

DIVORCE AND CHILD NEGLECT AMONG SINGLE PARENTS
IN MUKONO DISTRICT

CASE STUDY OF NAKISUNGA SUBCOUNTY

BY

NAMUSOKE DIANA

BSW/38281/1123/DU

A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL
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DECLARATION

I Namusoke Diana do declare that this research proposal is purely the product of my own endeavours and that no part of it has been duplicated from anywhere and has never been submitted to any Institution or University for any academic award.

Name: Namusoke Diana

Registration Number: BSW/38281/123/DU

Sign: Namusoke ~~DS~~

Date: 29th / 03 / 2015

DEDICATION

This piece of work is dedicated to my dear parents and Auntie, my brothers and sisters and all my friends for their financial effort, resilience and determination that has greatly inspired and modeled me up to this level of education.

May God reward you all abundantly.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Having completed this work, I would like to acknowledge most especially the Almighty God for the gift of life, wisdom, strength and enlighten. May your name be glorified.

No words of appreciation that can express my gratitude to my parents, sisters and all my friends who have supported me throughout my education, may the almighty God reward you abundantly.

More special thanks go to my lecturers especially my supervisor of this research **Mrs. Kabasinde Annet** who has put in all her efforts to see that I produce this work and also my colleagues in class, may the almighty God bless and reward you abundantly.

APPROVAL

This research report has been submitted for examination with the approval of my university supervisor.

Sign: *Kabansindi*..... Date: 1st / 09 / 2015.....

Mrs. Kabansindi Annet

University Supervisor

LIST OF ACRONYMS

UNICEF	United Nations Children Fund
WB	World Bank
APHRC	African Population and Health Research Centre
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
PHC	Primary Health Care
LC	Local Council

ABSTRACT

This study sought to examine the causes of divorce and child neglect among single parents in Nakisunga Sub county, Mukono district. The study intended to find out the major cause of divorce and child neglect, examine the effects of divorce and child neglect among people and to identify the possible solutions to alleviate divorce and child neglect.

The study also based on the already existing literature concerning divorce and child neglect among single parents in rural society. Under this, the study consulted the existing causes (poverty, drug abuse), effects (poor growth and development trauma and psychological problem and strategies taken to curb the problem included government policy and community sensitization.

The study used the descriptive study design and both qualitative and quantitative methods were used to collect data such as interviews, observation and questionnaires. The sample size was 90 respondents which included 20 community leaders (LCI and LCII) 20 parents and 50 children. Data was analyzed using tables, graphs and pie charts.

The findings revealed that divorce and child neglect among single parents is due to poverty, drug and alcohol abuse, lack of social support, domestic violence and poor parenting styles, all the above causes have an impact on the social development of a child.

It is recommended that the community should be actively involved in the decision making at any activity carried out by the government, church and civil society, the community should be educated on the need to support the neglected children and single parents, The Ministry of Health should educate the community on family planning issues and the need to have safe sex.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Content	Page
Declaration.....	i
Dedication.....	ii
Acknowledgement.....	.iii
Approval.....	iv
List of Acronyms.....	v
Abstract.....	vi
Table of Contents.....	vii

CHAPTER ONE

1.0	Introduction.....	1
1.1	Background of the Study.....	1
1.2	Statement of the Problem.....	3
1.3	Objectives of the Study.....	3
1.4	Specific Objectives.....	4
1.5	Research Questions.....	4
1.6	Scope of the Study.....	4
1.7	Significance of the Study.....	5
1.8	Operational definition of Key Research Terms.....	5

CHAPTER TWO

2.0	Introduction.....	6
2.1	Types of divorce.....	6
2.2	causes of divorce and child neglect.....	6
2.3	Forms of Child Neglect.....	11
2.4	children and parental divorce.....	12
2.5	The Generic Effects of Divorce and Child Neglect.....	13
2.6	Signs of Divorce and Child Neglect.....	15
2.7	Strategies which have been put in place to mitigate Divorce and Child neglect among single parents.....	17
2.8	Counteracting Detrimental effects of Parental Divorce.....	18

CHAPTER THREE

3.0	Introduction.....	20
3.1	Research Design.....	20
3.2	Area of Study.....	20
3.3	Determination of Population and Sample Size of the Study.....	21
3.4	Research Instruments.....	21
3.5	Data Analysis and Interpretation.....	22

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0	Introduction.....	23
4.1	Age of the Respondents.....	24
4.2	Gender of respondents.....	25
4.3	Level of education.....	26
4.4	Marital status of the respondents.....	28
4.5	Knowledge of the Respondents.....	29
4.6	Responses on how the participants understood the term divorce.....	30
4.7	Responses on how the respondents understood the term child neglect.....	30
4.8	Findings on the kinds of divorce they understood.....	31
4.9	Knowledge on the forms child neglect the respondents were well versed with.....	32
4.10	Knowledge on the causes of divorce and child neglect.....	33
4.11	Knowledge on the effects of divorce and among single parents.....	34
4.12	Signs of a child who has been neglected.....	34

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0	Introduction.....	40
5.1	Discussion.....	40
5.2	Social demographic information.....	40
5.3	Summary of the major findings.....	43
5.4	Conclusion.....	43
5.5	Recommendations.....	43
5.6	Areas for further research.....	43
	References.....	45
	Appendices.....	46

CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the background of the study, statement of the study, statement of the problem, specific objectives, research questions, scope of the study, significance of the study and operational definition of key research terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

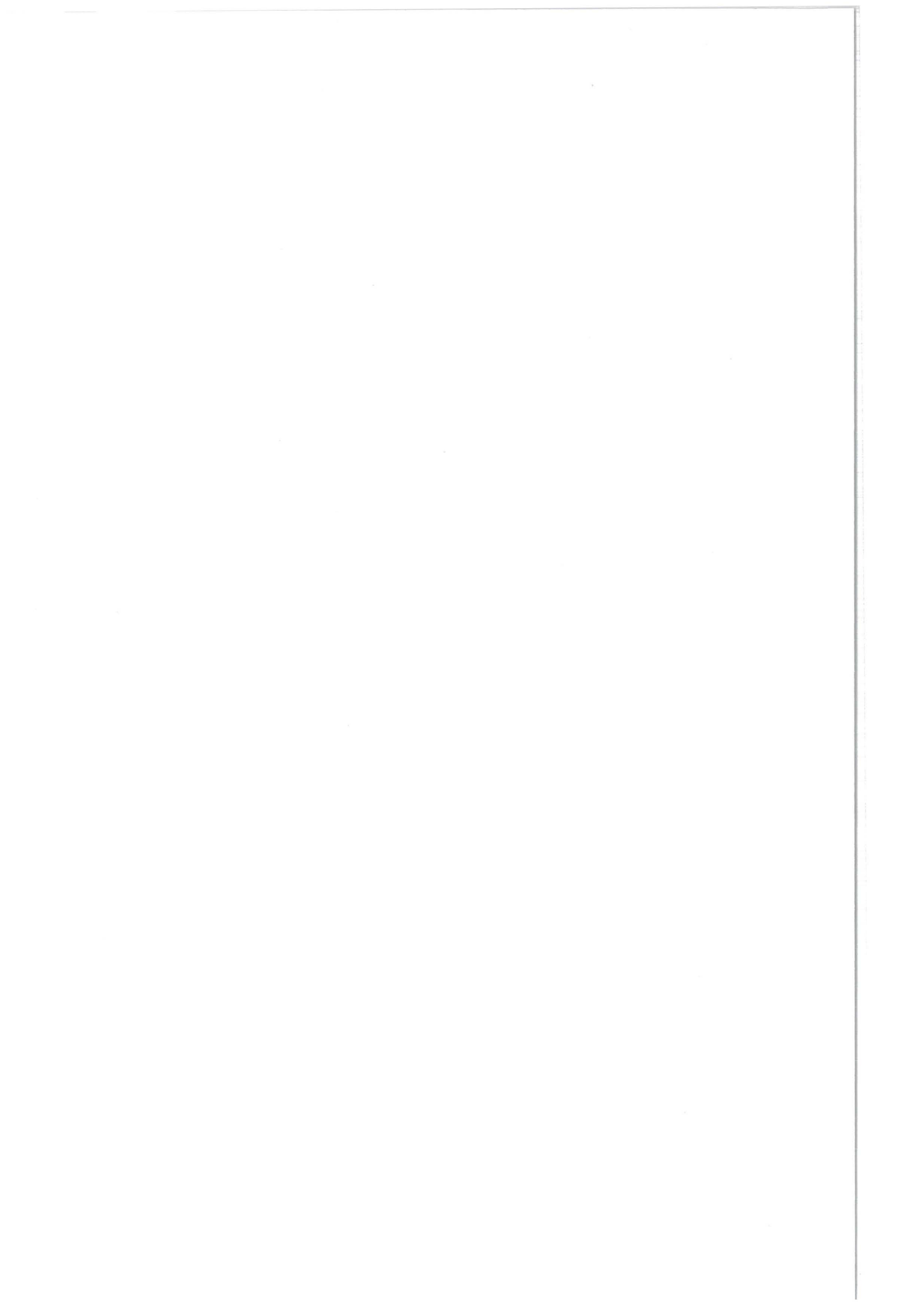
Divorce in developing countries especially in Africa in a one-parent family is becoming increasingly common, experiences the lives of parents and children. Prior to the 1960's, divorce in Uganda was not common, however following the adoption of new divorce Act in 1986, which made divorce more accessible and allowed marriage breakdown as grounds for separation, number of divorces increased dramatically.

According to Dumas and Peron (1992) between the end of 1960's and mid 1980's, the divorce rate increased five fold.

In 1995, the most recent year for which data are available, there were approximately 77000 divorces granted in Sub Saharan countries, with a rate of 262 per 100,000 people (Statistics Canada 1997)

According to the report prepared by the Bureau of Review (1990), statistics Canada, estimates that almost one-third of all Sub Saharan marriages will end in divorce moreover it was estimated that one in two divorce cases involve dependant children, illustrating that each year a substantial number of children are affected by divorce.

According to the UNICEF report in 1980's approximately 74000 children became "Children of divorce"



Starting in the early 1970's a great deal of research was conducted on the effect of marital disruption on children and it is perhaps, not surprising that the social sciences have had more impact.

