

**CAUSES OF POOR PERFORMANCE OF STUDENTS AT UGANDA CERTIFICATE  
OF EDUCATION (U.C.E) IN THE SELECTED SCHOOLS OF MAKINDYE  
SSAABAGABO-WAKISO DISTRICT**

**BY**

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**DECLARATION**

I **Kibe Esther Njeri**, do hereby declare that this research has never been submitted to any institution of higher learning for any award. All information is based on my own effort and I acknowledged the related literature borrowed from different writers and researchers.

Signature..........

**KIBE ESTHER NJERI**

Date.....22/07/2010.....

**APPROVAL**

I certify that this work has been done under my supervision and guidance. Its ready for submission as university supervisor.

Signature.....

**MRS. DEBORAH TALIGoola**

Date.....

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this study to my dear loving parents Mr. Stanley Kibe and Mrs. Patricia W. Kibe, my loving brothers John Ng'ang'a and Simon Peter Njenga.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am grateful to The Almighty God for granting me life and helping me to attain this level of education. To my supervisor Mrs. Deborah Tiligoola for her time and guidance that has been paramount for this research. To my parents Mr. and Mrs. Kibe for their love, moral and financial support. Dad and mum, I sincerely appreciate all you have done for me all through my path of education up to this level and the faith you have in me. Thanks a lot I LOVE YOU SO MUCH and may Almighty God reward you abundantly.

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## ABBREVIATIONS

U.C.E	Uganda Certificate of Education
S.E.R.P	Secondary Education Reform Program
M.O.E.S	Ministry of Education and Sports
U.S.E	Universal Secondary Education
U.N.E.B	Uganda National Examination Board
P.T.A	Parent Teachers Association
MGT.C	Management Committees
L.Cs	Local Councils

## ABSTRACT

*This research focused on the causes of poor academic performance of students at Uganda Certificate of Education (U.C.E) in Makindye Ssaabagabo – Wakiso District. It was based on the following objectives; The causes of poor academic performance of students at U.C.E, the effects of poor academic performance and the possible measures to reduce poor academic performance at U.C.E . This research used a cross section survey research because the study was descriptive in nature. The researcher also used quantitative and qualitative research methods, the quantitative ones helped the researcher to convert responses into percentages and qualitative methods helped the researcher to get more knowledge on the topic under study. The findings of this research showed that poor academic performance still exists due to a combination of factors which were identified and its effects on the schools and the students and also the possible recommendations to reduce such poor performance in schools. It was concluded that poor time management , poor training of teachers, unequal funding in schools, understaffing of schools, students drop out, language barrier, poor teaching-learning environment, lack of scholastic materials , candidates not able to read ,write and follow instructions among other factors caused poor academic performance of students at U.C.E. Poor academic performance at U.C.E resulted to the collapse of schools, early marriages, drug abuse and low enrolment of students in schools. The researcher recommended on different aspects to reduce the effects of poor academic performance in U.C.E which included motivation of learners, better payment of teachers in time, parents involvement in education, provision of enough scholastic materials, government's provision of equal funding in schools, frequent school inspections, good parents-students relationship and the sensitization of students about the dangers of drug abuse.*

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter embraces the background of the study and it intends to find out the history of the schools since their establishment. The schools include Gayaza high school, King's college Buddo, Kamuli, Nabisunsa, Lubaga, St. Marys Kisubi.

### 1.1 Background of the study

Until 1925, practically all education was in the hands of the protestants and Christian missionaries the exemption of some buildings built at Makerere by the protectorate

Government's a school to train mechanics and carpenters. All school buildings and teachers in the country belonged to the missionary groups without the foundations and accepted the challenges of heavy and testing commitments.

Their major aim was to form a form of education designed to suit educational needs of Ugandans and to help build the character of pupils and students to prepare them for the underworld in which they would leave schools like Gayaza high, Kings college Buddo, Kamuli, Nabisunsa, Lubaga, St Mary's Kisubi among others were established to achieve this aim.

However, after independence, education in Uganda shifted to the control of government and again the recent privatization and liberalization. Many private institutions and schools have been set up alongside those of the church and the government.

