done. All data is analyzed according to the categories. This discussion is presented in three parts. Part A deals with background information of children in both the rehabilitation centers and the children in the street. Part B deals with information given by all respondents basing on the objectives of the study and finally Part C deals with findings and interpretation of the collected data.

4.2 Background information about respondents

Relevant information about the respondents that participated in the study relates to their gender, age and education level, since they could influence the extent to which the respondents are knowledgeable about the variables that were involved in the study and the extent to which the data that they provided can be generalized to the population. Information pertaining to these variables was elicited and the findings are summarized.

Table 2: Distribution of targeted respondents (population) in the study by Gender and Position

n=60

VARIABLE	CATEGORIES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Gender	Male	20	34
	Female	40	66
	TOTAL	60	100
	Parents	10	17
	Street children	40	66
	Rehabilitation officials	10	17
	TOTAL	60	100

Source: Field data, 2019

Table 2: The findings showed 66 percent of respondents were females and 44 percent were males. Findings indicated the cross section of stake holders that is to say, 66 percent street children, 17 percent guardians/parents, and 17 percent rehabilitation officials were involved in the study. This means that the conclusions based on the data that they provided is trustable, since it was generated from all the stake holders who are involved in handling street children.

Information was also collected on the characteristics of the respondents involved in the study. This information includes the level of education attainment. The findings are summarized as follows in **table 3,**

Table 2 Distribution of the respondents by the level of education

n=60

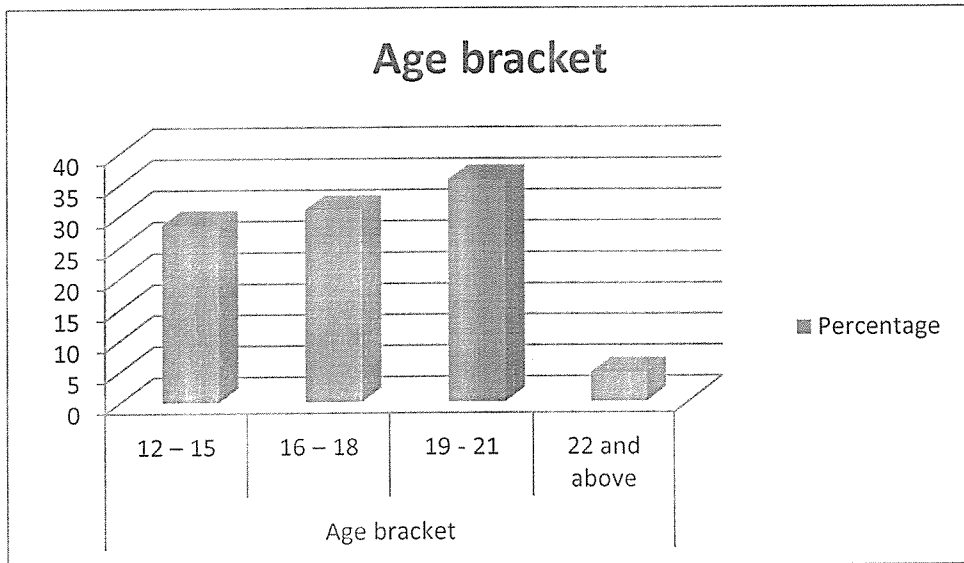
Education levels	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Degree	10	17
Diploma	7	11
O' Level	6	10
A' Level	10	17
P1	4	7
P3	2	3
P5	3	5
Never attended school	18	30
Total	60	100

Source: Field data, March, 2019

In table 3, it is apparent that most of the people who were involved in the study attended school (street children) some reached P1, P3, P5, O' Level, A' Level, diploma and others attained degree, however, 30 percent did not attend school. Basing on the information provided, the data they provided is correct to their understanding and this is because they have experience about the street life.

The street children interview guide also elicited information on their class and age groups because these variables could influence the street children's ability to supply credible information about the variables that were involved. The findings on these are summarized in figures below;

Figure 2 A bar graph showing the distribution of street children by age bracket as indicated below



Source: Field data, March, 2019

The findings in Figure 1: reveals that over 30 percent of them were aged 12 to 15 years and below 5 percent were aged 22 and above. The data was collected from a sample of 20 children living in the streets and 40 children living in the rehabilitation centers within the municipality. The data shows that the street children found in rehabilitation center were aged between 12 to 15 years and majority of the street children living in streets were aged to 16 to 21 and minority were aged 22 years and above with 22 percent. This suggests that the information that they provided is reliable since better reasoning can be expected of street children of these age brackets.