During the 50's and 80's the dominant discourse in the literature constructed the mother as vital to the child's wellbeing and this was associated with legal and policy that emphasized the "tender years of doctrine" beginning in the late 70's and particularly since the 80's, however, a shift has become the central and determining metaphor in a family law and we are witnessing an emphasis on the importance of the role of the father as an instrument of the welfare. More ever right to equality between parents has been used to bolster that role and there has been an emphasis on consensual joint parenting after divorce and on agreement rather than conflict between parents. Fatherhood has achieved a new status and policy shifts seek to maintain relationship between men and children.

According to the United Nations Convention on the rights of children, children are subjected to multiple discrimination or neglect due to divorce practice and it has created a negative impact on the wellbeing of the children as it contributes to the inadequate basic needs such as food, water and shelter. This further affects the children's psychological thinking.

According to the United Nations estimates, more than 90% of the children in developing countries experiencing neglect from their parents are denied an opportunity to education and it suggests that if these children get a chance, they can live a meaningful life and can contribute to the social and economic wellbeing and development of their families and communities. This can contribute significantly to the social development of the society.

Despite the Ugandan government's mandatory regulation about universal education to all school going children, there is still an enormous lack of accessibility of children from post-divorce families, this is as a result of budgeting reasons, making all schools accessible is a very slow process in the



entire country. This has created a gap between children from two parent family and a single parent family.

According to Lesa Bathea (2005) Uganda is one of the countries with a big problem of divorce and child neglect cases with approximately 28% child neglect cases and 20 divorces cases per day and this believed to be attributed to poverty, lack of enough education, alcohol and substance abuse. This means children from single parent families vulnerable to harsh conditions of life for example poor health which can cause an early death, poor nutrition, lack of education and among others and this has a negative impact to the social development of the children.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Cases of divorce and child neglect amongst single parents in Nakisunga Sub-county have been on the increase despite the various interventions that the government, the church and the Non Government organizations have put in place to curb this trend.

This has created a negative impact on the social development of the single parents in the society both socially and economically. For this, the researcher wishes to carryout a study on the divorce and child neglect among single parents in Nakisunga Sub County so as to come up with possible remedies that can help to reduce the problem.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of the study was to find out the major causes of divorce and child neglect among the single parents.

1.4 Specific Objectives

- i. To find out the major causes of divorce and child neglect amongst the single parents
- ii. To examine the generic effects of divorce and child neglect on the single parents.
- iii. To identify the possible solutions to the problems of divorce and child neglect.

1.5 Research Questions

- i. What are the major causes of divorce and child neglect among single parents in Nakisunga Sub county?
- ii. What are the effects of divorce and child neglect on the single parents in Nakisunga Sub-county?
- iii. What are the strategies laid down by all the stakeholders to alleviate divorce and child neglect in Nakisunga Sub-county?

1.6 Scope of the Study

Subject scope

The study basically looks at divorce and child neglect among single parents in Nakisunga Sub-county

Geographical Scope

The study covers Nakisunga Sub-county in Mukono district and it is neighbored by Buikwe and Kampala.

Time scope

The research was carried out between the months of March to May. A few respondents were selected from the community as the study sample since time

and other factors or resources did not allow to carryout the research in the whole district.

1.7 Significance of the Study

The study will help the policy makers get a base of empowering the people in divorce and child neglect among single parents with regard to their participation in the income generating activities.

The findings may be used to find out the major causes of divorce and child neglect among single parents and thus provide adequate solution to enhance community development.

The general public with hidden data uneathered, the policy makers, making policies on the base of information, viable alternative to deal with human rights which will be found and the problem deal with.

It will enable the researcher to get her degree in Social Work and Social Administration as a partial fulfillment of the requirements of the award of the Bachelor's Degree in Social Work and Social Administration of Kampala International University.

The findings will add on the existing body of literature related to divorce and child neglect. For future academicians concerned with the same subject will therefore find it suitable for reference purposes.

1.8 Operational definition of Key Research Terms.

Divorce; refers to the separation of the two partners in the marriage.

Child neglect; is the failure to give enough care or attention to young people who are from zero age to full physical development.

Single parent; is a person who lives alone in a family either as a result of divorce or death of one couple.

Respondent; a person from which data is collected.

Social development; is the gradual growth of people's relationships amongst communities.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents literature of different scholars related to divorce and child neglect among single parents. It includes subsections namely; causes of divorce and child neglect, effects of divorce and child neglect and strategies to mitigate the problem of divorce and child neglect.

2.1 Types of divorce

Uncontested Divorce is the one which you and your spouse work together to agree on the terms of your divorce and file court papers cooperatively to make the divorce happen. There will be no formal trial, and you probably won't have to ever appear in court.

Default Divorce, the court will grant a divorce by "default" if you file for divorce and your spouse doesn't respond. The divorce is granted even though your spouse doesn't participate in the court proceedings at all.

Mediated divorce, in divorce mediation, a neutral third party called a mediator, sits down with you and your spouse to try to help you resolve all of the issues your divorce. The mediator doesn't make any decision.

2.2 The Causes of Divorce and Child Neglect

According to the survey carried out by Brewerton (2007), suggest that divorce and child neglect occur from families who live in extreme poverty, poorly educated and low status jobs. It has also reported that 100% of the neglectful families and 84% of abusive families live below poverty and this puts the children and parents at a risk of suffering from emotional neglect and is characterized by extreme poverty of their material situation from this study.

It was discovered that the various forms of neglect will keep on having adverse effects to the children and this will never break the vicious cycle of poverty.