Secondary education is the basic education which aims at developing the life of the learners so that they can properly serve the society according to their roles and responsibilities as good citizens. To achieve the aims of each learner and equip them with basic knowledge and skills necessary for their daily living and adjustment to social, political and economic changes, physical and mental health for productive work and peaceful living. The curriculum is a manifestation of the secondary education program {S.E.P} of the ministry of education and sports.

According to hellinger {1991, 453} Education reflects political situation in the country and most schools are supported by the government. It is no coincidence that secondary educations occur simultaneously. Seeing that the economy is undergoing fundamental change of political and civic leaders recognized the need for an educated work force. They also feared the influx of foreigners.

In the same regard, john et al {1999} from the report of {1993} by the national commission on excellence in education showed out if an un friendly foreign power had attempted to impose on mediocre educational performances that exist today, we might have viewed it as an act of war as it stands if we allow this to happen to ourselves.

U.S.E schools are among the performing schools at secondary. The secretary U.N EB said that according to the previous year's students 445,615 registered for U.C.E and among these 404,429 of about 91 present students are from government schools U.C.E and 41 ,186 students only registered from private schools. 20,571 students password in the first grade in the year 2005 yet in the year 2004 were 29,950 students who passed in the same grade. 16,317 are who passed in the second grade in the year 2004. 106,138 students passed in third grade in 2005 yet 71,731 students are those who passed in the same grade in the year 2004 those who passed in the fourth grade in 2005 were 57,954 yet 67,704 students are those who passed in same grade in the year 2004. 62,530 students failed in 2005 yet in 2004 were 81,392. Examinations for 574 students were cancelled in 2005 because of examination multi practices and were given a chance to re-sit for U.C.E. though the number for those who did better than their friends reduced but the total for those passed increased.

The students did best arts followed by sciences and then mathematics was the poorly done subject at U.C.E in 2005. The results showed that the students never understood mathematics very well and the teachers are urged to teach students how to answer questions in details and not in brief.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

There has been a number of students who are performing well in U.C.E level which is quite a big number. However, there is still poor academic performance at U.C.E level and it is through this that the researcher decided to carry out an investigation to find out what really causes such poor performance and how the poor performance affects both the schools and the students themselves.

## **1.3 Purpose of the study**

The purpose of the study was to identify the major causes of poor performance of students at U.C.E in makindye Ssaabagabo, Kyaddondo county Wakiso district.

## **1.4 Objectives of the study**

The objectives of the study were,

- i. To identify the different causes of poor academic performances of students at U.C.E in the selected schools.
- ii. To find out the effects of poor academic performance of students at U.C.E.
- iii. To find out the possible solutions to reduce poor academic performance at U.C.E

## **1.4 Research questions**

- i. What are the causes of poor academic performance of students at U.C.E?
- ii. What are the effects of poor academic performance of students at U.C.E?
- iii. What are the possible solutions to reduce poor academic performance at U.C.E?

### **1.5 The scope of the study**

The geographical scope of the study was confined to Makindye Ssaabagabo, Kyaddondo county, Wakiso district.

Makindye Ssaabagabo is approximately 120km<sup>2</sup> and is composed of 28 secondary schools with an average of 280 students per school. However, only five secondary schools were involved in this study. Among the 28 secondary schools the five secondary schools selected are either private or government schools. The researcher decided to carry out this study after speculating that there are various causes of poor academic performance of students at U.C.E in Makindye Ssabagabo and therefore wants to find the major causes of the poor performance.

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

The school administrators to realize the different causes of poor performance of students at U.C.E and try to overcome them

The management committee members and parent's teachers' association members mobilize the resources and create conducive environment for better performance of student at U.C.E level.

The policy makers should design and develop programs for sensitization on poor academic performance at U.C.E level.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.0 Introduction

In this chapter the researcher will highlight more about the related literature to the research objectives and the researcher will highlight on the cause of poor academic performance, effects of poor academic performance and possible solutions to reduce poor academic performance.

#### 2.1 Causes of poor academic performance of students at U.C.E level.

According to agnatic Et-al (1996, 214) poor time management leads to poor performance. Teachers and students in most schools come late and during school, time is spent in useless things like conversing with their fellow teachers in the staff room instead of teaching thus little is covered in class and intern leads to poor performance as also the students instead of revising their books they just play in class and some leave school before time.