4.3 Socio-economic factors contributing to increase of street children.

With this objective, the researcher sought to find out the respondents' views as in regard to causes especially socio-economic cause that might have led to influx increase of street children. The

researcher asked the respondent on at poverty, child abuse and family status (divorce) as socio-economic factors that lead to street children. The findings are presented below.

4.3.1: Poverty

The interview schedule for the street children in Jinja municipality was also used to elicit the following information about their families before they left home to streets measuring poverty. A question was asked in relation to number of meals provided to respondents in a day and responses are presented below;

Table 3 Number of Meals Taken in a Day

No=60

Number of meals	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No meal	6	10
One meal	32	53
Two meals	12	20
Three meals	10	17
Total	60	100

Source: Field data, 2019.

The table 4 above shows that more than half of the of respondents (53 percent), indicated one meal was provided, 20 percent of respondents indicated two meals were provided, 17 percent of respondents indicated 3 meals were provided and only 10 percent of respondents indicated no meal was provided hence they were forced to borrow from friends and well-wishers.

Basing on these findings, it is clear that majority of street children went the street because they did not have enough meals at home hence went searching for the food.

Pairs of clothes owned by respondents as measurement of poverty

Respondents were also asked how many pairs of clothes they had before they left home in order to continue measuring the levels of poverty. This question focused on the street children respondents and the findings are presented below.

Table 4: Pairs of clothes owned by respondents. (Street children response)

No=40

Pairs of clothes	Frequency	Percentage (%)
One pair	9	23
Two pairs	5	12
Three pairs	26	65
Total	40	100

Source: Field data, 2019.

Basing on the table above, 23 percent of the respondents indicated that they had one pair of clothes, 12 percent of respondents indicated that they had two pairs of clothes and 65 percent of respondents indicated that they had three pairs. The researcher noted that majority of the respondents had indicated three pairs of clothes since they included even tattered clothes. The researcher also noted most of the clothes worn by the respondents were second hand clothes, tattered clothes or over size an indication that clothes were given by well-wishers to the respondents. The researcher noted that respondents who owned more than one pair of clothes wore them at the same time to prevent them from cold. The researcher also noted that respondent's clothes were very dirty and when respondents were asked why their clothes were dirty they said that washing would make their clothes wear out fast an indication that replacing old clothes was not possible because of poverty.

Education levels as measurement of poverty.

The respondents were also asked if they have attended school or not. If yes, they were asked about number of years they spent in school. Basing on the findings majority of the respondents had never been to school about 50 percent, 7 percent of respondents spent 5 years, 13 percent of respondents spent 3 years, 30 percent of respondents spent one year. It is worth noting that the highest level the respondents attained was standard five. Most respondents indicated they did not attend school since there was no money to pay for school fees. The researcher also noted the excuses respondents gave as reasons that made them drop out of school as follows majority complained that they went to school without meals hence could not concentrate in class. Some of them complained of chronic absenteeism due to parents not able to pay school fees in time which led them to being sent away

from school most of the time and therefore could not concentrate and very few of the respondents complained of harshness from teachers who did not seem to understand them. The above findings agree with Ratti (2005). He observed that many Uganda families cannot put food on the table due to overwhelming poverty and consequently children suffer most. Below are the findings.

Table 5 Number of years spent in schools by street children. (Street children response)

No=40

Pairs of clothes	Frequency	Percentage (%)
0 years	20	50
One year	12	30
Three years	5	13
Five years	3	7
Total	40	100

Source: Field data, 2019.

The table above indicates that street children are unlikely to attend school. The highest percentage (50 percent) of street children interviewed never attended school at all with the rest having attended school for less than 6 years.

Availability of shelters as measurement of poverty.

Street children were interviewed about their shelters before they left home. The researcher noted that majority of street respondents lived with their parents in single rooms with an average size of 10ft by 10ft. Respondents said that their structures were built of mud walls and wood collected as waste material from construction sites. Since these small rooms host families with as many as seven members or even more, respondents said it was not possible to put up beds and thus they slept on the floor at night and converted the space as kitchen and dining room during the day while the beddings hung on the wall until nightfall, to be used during the night. The researcher noted that children were unnecessarily exposed to the type of social knowledge that is emotionally harmful. Some of them were aware and had full view of their parents as they had sex at night. When the same interview was conducted among rehabilitation respondents, the findings were the same.