Divorce is a complex event that can be viewed from a multiple perspective for example sociological research has focused primarily on a structural and life course predictor of marital disruption, such as social class, race and age at the first marriage.

According to Thampson and walker (1991), gender compared with men, women tend to monitor their relationships more closely became aware of relationship problems sooner and are more likely to initiate discussions of relationship problems with their partners. Men in contrast are more likely than women to withdraw from discussions of relationships problems with their partners and this helps in initiating divorce.

According to Kitson (1992) money, couples often end up having disputes over money, in many cases, one of the partners is in variably not happy with the spending habits of the other individual. This can result into massive fights and money is a continuous issue among couples and can be seen from the fact that opinion poll indicate as many as 90% respondents reporting fights over money likewise over 34% couples indicated money the major cause of divorce and child neglect.

According to Smith, Silvan and Cohen (1995) mentioned risk factors for divorce and alcohol neglect with drug and alcohol. According to their findings, they found that alcohol and substance abuse can put a terrible strain on relationship as substance abuse is often followed by abusive behaviour and many people cannot put wit the addictive behaviour of their partner and this causes divorce and adverse impact on the children in the single parent families.

Violence, the actual figures of the marital strife, abuse and violence in marriage are not completely known but studies indicate that around 5% of the marriage experience domestic abuse and this is one of the common causes of divorce in the society (Gothman 1994)

2.3 Children and Parental Divorce

Each year about 1 million U.S. children experience parental divorce; about one in three experiences parental divorce during the childhood years (Fine, 1987; Kalter, 1987). This growing trend influences children's lifestyle and development. In 1970, 12 percent of individuals under age 18 lived in single-parent households. By 1984, 25 percent of children (60 percent of African-American children) were in single-parent households. Others have experienced parental divorce and are now in reconstituted families, also called blended families or stepfamilies (Demo & Acock, 1988).

What are the typical effects of parental separation and divorce on children? Children performance. Research findings are less consistent on long-term effects, but a sizeable minority experiences a lasting negative impact. Adults who experienced divorce as children have higher divorce, rates themselves, more work-related problems, and higher emotional distress (Kalter, 1987).

Short-Term Effects of Parental Divorce

Children whose parents divorce experience an increase in four emotions: guilt, fear, anger, and depression (Freeman, 1985). Lillian feels guilty because she sees herself as the cause of her parents' divorce. Lee experiences high levels of fear and anxiety, feels abandoned and unloved, and has had a lot of nightmares lately. Frank is angry at his parents. Like Lee's anxiety, Frank's anger is provoked by feelings of abandonment and rejection. Nancy has been depressed since her parents separated. She has been apathetic, does not seem to enjoy her toys, has withdrawn from her friends, and is exhibiting poor concentration in classes. Lillian, Lee, Frank, and Nancy sometimes lie to others and themselves about the divorce by clinging to unrealistic hopes of reconciliation. At times, they try to compensate for nonresident parents and take over roles those parents used to play. They have more psychosomatic symptoms (stress-related ailments) than their peers from intact families (Freeman, 1985).

When nonresident parents (noncustodial parents, or parents absent from the home) are fairly uninvolved with their children, children's self-worth goes down and they feel helpless. Some children turn this helplessness into hurtfulness-power. Aggressive behavior and feelings of abandonment may increase when resident parents become emotionally involved in work and new social relations (Kalter, 1987).

Children of parental divorce may act more aggressive than other children because many have witnessed a high level of interparent hostility. Children often find themselves in the role of protecting the attacked parent or of identifying with the attacking parent, and they learn to model the behavior (Kalter, 1987).

Parental separation and divorce may cause problems with children achieving emotional separation. The type of dysfunctional emotions and behaviors varies with the age of the children at the time of separation: Preschoolers experience increased separation anxiety and regressive behaviors, school-age children are most likely to exhibit an increase in dependency, while adolescents are likely to express their problems in acting-out behaviors and intense conflicts with parents (Kalter, 1987). This variety of emotions and behaviors stems from the newly acquired skills of each age group: Most preschoolers have just learned to feel comfortable being away from their parents for short periods of time, most school-age children are enjoying their new-found independence, and adolescents have just achieved cognitive and problem-solving skills that allow them to work out their problems. Parental divorce seems to temporarily disrupt these new skills, and children act in ways that seem less mature. Either the divorce is so stressful that it interferes with mature behaviors, or these behaviors allow children to symbolically express to their parents their frustrations and fears about their parents' divorce.

Long-Term Effects of Parental Divorce

Parental divorce often affects gender identity in children, and these children may have difficulty learning to feel worthwhile within their gender roles. Boys experience

more adverse effects than girls in this area (DemO & Acock, 1988; Freeman, 1985; Hetherington, Cox, & Cox, 1985). Boys who have experienced parental divorce often have lowered academic performance, less impulse control, and inhibited assertiveness. Their relationships with their parents are quite changed, with ties to fathers weakened. Although most boys live with their mothers, many of them do not view their mothers as authority figures and may feel aggressive or sexual toward their mothers (Kalter, 1987).

Girls experience the most difficulties with divorce when the separation occurs during preadolescence. Their self-esteem is lowered, and the girls engage in more precocious sexual activity and delinquent behavior, including running away (Kalter, 1987; Kalter, Riemes, Brickman, & Chen, 1985). A more typical adjustment for girls is an increase in androgynous behavior. Both boys and girls tend to take on more domestic responsibilities than their peers in intact families (Demo & Acock, 1988).