In addition to the above, farrant J.S. (1980) contents that today the relationship between teachers and students is often upside down. Students come because they must and teachers teach because they are paid to. Teachers mourn that their profession is not respected and complain that they are not poorly paid of the duties they are required to do. They look over their shoulders at other professions' and conditions of service and sigh for a better life. This means that less is covered at the school since time is not managed well.

In his view macrons J.(2004,378) said that, the problem dropping out quit before earning even a high school diploma leads to poor performance. This leaves young people ill equipped for the world of work and at high risk for poverty some students drop out because of the problem with the English language of because pregnancy others must work to support their families.

Kendall, D, (2004) supports the above statement that although there has been a decrease in the number of school dropout rates over the past years before earning a high school diploma, the drop out also varies from one region to another.

According to Sigelman R. (1999,349) the class size, study environment and peer pressure, negative feedback, pubertal changes all these leads to poor academic performance. It is suggested that the transitions to middle school to high schools is difficult because young adolescent are often experiencing major physical and psychological changes at the same time they are being asked to switch to schools, many of students are influenced by the peer pressure of which some of their friends might not be schooling and working. This might force this class to be congested that the students do not have enough space, this make them uncomfortable and as a result less attention is paid to studies and if the environment from which the learners are studying from is near a disco hall, bars, alongside the roads these takes or diverts their mind to think of other things besides academic thus all the above leads to poor performance.

In his view Kendal D. (2004, 387) unequal funding of schools, school dropout and racial segregation brings about poor performance in schools. Many private schools are not funded, and then government schools are under U.S.E program yet even private are doing more work. Government schools can absorb all the number of children within the country and these classes do have most of the instructional material yet private schools don't even have enough. Violence in schools is also at an increase many schools have been burnt, pouring paraffin in food such as the Kichwamba incidence of which these strikes leads to destruction of property and some people lose their lives, segregation in schools is on an increase in students from very rich families who tend to get much attention from teachers because of the extra money given to them through doing private work like coaching than those from poor families which leads those from poor families to perform poorly.

In addition to the above, Tierney (1982) says that diversity and inequality in societies, schools and colleges are arenas where racism that is to say those from rich families some tribes and those who are bright and poor tend to segregate on such basis. This makes the unprivileged group to feel as an outfit in the classes and instead of concentrating, they begin to mourn for their social classes and as a result this leads to their poor performance in schools.



As to the UCE report on work of the candidates November 2004 examination reveals that some candidates still are not able to read, write and follow instruction in all subjects the means that failure to attain the required levels of competence in English language affects the learner's performance in all subjects. It also appears the some teachers do not prepare lessons adequately in order to deliver the subject content to the learners'. Some teachers also seem to teach students following text books rather than syllabuses. Others seem still be using teachers centered approach leading to abstract teaching.

According to National Assessment of Progress in Education (NAPE reports, there is a lot of Head teachers and students absenteeism. This adversely affects learning as there are less contact time between teachers and learners. In addition to the above, Morrison (1988) contends child abuse and neglect children of poverty, stress, lack of parental information about violence, unwanted and unloved children parents cognitive and emotional state all of which contribute to poor performance of learners in schools. This is as a result that if learners is in class his or her mind are disturbed by many factors which tend to divert his or her concentration in class and think of different things which in end has nothing to write in the examination and thus resulting into poor performance.

## **2.2 Effects of poor academic performance of students at U.C.E.**

Poor performance in schools leads to instability this has manifested itself through student's unrest in schools which has resulted into misunderstanding between the child and the teachers instability in schools have resulted into loss of lives of both teaching and non teaching stuff and the student bad many properties are destroyed such as school vans and buildings.

Ocan (2005, 27) further puts it that poor performance in schools leads to psychological disorder of the learners which makes them socially undesirable, unwilling to work regularly and to responsibilities. He further argues that poor performance in schools result into instability which has manifested itself through student unrest in schools or strikes which results into misunderstanding between the learners and the teachers which in most cases leads to loss of life to both the learners and the teachers together with the destruction of property such as buildings, school van among others.