Health status as measurement of poverty.

Interviews on respondent's health before they left home revealed that interviewees had no past records of their sickness. Out of the sampled figure from both street and rehabilitation there was only one boy who suffered from epilepsy even before he went to the street. This respondent had physical injuries which had resulted from fire and when asked about the injuries he reported that his mother used to lock him up in the house and when he had attacks, he could fall anywhere even in cooking food or fire. He also reported that he could not recall his parents taking him to any hospital when he was at home. It was worth noting that street children describe their health status as fine, they view the types of illness or diseases they experience as minor or normal as long as they can move, work and run. Sickness to the respondents means inability to move or work. From observation the researcher noted that a big number of street respondents had skin infections, respiratory diseases like coughing and they were always dozed. The researcher associated these diseases with respondents' current environment.

4.3.2: Family structures contributing to increase in street children

Family structure was another assumption of socio-economic factor that the researcher sought to be one of the causes of street children in Jinja municipality. After testing the assumption in the field, it was found that family structure was indeed attributed to the increase of street children in Jinja municipality. Therefore, a question was asked from both street respondents and rehabilitation respondents about family structure. Their responses are captured in the tables below.

Table 6: Street respondents on the family structure (Street children response)

No=40

Family structure.	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single headed family	20	50
Polygamous family	12	30
Nuclear family	5	13
Extended family	3	7
Total	40	100

Source: Field data, 2019.

Table 7: Rehabilitation respondents (Street children response)

No=10

Family structure	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single headed family	4	40
Polygamous family	3	30
Nuclear family	1	10
Extended family	2	20
Total	10	100

Source: Field data, 2019.

The researcher noted that the findings above agree with Onyango (1999), that the high number of female headed households are the testimony of family separation with the majority of the street children originating from single parent households. These findings were also supported by research findings in Kanataka village in India by Mariojose (1999), that majority of children in polygamous families are not educated and are forced to work which lead children to street in such of freedom.

4.3.3: Child abuse as a social factor that increases influx of street children in Jinja municipality.

Researcher came up with the following from respondents.

Majority of the respondents rated child neglect as the leading factor contributing to the increase of children in the streets. This was followed by emotional abuse of children by parents. Child labor was the third leading factor to the increase of children in the streets. Physical abuse and sexual abuse were other factors contributing the increase of children in the streets. No respondents indicated that child abandonment had contributed to their being in the streets.

Majority of the children from rehabilitation centers indicated that child neglect was the leading factor to the increase to of children in the streets. The researcher noted that the second leading factor was child emotional abuse. Child labor was the third leading factor followed by physical abuse while a minority indicated that sexual abuse contributed to the increase of children in the streets.

The researcher noted that respondents who were physically abused had scars on their bodies. Some of the respondents were beaten by their parents because of petty crimes such as stealing food, not returning balance when sent to the shop, eating sugar and disobedience of any nature. The researcher noted with a lot of pain two respondents who had scars from burns and indicated they were burnt by parents.

4.4 Effects of influx increase of the street children.

With this objective, the researcher sought to find out the respondents' views as in regard to the effects of the causes increase of street children. This can be to the individual or at society level and the findings are presented below.

Table 8: Respondent's response on the effects of the influx of street children.No=60

Effects category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Psychological effect like stress, hopelessness, feel isolated from the parents and suicide	10	17
Physical effects like injury, disability and death, child labour abuse.	32	53
Sexuality effects like rape	12	20
Low development to the society.	6	10
Total	60	100

Source: Field data, 2019.

The table 4 above shows that more than half of the of respondents (53 percent), reported that physical consequences as the highest effect of street children, 20 percent of the respondents reported on the sexuality effect, where they reported that sometimes they are raped by people on the street and sometimes are given food in exchange with sex but they do it out of their will, majority of parents and rehabilitation officers reported that street children are always psychologically tortured because of various reasons. They also added to say, "the problem of street children has great impact to the nation because children are the leaders of tomorrow, therefore, if the children spent time in the street, they unlikely to attend school, hence making the nation to loss the important future leaders".

One of the rehabilitation officials and two parents emphasized that street children are time threatening bombs. They reported that street children increase the levels of the thieves in the country, the pick pocket money and phones in town and leaving the victims stranded. They concluded to say that street children do this in order to earn the living.