In one Australian study, 18- to 34-year-olds who had experienced parental divorce as children were compared with peers who had experienced parental death or who were in intact families. Researchers found that adults who had experienced their parents' divorce had more negative attitudes toward their family than the two comparison groups. However, all three groups held similar attitudes about the advantages and disadvantages of the lifestyles of marriage, living together, and singlehood. The survivors of the parental divorce group valued marriages as much but were more likely to be aware of the limitations of marriage. In other words, this group held the most complex views about marriage (Amato, 1988).

Two longitudinal research studies provide insights about how individuals adapt to parental divorce over time. In one study, subjects were assessed 6 years after the initial study (Hetherington et al., 1985). In the original study, 24 boys and 24 girls, ages 4 to 6, from European-American, middle-class backgrounds and in their mothers' custody were compared to children from intact homes. The researchers concluded that children's behaviors were more disturbed during the first year of divorce but improved

during the next year (Hetherington, Cox, & Cox, 1979). Six years later, one of the major factors in adjustment was whether the custodial mother had remarried. When remarriage occurred, boys had some decrease in problems, but problems with girls increased.

In the other study, 38 subjects were assessed 10 years after their parents separated when the subjects were 6 to 8 years old (Wallerstein, 1987). In the initial study, the children were found to be preoccupied with issues of loss and separation and to be experiencing intense anxiety that interfered with both school and competitive play. The children often displayed anger toward or fear of their custodian mother, while longing for and romanticizing their absent fathers, even if they had not had good father-child relationships prior to the divorce. When studied 10 years later, custody was still held almost exclusively by mothers, but several subjects had spent at least one extended time period with their fathers. During adolescence, more than 40 percent had left to live with their fathers; most stayed 1 year and then returned to their mother's residence. Over a third of the sample had visited their father regularly during the decade; most of the rest had irregular visits or visits only during school vacations. Other findings in this study included:

Eighty-nine percent of the subjects had remained in school. Half were doing well academically, a fourth had an average grade point average, and a fourth was doing poorly.

Three fourths of the subjects had part-time jobs.

About 25 percent of the females and 30 percent of the males thought that they had adequate father-child relationships; over 50 percent felt intense rejection.

Many fathers were not helping with college expenses, especially in comparison to fathers in intact homes.

Many of the subjects experienced profound unhappiness with their current relationships and had numerous fears about future relationships.

Compared to other peers, the girls in this study had a high number of abortions and made a number of suicide attempts.

Wallerstein's (1987) study showed that divorce had been a central experience to this group of subjects, and experiencing parental divorce at 6 to 8 years of age resulted in less adjustment than if parents had divorced when the children were preschoolers. In fact, school-age children may have the hardest time of all age groups in adjusting to their parents' divorces. Adolescents tend to adjust better because they are more likely to discuss their reactions with friends (Demo & A. Cock, 1988).

2.4 Forms of Child Neglect

Physical child neglect, this involves the parents or care givers not providing the child with basic necessities such as food, clothing and shelter. Therefore the refusal to provide these necessities endangers the child's physical development and it also includes abandonment and inadequate supervision and rejection of a child.

Emotional child neglect

This form involves actions such as engaging in a chronic or extreme spousal abuse in the child's presence, allowing child to use drugs or alcohol constantly belittling the child withholding affection, verbally assaulting the child and threatening the child with extreme violence.

Educational child neglect, this involves failure of a parent or caregiver to enroll a child of mandatory school age in school or provide appropriate schooling thus allowing truancy (Bloom S.L 2000).

2.5 The Generic Effects of Divorce and Child Neglect

Behavior problems

Researchers have found that child neglect is associated with behaviour problems in both childhood and adolescence. The earlier the children are maltreated, the more likely they are to develop behaviour problems in adolescence. Researchers have often associated divorce and child neglect with internalizing behaviours (being withdrawn, sad, isolated and depressed) and externalizing behaviour (being aggressive or hyperactive) throughout childhood, internalizing behaviours are commonly associated with divorce and child neglect (Mills and Etheir etal 2004)

Mental health problems such as depression and anxiety disorders, have consistently been linked with divorce and child neglect particularly for single parents. The prevalence rates of major depressions have been shown to be approximately four times (4) high in single parents than double parents.

In a review of large scale studies by researchers show, that all studies showed a high association between divorce and child neglect and depression in adolescence for example a longitudinal study by Brown, children and adolescents who reported a history of neglect, were three times (3) more likely o exit a depressive disorder than non-maltreated children (Brown and Harkness 1999)

A researcher carried out by Egeland in 1983, on developmental consequences or different patterns of divorce and child neglect amongst single parents found out that the continuous child neglect by parents in various forms eventually leads to aggression, violence, and criminal activity. The neglected child is always at risk of inflicting pain on others and developing malicious thoughts that can destroy the cognitive system of the child and thus exposing them to terrible problems throughout their life cycle.

Trauma and psychological problems caused by experiences of divorce and child neglect can have effects on developing brains, increasingly of psychological problems. Extensive research has identified a strong relationship between divorce and child neglect and its

post traumatic stress disorder does not capture the full development effects of chronic child neglect that many researchers refer to as "Complex Trauma". (John J; 8 Salzingers 1998)

Learning and developmental problems

Strong associations have been made between divorce and child neglect and learning difficulties or poor academic achievements in early years of life can seriously affect development capacities of in taunts especially in the critical areas of speech and language. Research has shown that children perform less well on standardized tests and achieve poorer schools marks even when socio economic status and background factors are taken accounts. Research show that maltreated children have lower educational achievements than other groups of children.