Drug abuse is yet another effect of poor performance where learners tend to abandon school and join another world of money and something to eat then they resort to stealing where some of them have lost their lives. Unfortunately this is as a result people who sell to them aviation fuel, obviously aware of poor children's intentions and consequences of their action. The drug they take help them in many ways such sexual arrestment, helps them feel warm in the cold and chilly situations, make them forget problems and finally make them feel strong. An addicted child hopelessly sniffs the aviation fuel and drifts into a world of his or her own. The department of police in charge of children's affairs revealed that there are about 600 children per year who are arrested due to drug possession. This result into constant nerve breakdown, intolerable chest pain and convulsion.

On addition Farrant (1980) environmental factors affect the performance of the learners in remembering, learning process should take place in cool and convenient environment where learners can grasp and take in what has been taught to them but it is very difficult to learn effectively if their attention is destructed or worries automatically affect their concentration.

### **2.3 Solutions to reduce poor academic performance at U.C.E.**

According to Unstuck (1964) the material for presentation within the topic must be prepared consisting of the unit, arranged information can be passed to the students in such a way that she or he can learn from it as efficiently as possible.

While beard (1979) says that motivation of the learners variety of teaching methods and clear definition of goals with intermediate and immediate objectives prompt feedback as to success active rather than passive and the methods learning all those can improve on the performance of learners in school. The teacher has to motivate his or her while in class this can improve on their performance, increase participation in class and teach them the better ways of learning and the teacher must vary the methods of teaching depending on subject and topic to avoid boredom in class.

Lea (1971) contends that staffing in schools and the teachers education and learning must be checked. In many schools most of the teachers are untrained who do not know the subject matter

and lack better methods of teaching thus the teachers employed in schools must be trained or licensed by the ministry of education and sports to teach thus improving on performance.

UNEB 2005 UCE report on students' performance November 2004 Examinations Teachers are urged to as much as possible to use learner centered approach. They also need to use available learning aids and other good methods such as term scheming, consultative planning; seminars and refresher courses should be arranged. Thus without seminars and proper training of teachers and use of learners centered approach, the teacher teach him or herself leading to poor performance of learners.

There needs to have more effective practical application of the educational theory that is learned during training to improve on the knowledge of how children learn more effective and teachers must vary their teaching methods while teaching, Greater understanding of how children learn is influenced by the way how teachers teach. It's encouraging to use greater information in teaching methods which emphasis on child centered methods and individualized learning and more carefully test learning materials.

In the same regards, Farrant also recommended that small group has a number of advantages over large groups learning. It gives more children opportunity to participate actively in the lesson and reading lessons conducted in groups for example, many will be able to read loud as their groups because each group can work simultaneously independent of the other. This gives learners a chance to improve on their language through interpreting the questions, spelling while writing their exams. Thus small group learning to be the best way of reducing poor performance in schools since it narrows teacher-student relation in class.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents the methodology of research used which includes, study research design, data collection instructions, procedures for data collection, data analysis techniques.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

The researcher used a cross section survey research because the study way descriptive in nature. However, the researcher also used quantitative research and qualitative research methods because the quantitative methods could help the researcher to convert responses into percentages and the qualitative methods helped the researcher to get more knowledge on the topic under study.

#### **3.2 Area of the study**

The research was carried out in Makindye Ssaabagabo, kyaddondo county wakiso district. The study was centered mostly on the causes of poor academic performance at U.C.E in schools of wakiso district.

#### **3.3 Description of the population**

The study covered five selected schools both public and private and various stake holders of these schools who are responsible for teachers and students' well fare were used as participants. These include; head teachers, management and parents' teachers associations, teachers, students and L.C.I chairperson and non-teaching staff.

### **3.4 Sample size and selection techniques**

This study adopted purposive sampling while selecting head teachers, teachers, students and random sampling in selecting the population of L.C.1 chairperson, non teaching staff and management and parent teachers association. Five head teachers will be chosen from each school, five chair person of management committee, five P.T.A chairpersons, a total of twenty five teachers will be selected from the schools, thirty students are to be selected from all schools at random, five L.C.1 chairpersons and five non teaching staff were selected.

### **3.5 Research instruments**

The Data collection instruments while conducting the study included; questionnaire and interview guides as below;

#### **3.5.1 Interview**

This was used and applied to the non teaching staff, students and L.C.I chairpersons because they did not know how to read and write. These were be used to find out how academic performance of students has influenced the public and students themselves.

#### **3.5.2 Questionnaire**

These were the means of data collection instruments for the head teachers. Management and PTA chairpersons, teachers because they knew how to read and write. The questionnaire consisted of both open and close ended questions.