4.5 Managing the Phenomenon of Street Children

Street children problem is becoming a cross cutting issue that needs to be managed well in order to curb it. On this third objective, the researcher sought to find out respondent's views on what the Jinja municipality Management has done to curb the problem of street children in the area. Below is the explanation of the findings.

Basing on the findings majority the respondent reported that Municipality management put less effort on trying to the curb the phenomenon of the street children. And very few respondents reported that one and foremost, they allowed availability of rehabilitation centers in the municipality and they picked young street children aged 3 to 9 years to those registered rehabilitation centers. They concluded to say that they encouraged parents to come and take back their children home through different medias like local station within Jinja municipality.

4.6 Interpretation.

Basing of the objective one which was to identify the socio-economic factors that contribute to the increase of street children, the findings agreed with earlier findings of Bose (2007) that when husbands favor one wife and her children in a polygamous family, other children are neglected they lack fatherly love and become subjected to rejection and abuse. The findings are also supported by study carried out in India (2007) that because of poverty children are abused emotionally, physically and are forced to work to provide for themselves and sometimes provide for family needs.

Basing on these findings in the objective two which was about the effects of influx of street children, it is clear that majority of street children who are in the street are exposed to the environment/situation which put their life at risk. Therefore, the effects of street children it is not only at the individual (street children) but also to the nation as government as to put in money in order to manage these children, while at family level, families lose labour forces that can be helpful in economic development.

Lastly, basing on the last objective about management of street children by municipality management, it has shown that there is need for the attention and effort has to be made by them. Findings showed that the management is less concerned about the problem although less effort has been made. There is still need to find better ways on how the problem can be ended.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This field research was to establish socio-economic factors contributing to increase of street children in Jinja municipality. The researcher was inspired to carry out the research by the fact that Jinja Municipality is allocated at the center of town of Jinja where is rich in food, busy area where you cannot idle yourself due to lack of work and very many churches and mosques are found within Jinja municipality, a clear indication that people are believers with good morals who would support the researcher. In this chapter, the findings of the study are discussed after which conclusions and recommendations are drawn. Thus, the chapter is divided into three subsections namely, summary of the findings, conclusions and recommendations.

5.2 Summary of the findings

5.2.1 Summary of findings on the socio-economic factors that contribute to the influx of street children.

When data was collected in relation to the first objective on socio-economic factors that increase street children, where poverty, family status and child abuse were selected as one of the socio-economic factors, in Jinja, the researcher noted that many respondents had come from poor families where basic needs were not provided satisfactorily. 53 percent indicated one meal, 20 percent of respondents had two meals, 17 percent of respondents indicated 3 meals were provided and only 10 percent of respondents indicated no meal was provided hence they were forced to borrow from friends and well-wishers. Basing on the findings majority of the respondents had never been to school about 50 percent because their parents could not raise school fees and other scholastic materials such as activity fee which was roughly 40,000 shillings per year, uniform and many others. Majority of the respondents left school at lower primary level and only 13 percent of respondents got to class five which means most years spent at school by respondents were 5 years since none of the respondents had joined primary six. Respondents lacked good clothes they wore tattered and dirty clothes. 23 percent of respondents complained they had only one pair of clothes before they left home a clear indication to show level of poverty among the respondents. This discussion is supported by study done by Ratti (2005) in Uganda 56 percent of Ugandan population lives on three thousand shillings a day and that at least one of every two

Ugandans are poor. This study indicated that many families cannot put food on the table with children suffering most and in most cases some children take to streets with hope of getting enough from begging and scavenging in the dumping sites in the towns. The researcher noted that family status like single parent, divorce, polygamy and child abuse increase the risk of children taking off to the street.

5.2.2 Summary of findings on the effects of the problem of street children.

Basing on the effects, the researcher noted findings were in line with Harding, (2010), who stated that although there are enormous problems faced by the street children in the last several years were stated by different scholars in different times and topic of diverse philosophy, the problems are widely dispersed (psychological, physical, and sexual abuses), but for several years they were not in societies' program. They are excluded from economic, social, and political process, however, only few institutions are involving in helping them to sustain their livelihood. This may lead the future of hopeful children as well as the coming generation to uncontrollable bad habits, which have an impact on political (peace), social (norms, culture), and economy (on GDP, GNP) conditions of these countries.

5.2.3 Summary of findings on what the Jinja municipality management done to curb the phenomenon of the street children.

Finally, basing on the findings of this third objective. Majority of the respondents reported that Jinja municipality management put less effort in trying to curb the problem of street children hence increasing the phenomenon. in addition, rehabilitation officials concluded by commenting that, "there is need for better intervention of government and other non-governmental organization in order to curb the problem of the street children Jinja municipality and in Uganda at large.