According to the University of Pennsylvania, Centre for African Studies (2001), the rate for population growth in Africa particularly in Uganda is also contributing significantly to high cases of child neglect.

According to the report 41% of children from single families are neglected in various ways namely; health wise, academic wise and nutrition wise. Because of poverty, the children fail to access clean water, proper nutrition and medical care. This kind of child neglect comes with various negative effects to the children's social development.

Youth suicide, researchers suggest that divorce and child neglect double the risk of attempted suicide for young people. The systematic review by Evans and Colleagues found a strong link between physical neglect and attempted suicide occurring during adolescence.

As for, physical neglect, adolescents had suicidal thoughts occurring in 31% during adolescence and 10% of non neglected group (Stanley 2008).

Eating disorder including anorexia and binge-purge behaviours (Bulimia) may also be associated with child abuse and divorce and has been widely linked to eating disorders

in children and adolescents. However, experiencing other maltreated types or multiple form of divorce have been shown to increase the risk of developing on child mortality. (Brewerton 2007)

2.6 Signs of Divorce and Child Neglect

The University of Chicago, Centre for Child growth and Development, 2008 report gives various warning signs of child who has been neglected as follow.

Physical signs, this will depict a child who is consistently dressed in approximately for the whether or have ill fitting dirty clothes and shoes.

They might appear to have consistently bad hygiene like appearing very dirty, matted and unwashed hair or noticeable body.

Behaviour sign, they usually show up disrupted behaviours which may involve alcohol and substance abuse that can put a terrible strain on their lives in both short and long term

Child Mortality

A research that was carried our by African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) in 2000 indicates that Uganda typifies the current urban population boom and associated health and poverty problems. Between 1980 and 2000, its population increased at an annual rate of 7.2%, whilst per capita GDP dropped annually by about 0.1% infant mortality in Uganda and has been increasing since the early 1990's.

It suggests that most children in developing countries die from preventable causes such as dairrhorea, Pneumonia, Malaria, Measles and polio and other illness and complications that are total to new borns in their first month of life, under nutrition is a factor in many of these deaths

While national trends in child mortality are generating worrying, more worrying is the emerging body of knowledge suggesting that the worsening child health is purely recanted child neglect by parents. In some countries, current levels of child indications

among the poor in rural areas not only disparities widening between the poor and the rich (Rural and Urban). A number of studies have also suggested the rural or urban ill health and mortality gaps in SSA have narrowed in recent years mainly as a result of stalling and even economic environmental conditions have sharply deteriorated in rapidly growing cities.

Therefore the going analysis indicate that social development and progress in Africa continuous to be faced with a major crisis. The major social ill are high rates of unemployment infant and child mortality or material degradation and growing population of single parents as a result of divorce. The issues of health education, employment and effective popular participation of single parents in social, political and economic development issues bear heavily on the population and development. United Nations organized a world summit aspect of poverty alleviations, employment generation and social integration.

By under scoring inexorably progress in human development and structural transformation under go if the grinding mass poverty among the single parents is to overcome the effect inn advancing social development amongst single parents in Africa in general.

2.7 Strategies which have been put in place to mitigate divorce and Child neglect among single parents

In this connection, a current effort to refocus SAOs to give attention to poverty alleviation marks a welcome change. World Bank is now saying that it is making compensatory programs that is social safety nets, social action programs that were originally conceived as adhoc special programs for mitigation of the social adjustment a regular and standard feature of its new generation of SAPs. If put in place such kind of intentions will benefit the local Africans and subsequently reduce the poverty levels that re experienced by single parents (World Bank 2007)

A pointed out in United Nations International Children Emergency Fund's report on the state of all world's children who came from the single parenth0od (1995) only 25% of today's aid is given to the countries where three quarters of the world's poorest billion people now live only 15% goes to the agriculture sector which provides people in most all developing countries with for much-less to primary education.

Primary Health Care (PHC) and family planning services, that is undesirable poverty tends to perpetuate itself and unless deliberate effort at poverty alleviation and eradication amongst poor Africans mainly on the single parents and it is made by the African government with purposive and the necessary scope of social policy will persist and grow both compelling urgency and the necessary scope of social policy reforms in Africa and corresponding needs for substantially enhanced levels of development assistance place the region in special category to which must favorably respond (UNICEF 1995).

The Ministry of Health, Uganda suggests that more investment in health services infrastructure and education is required to cut the neglect by their parent. The Ministry suggests that health services need to be affordable, accessible, accountable and appropriate and have enough trained staff and medicines.

Child immunization is another key factor influencing survival of children in developing countries have been considered as the most cost effective health interventions, vaccines preventable diseases remain have been recorded following the introduction of appropriate vaccines for routine is not infants (School of Social Sciences University of Southampton, UK).

Johnson J. and Salzinger S. Outlines three strategies that can help to alleviate the problems of divorce and child neglect among single parents namely; Effective programs of intervention , high quality child care for the neglected programs and home visiting programs that can act as early detection mechanism.