### **3.6 Procedures for data collection**

The researcher obtained an introductory letter from the dean of faculty of education that will legitimize her access to the respondents and make pre visits to the institutions. The researcher

obtained data and during the process of data collection the researcher ensured that all questionnaires she administered were collected and the data analyzed.

### **3.7 Data processing and analysis**

The data was recorded and edited upon coming back from the field. Editing was done to discover the possible mistakes that were raised and other weaknesses in the data there by ensuring completeness and accuracy. Data collected was based on the research questions and data from both open and closed ended questionnaires and interview guides was categorized. Lastly the conclusion was drawn basing on the analysis of data presented of which the results were made to establish how poor academic performance of students at U.C.E affects the learners and the public in Wakiso sub county in Wakiso district.

### **3.8 Limitation of the study**

Any Financial problems which forced the researcher to limit his research with different groups selected may be because of the high transport costs, high feeding costs and the heavy down pour which retarded the work of the researcher. The limitation was addressed respectively.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS

#### 4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents field data in attempt to evaluate the causes of poor academic performance of students in U.C.E in the selected schools of Makindye Ssabagabo in Wakiso District. The following objectives guided the study:

- i. To find out the effects of poor academic performance of students at U.C.E LEVEL
- ii. To identify the different causes of poor academic performance of students in U.C.E level
- iii. To find out the possible solutions to reduce poor academic performance at U.C.E level.

Percentages were applied for the purpose of analysis. Computers also made it possible and easier to analyze the data.

#### 4.1 Data Presentation and Analysis

Data for these research questions was collected from head teachers, teachers, P.T.A, management chairpersons, students, L.C1 Chairpersons and the non-teaching staff.

A total of 40 questionnaires were returned out of the 40, this is because the researcher had earlier informed the respective respondents. The interviews were also successful for all the forty were carried out

**Table 1: shows the representation of respondents**

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
Head master	5
Teachers	25
PTA members	5
MGT Chair persons	5
LCI Chair persons	5
Non staffing	5

**Source: Primary data 2010**

#### **4.2 Causes of Poor Academic Performance at U.C.E**

According to the research, the researcher established the causes of poor academic performance at U.C.E. This included; poor training of teachers, unequal funding of schools, teachers' negative attitude towards work, understaffing of schools, dropping out of schools, language barrier, lack of scholastic materials, poor teaching-learning environment, candidates not able to read, write and follow instructions.



**Table 2: Causes of Poor Academic Performance at U.C.E**

<b>Causes of poor performance</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Lack of parents involvement in school	10	12.5 %
Dropping out of school	10	12.5%
Unequal funding of schools	9	11.25%
Understaffing of schools	8	10 %
Lack of scholastic materials	8	10 %
Candidates not able to read, write and follow instructions	8	10 %
Class size	8	10 %
Poor teaching-learning environment	6	7.5%
Poor training of teachers	4	5%
Teachers' negative attitude towards work	4	5%
Language barrier	5	6.25%

**Source: Primary data 2010**

The study established that the major causes of poor academic performance at U.C.E were lack of parents' involvement in school and dropping out of school with 12.5% , while unequal funding of schools 11.25%, understaffing of school, lack of scholastic materials, candidates not able to read, write and follow instructions, class size all with 10%, poor teaching-learning environment 7.5%, poor training of teachers 6.25% while teachers' negative attitude towards work and language barrier consisted 5% of the total respondents.

The findings shows that teachers are less concerned about the performance of students because some are not trained and the schools lack scholastic materials to use while teaching.

### 4.3 Effects of Poor Academic Performance at U.C.E

According to the study, the researcher established the effects of poor academic performance at U.C.E which included; collapse of schools, early marriages, drug abuse, low enrollment of students in schools.

**Table 3: Effects of Poor Academic Performance at U.C.E**

Effects of poor academic performance	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Low enrollment of students in schools	30	37.5 %
Collapse of schools	25	31.25%
Drug abuse	15	18.75%
Early Marriages	10	12.5 %

**Source: Primary Data 2010**

Low enrollment of students in schools has been cited as the major effect of poor academic performance with 37.5%, while collapse of schools 31.25%, drug abuse 18.75% and finally early marriages was least with 12.5% of the total responses.