5.3 Conclusions

The core business of the researcher was to find out socio-economic factors contributing to the increase of street children in Jinja municipality. A sample of 60 respondents was drawn from the streets within Jinja town. Out of 60 respondents, 30 respondents were drawn from two rehabilitation centers within the municipality. The study gathered very valuable and relevant data that informed the research objectives and questions and provided vital information without which the study would have been incomplete. The study concludes that poverty, child abuse, family status forms the bed rock of increase of street children within Jinja municipality and these come with

associated impact to children and to the society at large. Therefore, there is need for serious intervention by all parties in order to curb the problem of street children.

5.4 Recommendations

The government should come up with ways of protecting street children rights.

Church and mosques as the national conscience of the society should not remain silent but should address the high rate of separation and divorce which contribute to the increase factor of street children.

The government through ministry of education should ensure there is effective free and compulsory primary education for all.

The government should work closely with non-governmental organization NGOs to provide feeding programs in schools and rehabilitation centers.

The government through Jinja municipality should work out plans to start up a transit center where street children can be taken for rehabilitation and later reconciled with their families.

There is need to have guidance and counseling as a subject in teacher training colleges to prepare teachers to handle children with different needs.

The government through the constituencies ought to scale up infrastructure in the rural areas and empower people at grassroots level in order to curb poverty in rural areas.

The researcher recommends that the ministry of gender, children and social services spearhead massive education on the rights of children. This would reduce the rampant of children rights brought about by ignorance.

5.5 Suggestions for further research

On the areas for further research, the researcher identified and therefore recommends the following areas for further research.

There is a need to research on causes of high rate of divorce and separation in villages around Jinja town.

There is also need to carry out a research on the effective solution that can be put in place to curb the problem of the street children.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Questionnaire for the street children

TOPIC: FAMILY SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS THAT INCREASE THE INFLUX OF STREET CHILDREN IN JINJA MANUCIPALITY, JINJA DISTRICT.

Dear respondents, I am a student of Kampala international University, undertaking a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration and carrying out a research on the above topic. The information given may be used for academic purposes, used by the district when planning and referred to by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and Sports. I assure you that the information given will be confidential.

Instructions;

Put a tick against your preferred alternative in the box provided

Write your response in the spaces provided

Personal data

1. Sex

- (i) Male (ii) Female

2. Nationality

- (i) Ugandan (ii) others, specify

3. Age bracket

- (i) 1-10 years (ii) 11-15 years (iii) 16-20 years

4. Level of formal education. Indicate the level you left.

- (i) Lower primary (ii) Upper primary (iii) Secondary
(iv) College (v) None

5. Where do you stay Currently?

(i) Street with friends (ii) At home

6. If the answer is the street, which is your street home or base?

(i) Mosque road street (ii) Kampala-Jinja road street

(iii) other streets specify.....

7. What is your place of origin?

.....

8. Are your parents alive or dead?

(i) Both are alive (ii) Both are dead (iii) Father dead

(iv) Mother dead

9. How many are you in your family?

.....

10. What do your parents do for a living?

.....

11. How many meals did you use to take per day? Tick the correct answer

(i) 1 (ii) 2 (iii) 3 (iv) none

12 How many pairs of clothes did you have before you came to the street? tick the appropriate answer

(i) one pair (ii) two pairs (iii) (three pairs) (iv) any other specify

.....

13. What made you to come to the street?

.....
.....
.....

14. Did you suffer from any child before coming from to the street?

(i) Yes (ii) No

15. If Yes, what kind of child abuse did you face?

.....
.....
.....

16. What type of family do you come from? Tick the appropriate answer

polygamous family

single female headed family

(iii) single male headed family

extended family

Any other specify.

17. Were your parents engaged in domestic violence?

Yes (ii) No

18. If Yes, how often?

19. How many hours in a day did your parents spend with you?

.....
.....

20. Do you take any drug?

(i) Yes

(ii) No

21. If you take any drug why do you take?

.....
.....

22. What challenges do you face in the street?

.....
.....

23. Where do you get basic needs like food, clothes, shelter to sleep?

.....
.....

24. How would you want to be helped by the government or well-wishers? Please specify.

.....
.....

THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION

Appendix 2: Questionnaire for the community members (parents).