2.8 Counteracting Detrimental effects of Parental Divorce

The following factors seem to help children to adjust to parental divorce (Demo & Acock, 1988; Fine, 1987; Hetherington et al., 1985; Seltzer & Bianchi, 1988):

Children should be informed about the separation and divorce. They need reassurance that their parents love them and that they did not cause the divorce. They should be told that parents are not going to reverse their decision to divorce.

Children adjust better when the divorced parents can treat each other with mutual respect and see each other as co-parents. At the very least, parents should try to avoid battling around their children and forcing their children to take sides.

Extended family assistance can be beneficial if other family members have constructive attitudes.

Decisions involving children should consider their age and emotions.

Children need parents to retain limits on the children's behavior. In other words, parents should not abandon their role of parenting. Children's lives should be kept as consistent as possible.

Short-term counseling for children during the separation and divorce can often provide a safe relationship for expressing fears and anger. A children's support group is another possibility.

Stepparents need to develop a relationship with stepchildren before disciplining them; stepparents do best when they start out supporting the biological parents' decisions.

Nonresident parents must make special efforts to retain regular contact with the children over the years. Some absent parents see their children less frequently as the children get older or after the resident parent remarries. Children who have frequent contact with noncustodial parents tend to adjust better.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents methodological issues that guides the study such as research design, area of study, determination of population and sample size of the study, data collection technique and data analysis.

3.1 Research Design

In the study, the researcher used both qualitative and quantitative methods in the description of data in quantitative methods, and then findings were numerically described. For example by use of tables, graphs and charts.

In qualitative methods, the researcher captured quantitative data from the respondents using a cross sectional survey design and this ensured the collection of information from cross section of respondents a once. The design therefore gives a consideration to the entire steps involved in the survey regarding the assessment of the divorce and child neglect among single parents in Nakisunga Subcounty in Mukono district.

3.2 Area of Study

The researcher was carried out in Nakisunga Subcounty in Mukono district. This area was selected because the researcher is a resident of that area and comes from one of the areas under study. This area is made up of five parishes which were randomly selected and includes; Wankoba, Seeta-Nazigo, Namayiba, Kyetume and Katente respectively.

3.3 Determination of Population and Sample Size of the Study

The study targeted 90 respondents who were randomly selected from these five parishes in Nakisunga Sub county and these included; Wankoba, Seeta-Nazigo, Namayiba, Kyetume and Katente.

So were parents hence only 10 parents were selected from each parish, 20 were children and 20 will be randomly selected among the local leaders available to add up to the total respondents of 90.

A table showing population and sample size of the study

Nakisunga Sub county		Number of respondents		
Parishes	Parents	Children	Community leader	Total
Wankoba	10	4	4	18
Seeta-Nazigo	10	4	4	18
Namayiba	10	4	4	18
Kyetume	10	4	4	18
Katente	10	4	4	18
TOTAL	50	20	20	90

Source: Primary Data (2015)

3.4 Research Instruments

In the process of data collection, the researcher used the following instruments for data collection.

Interview

Face to face interviews were used during the study for its advantage over other instruments, this were administered to community leaders.

Questionnaire

The researcher partly relied on the questionnaires from parents, children and community leaders. The researcher both used open and close ended questionnaires because there were areas which required detailed and brief information. The questionnaires were set by the researcher herself and supplied and answered under her supervision.

Observation

The researcher employed direct observation schedules drawn by the researcher herself, the researcher observed what was spoken to her and reality on the ground.

Research Procedure

The researcher physically traveled to each of the parishes selected to collect data. In each parish, the researcher got into contact with community leaders and sought permission to administer the research tools, the researcher explained the purpose of the mission and this helped her to co-operate and assured secrecy.

The researchers purposively chose the parents and community leaders and administer the research tools in each parish and its catchment area and observation were done on the days and dates of their categories of people and the researcher went back after two weeks to collect the filled questionnaires.

3.5 Data Analysis and Interpretation

After collection the required data, the researcher carefully studied the information obtained so as to investigate its relevancy to the research problem. Results from the questionnaires, interviews and observation schedules were analyzed using tables,

percentages, graphs and pie charts with the aid of calculators. This was conducted to draw out key themes and contrasts among respondents' attitudes about divorce and child neglect among single parents.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents and describes the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of the respondents in Nakisunga Sub-county. It entails the demographic information of respondents such as gender, age, education, background, marital status and the frequency interpretation of the study as mentioned in chapter one. It also covers findings from interviews, observation and questionnaire participants.

Social demographic of respondents

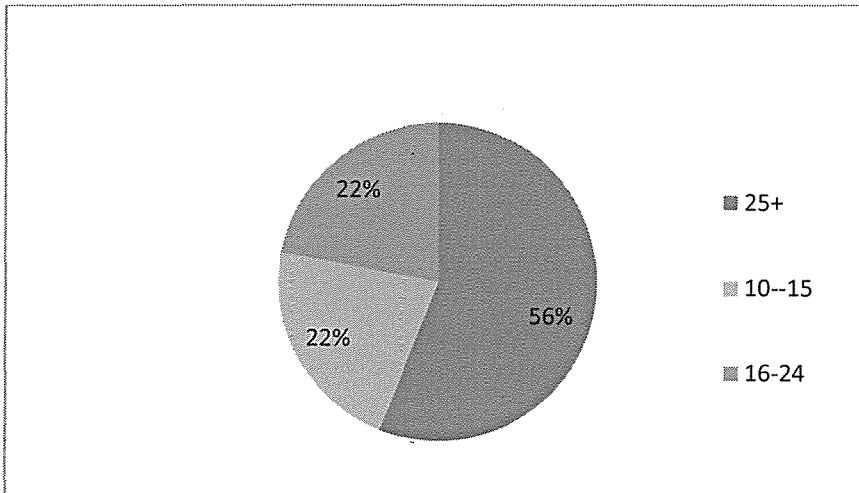
4.1 Age of the Respondents

Table 1 showing the age group of the respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
10-15	20	22
16-24	20	22
25 above	50	56
Total	90	100