The above finding shows that due to low enrollment in schools has affected student's academic performance.

### 4.4 Solutions to the effects of Poor Academic Performance at U.C.E

This included better payment of teachers in time, motivation of learners, parents' involvement in education, provision of enough scholastic materials, government provision of equal funding in school, frequent school inspections, good parent-students relationship and sensitization about drug abuse.

**Table 4: Solutions to Poor Academic Performance**

<b>Solutions to poor academic performance</b>	<b>No. of Respondents</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Parents involvement in education	15	18.75 %
Motivation of learners	13	16.25%
Provision of enough scholastic materials	11	13.75%
Better payment of teachers in time	10	12.5 %
Government provision of equal funding in school	9	11.25 %
Frequent school inspections	9	11.25%
Sensitization on drug abuse	8	10 %
Good parent-students relationship	5	6.25%

**Source: Primary data 2010**

In the study, the researcher established that it was recommended that parents should involve themselves in education 18.75%, motivation of learners 16.25%, provision of enough scholastic materials 13.75%, better payment of teaches in time 12.5%, while government provision of equal funding in school and frequent school inspections 11.25%, sensitization on drug abuse 10% and finally good parent students relationship 6.25% of the total respondents.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.0 Introduction

This research presents a well detailed discussion of results presented in chapter four, conclusions and recommendations on the causes of poor academic performance of students in U.C.E in Makindye, Ssaabagabo Wakiso District. This discussion is centered on the set objectives of the study as showed below;

- a) Identifying the different causes of poor academic performance of students at U.C.E.
- b) Examining how poor academic performance of students at U.C.E affects both the schools and the students themselves.
- c) To find out the possible solutions to reduce poor academic performance of students in U.C.E

#### 5.1 Summary of findings

##### **Causes of poor academic performance of students at U.C.E level**

Many teachers in government aided schools and some private schools claimed their salaries were sometimes embezzled, this means that embezzlement of teachers salaries is one of the major causes of poor academic performance of learners.

Poor academic performance of students in U.C.E is as a result of poor training of teachers. When these untrained teachers are employed in schools they are not in a position to deliver the content and this leads to deterioration of learners performance.

Understaffing of schools has also caused poor academic performance of learners. This is simply because teacher-students ratio is big and that the teachers cannot be able to attend to the students equally.

Dropping out of schools was identified as a major cause of poor academic performance of learners at U.C.E. When the learners tend to drop out of school the remaining students in schools get discouraged and the teachers morale reduces thus cannot perform their roles effectively.

Language barrier according to the research carried out greatly contributed to the poor academic performance of students at U.C.E. It was argued that language barrier was a stumbling block towards the achievements of better performance since the students and the teachers do not get to understand each other.

Absenteeism in schools by both teachers and learners greatly contributed to poor academic performance of students at U.C.E. When teachers fail to come to school learners do not acquire the required skills and on the other hand teachers became reluctant hence failing to finish the syllabus on time.

Lack of parents involvement in education has greatly forced learners to be reluctant in studies since their parents have failed to follow up their performance. This has resulted into poor academic performance of students at U.C.E.

Poor teaching and learning environment according to the research carried out was identified to be a cause of poor academic performance of learners at U.C.E.

The research carried out also indicated that some candidates are not able to read, write and follow instructions in all subjects. This means that failure to attain the required levels of competencies in English language resulted into poor academic performance of learners at U.C.E.

### **Effects of poor academic performance of students at U.C.E**

Collapse of schools was identified as an effect of poor academic performance of learners at U.C.E. When there is persistent poor performance of learners at U.C.E the school is not in a position to expand but rather collapse since no students enrolls in the school due to the poor academic performance.

According to the research early marriages was identified as a major effect of poor academic performance of students at U.C.E. Learners who do not qualify at U.C.E lack option and end up in early marriages.

Drug abuse according to the carried out research was sited as an effect of poor academic performance of learners at U.C.E. The students who fail to perform well at U.C.E tend to engage themselves in drug abuse as a way of relieving their stress.

According to the research out poor academic performance of students at U.C.E has resulted into prostitution whereby learners feel discouraged in a way that they engage in prostitution in order to earn a living since they consider themselves failures.