TOPIC: FAMILY SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS THAT INCREASE THE INFLUX OF STREET CHILDREN IN JINJA MANUCIPALITY, JINJA DISTRICT.

Dear respondents, I am a student of Kampala international University, undertaking a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration and carrying out a research on the above topic. The information given may be used for academic purposes, used by the district when planning and referred to by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and Sports. I assure you that the information given will be confidential.

Instructions;

Put a tick against your preferred alternative in the box provided

Write your response in the spaces provided

Personal data

1 Sex

(a) Male (b) Female

2 Nationality

(a) Ugandan (b) others, specify

3 Age bracket

(i) 1-29 years (ii) 30-35 years (iii) 36-41 years

(vi) 42-47 years (v) 48 years and Above

4 Educational qualification

(i) PhD (ii) Master's degree (iii) Degree (vi) Diploma

(v) Certificate (vi) None of the above

5. What do you think is the cause of increase number of street children?

.....
.....
.....

6. What is our role as parents on the street children?

.....
.....
.....

7. What are some of the dangers that can come due to increase number of street children?

.....
.....
.....

8 Does family Socio-economic factors contribute to the street children?

(i) Yes (ii) No

9. If Yes, what are these socio-economic problems?

.....
.....
.....

10. Do you think Child abuse contribute much to street children?

(i) Yes (ii) No

11. If Yes, what are some of these child abuses in your area?

.....
.....
.....

12. In your opinion, how do you think the influx of street children can be controlled?

.....
.....
.....

THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

Appendix 3: Questionnaire for the Rehabilitation Center

Administrators

TOPIC: FAMILY SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS THAT INCREASE THE INFLUX OF STREET CHILDREN IN JINJA MANUCIPALITY, JINJA DISTRICT.

Dear respondents, I am a student of Kampala international University, undertaking a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration and carrying out a research on the above topic. The information given may be used for academic purposes, used by the district when planning and referred to by the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development and Sports. I assure you that the information given will be confidential. There will be no longer implications that can lead to prosecution resulting from your involvement in this interview.

Instructions;

Put a tick against your preferred alternative in the box provided

Write your response in the spaces provided

1. What is the name of your institution

.....

2. Type of institution / Organization: Tick where appropriate.

(i) CBO (ii) government institutions

(iii) specify.....

3. For how long has your organization being operating.

(i) 1-5 yrs (ii) 6-10 yrs (iii) 11 – 15 yrs (iv) 16-20 yrs (v) 20+

(v) 20+

4. What services do you provide to the street children/

(i) Healthy (ii) Education (iii) Feeding (iv) counseling

(v) general upkeep (vi) rehabilitation (vii) relief support

(viii) Specify.....

5. How do you identify street children?

.....
.....
6. How do you handle street children before admitting them to the program?

.....
.....
7. How many counselors do you have?.....

8. What is their professional level in counseling?

(i) Seminars (ii) bachelors (iii) certificates (iv) masters
(vi) Diploma (vii) PHD

9. Do you carry out any background research before admitting the street children fully in your program? (i) Yes (ii) No

10. Have you come across some children who have been physically abused?

(i) Yes (ii) No

11. Are there some who are sexually abused?

(i) Yes (ii) No

12. Are there some who are emotionally abused?

(i) Yes (ii) No

13. What percentage of the street children that you admit are involved in drugs.
.....

14. What is the commonest drug taken by them?
.....

15. What reason do they give that prompt them to taking drugs?
.....

16. What percentage of the street children you admit account for family conflicts.

.....

17. What percentage of street children you admit account for orphan hood?

.....

18. How do you handle children who have been born on the street? Do they present different from others?

.....

.....

19. In your opinion what measure can reduce the children coming to the street?

.....

.....

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND COOPERATION.

**COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY**

April 16, 2019

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: INTRODUCTION LETTER FOR NAMUKUVE TAHIA REG NO. 1162-06034-05315

The above mentioned candidate is a bonafide student of Kampala International University pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and Social Administration.

She is currently conducting a field research for his dissertation entitled, "**Family Socio-Economic status and increased influx of street children in Jinja Municipality, Jinja District.**"

Your organisation has been identified as a valuable source of information pertaining to her Research Project. The purpose of this letter then is to request you to accept and avail her with the pertinent information she may need.

Any data shared with her will be used for academic purposes only and shall be kept with utmost confidentiality.

Any assistance rendered to her will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,

Ms. Nakalema Faith
HOD, Applied Psychology