Low enrollments of students in schools was identified as an effect of poor academic performance of students at U.C.E. Parents tend to transfer their children to better performing schools and this lowers the enrollment of students in poor performing schools.

#### **Possible solutions to reduce poor academic performance at U.C.E**

Better payment of teachers on time was identified as a measure of solving the problem of poor academic performance of learners at U.C.E.

Motivation of learners through competitive and co operative spirit among themselves. This will help the learners to work hard towards achieving their set goal and these results into their better performance.

Parent's involvement in education; by parents being involved in their children activities at schools such as monitoring their home works and assignments would improve on their children academic performance.

Provision of enough scholastic materials to students would motivate their greater involvement in their learning activities which would in turn result into improvement in their academic performance.

The teachers should employ various teaching methods and more especially the learner centered method of teaching which would make the learners grasp and have good mastery of the content.

The government should provide support to both the government and private schools to enable them carry out the educational services accordingly. This will lead to students improving on their academic performance whether they are in government or private schools.

Inspectors of schools should conduct their duties every term to check the activities and effectiveness of schools towards the national goals and objectives.

Government should ensure public sensitization about the dangers of drug abuse to the students who take them and put in place strict laws to the people found taking intoxicated and illegal goods.

Parents should practice straight talks with their children through offering services such as counseling to avoid their children from dropping out of schools, for early marriages or even prostitution.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

Though the number of students who perform poorly in U.C.E has reduced, there is still poor academic performance of students brought as a result of many factors such as poor training of teachers, poor teaching methods, inadequate and lack of teaching materials, domestic violence, embezzlement of teachers salaries, corporal punishment, under staffing of schools, long distances away from schools, students absenteeism from schools, poor feeding, poor learning and teaching environment, language barrier, lack of parent involvement in education, unqualified teachers, poverty, lack of scholastic materials and students delay to report back to schools.

In addition to the above, poor academic performance of learners in schools has affected them and their schools negatively through dropping out of schools, low enrolment of students, drug abuse, early marriages, prostitution, poor payment of teachers, thieves and students develop a negative attitude towards studies which eventually retards the development of the school and in turn some schools collapse.

### 5.3 Recommendation

It was recommended that;

Schools Administrators should employ only qualified and registered teachers and the government should organize refresher courses for teachers and in service training to improve on their performance and that of their students as well.

School Administrators should ensure that there is proper staffing of schools depending on the number of students to narrow the gap of teacher to student ratio to ensure that all students are attended to hence better performance of learners.

The ministry of education and sports should ensure that counseling services are put in place to attend to all students' goals and problems for their better performance.

The curriculum should be redesigned to provide learners who are job creators than job seekers hence it means from theoretical practical education to meet the goals and objectives of the country.

Parents should get involved u schools activities to enable their children to perform better in U.C.E through giving them assistance at home and making constant follow up through visiting the schools when they are called upon or not.

Parents should endeavor to provide breakfast and lunch to their children through paying some amount to their schools.

Inspectors of schools should inspect all schools regularly throughout the year to ensure effectiveness of teachers and better student performance.

Schools Administrators to maintain prompt payment of teachers in order to avert the problem of poor performance in schools.

Motivation of teachers and students should be ensured to enable effective teaching and better performance in schools.

Schools Administrators should ensure that better learning teaching environment is maintained to enable proper teaching and learning process to take place for better performance in schools.



Government should ensure public sensitization about the dangers of drug abuse to the students who take them and put in place strict laws to the people caught taking intoxicated and illegal drugs.

Parents should practice straight talks with their children through counseling them to prevent them from dropping out of schools for early marriages and about the dangers of such practices.

Parents should ensure that enough scholastic materials to students and the schools Administrators should ensure that the teachers are provided with enough instructional materials for effective teaching and learning process.

Schools Administrators should ensure that staff quarters are constructed at schools to avoid teacher's absenteeism and late coming.

Teachers should prepare lessons adequately in order to deliver the subject content to the learners through varying the teaching methods and use of child-centered methods of learning.

Parents should pay school dues in time to avoid sending of children back home daily.

Students should arrive to school early enough so that the lessons begin in good time to avoid wasting time.

The LC1 chairpersons should get involved in school activities in their respective locations and ensure that those schools perform well.

School Administrators should ensure that their schools perform better to increase on the enrolment of their schools in order to ensure their sustainability than their collapse.

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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX A: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HEAD TEACHERS

Dear respondent,

You have been selected as a participant in the study on the topic; Causes of poor academic performance of students in U.C.E in five selected schools in Makindye Division Wakiso District and your school has been selected for my case study.

Please feel free and respond to all question and give your views as faithful as possible. Your answers and views will be treated with confidentiality and there your cooperation will be highly appreciated.

This questionnaire is administered to head teachers of schools teachers, chairpersons, P.T.A and management. Put a tick in basic alternative and your opinion to the structured questions.

#### SECTION A

Do school dropouts lead to poor academic performance of students of UCE?

Yes

No

Does poor training of teachers cause poor academic performance of students?

Yes

No

In your own opinion what do think are the causes of poor academic performance of students in UCE?

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**SECTION B**

Does poor performance of students cause psychological disorders?

Yes

No

Do you think that drug abuse is as a result of poor performance of students in U.C.E?

In your own view how has poor academic performance of students affected both schools and students

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**SECTION C**

Does improvement in teacher training solve the problem of poor academic performance of students in U.C.E?

Can better payment of teachers solve the problem of poor academic performance in U.C.E?

In your own view what are the possible solutions to reduce poor performance in U.C.E?

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**APPENDIX B: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR TEACHERS**

**SECTION A**

Do you have some students that dropped out of school?

Are there some students who come late to school?

In your understanding what are the causes of poor academic performance of students in U.C.E?

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**SECTION B**

Early marriages are as a result of poor academic performance of students in U.C.E?

Drug abuse is as a result of poor academic performance of students in U.C.E?

In your own view what are the effects of poor academic performance in U.C.E

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**SECTION C**

Does payment of teachers in time solve the problem of poor academic performance of students in U.C.E?

In your view what are the possible ways of reducing poor academic performance in U.C.E?

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**APPENDIX C: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR P.T.A CHAIRPERSONS AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

**SECTION A**

Do you have some students that dropped out of school?

Are there some students who come late to school?

In your understanding what are the causes of poor academic performance of students in U.C.E?

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**SECTION B**

Early marriages are as a result of poor academic performance of students in U.C.E?

Drug abuse is as a result of poor academic performance of students in U.C.E?

In your own view what are the effects of poor academic performance in U.C.E

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**SECTION C**

Does payment of teachers in time solve the problem of poor academic performance of students in U.C.E?

In your view what are the possible ways of reducing poor academic performance in U.C.E?

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**APPENDIX D; INTERVIEWES FOR STUDENTS**

**SECTION A**

Are there some friends of yours who dropped out of school?

Do you attend school daily?

In your view why do students perform poorly in U.C.E at your school? Give five reasons

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**SECTION B**

Dropping out of school is as a result of poor academic performance of students in U.C.E?

What are some of the outcomes of poor academic performance of students in U.C.E? Give five reasons

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**SECTION C**

Does paying fees in time solving the problem of poor academic performance of students in U.C.E?

What should be done to avoid poor academic performance of students in U.C.E?

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**APPENDIX E: INTERVIEWS FOR L.C.I CHAIRPERSONS**

**SECTION A**

Are there some students in your area who dropped out of school?

Give five reasons why students in your area perform poorly in school.

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**SECTION B**

Drug abuse is as a result of poor academic performance of students in U.C.E?

How has poor academic performance of students in U.C.E affected your area and the school?

Give five reasons.

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**SECTION C**

Have you done something about the causes of poor academic performance of students in U.C.E at school in your area?

What do you suggest as the possible solutions to improve on the academic performance of students in U.C.E in the schools of your area? Give five reasons.

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**APPENDIX F: INTERVIEWS FOR THE NON TEACHING STAFF**

**SECTION A**

Are there some students in your area who dropped out of school?

Give five reasons why students in your area perform poorly in school.

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**SECTION B**

Drug abuse is as a result of poor academic performance of students in U.C.E?

How has poor academic performance of students in U.C.E affected your area and the school?

Give five reasons.

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**SECTION C**

Have you done something about the causes of poor academic performance of students in U.C.E at school in your area?

What do you suggest as the possible solutions to improve on the academic performance of students in U.C.E in the schools of your area? Give five reasons.

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