Table 1 shows the age group of participants or respondents. The respondents of age group between 10-15 years were 20 totaling to the percentage of 22% between age 16-24 were 20 rating to 22% and those above 25years were 50 making 56%. This was drawn considering the demographic information of the respondents.

Figure 1: A pie chart showing the age group of the respondents in this research



Source: Primary data (2015)

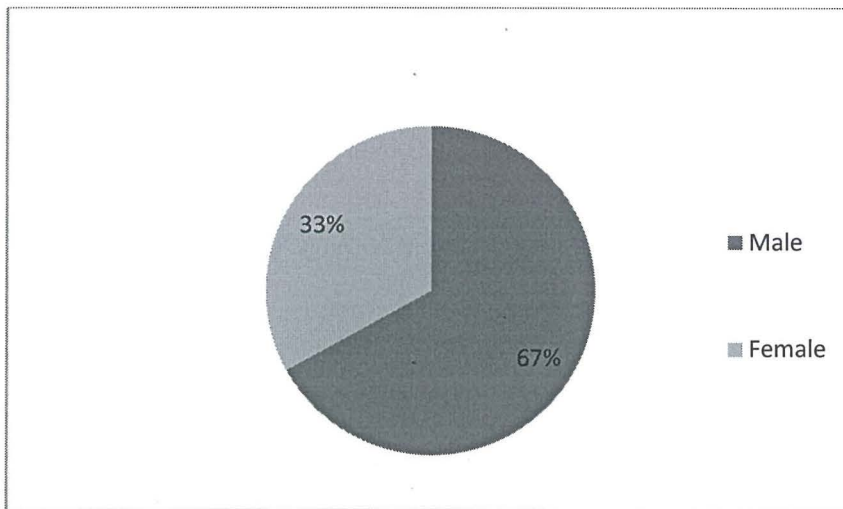
4.2 Gender of respondents

Table 2 showing the gender of the respondents

Gender of respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Male	60	67
Female	30	33
25 above	30	33
Total	90	100

During the research, the primary source of data indicates that both male and female participated in this research considering the frequency of the respondents, the male were 60 out of total of 90 respondents, for the case of female were 30 out of 90, giving a percentage of 33. The degrees are presented in the pie chart below;

Figure 2: Showing the gender of the respondents who participated in this research on an examination on the effects of divorce and child neglect on the social development of children in single parent families in Nakisunga Sub county.



Source: Primary Data (2015)

4.3 Level of education

According to survey made through this research, level of education was calculated and put in the table with aid of figures according to the level of education as from primary, secondary, tertiary and university level.

Table 3: showing respondent's level of education

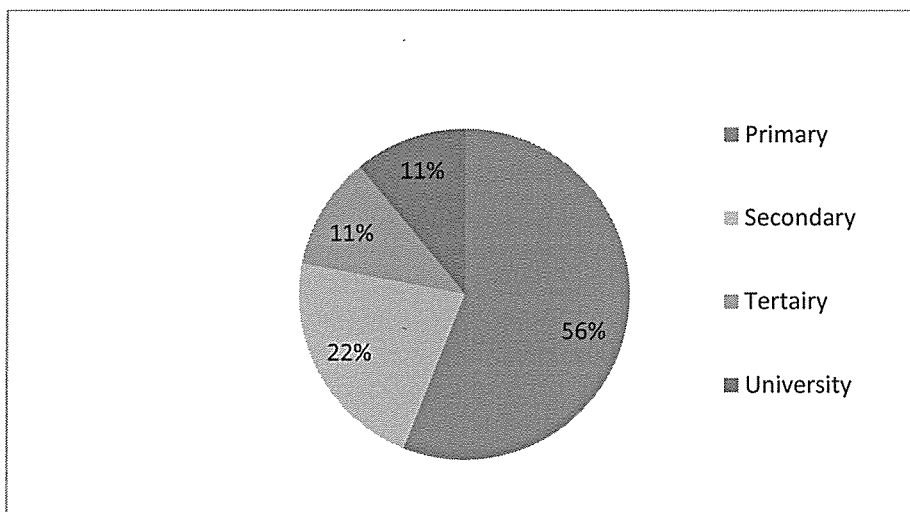
Gender of respondents	Frequency	Percentage
Primary	50	56
Secondary	20	22
Tertiary	10	11
University	10	11
Total	90	100

Source: primary data

According to the primary source of data, the above table shows the level of education of the participants in different levels like those who were not educated

was at none, the primary respondents were 50, with a percentage of 56%, secondary were 20 with 22%, and tertiary 10 with 11% and university were 10 with 11%. Therefore the above information shows the various levels of education that the respondents in the study had attained.

Figure 3: a pie chart showing the levels of education of the respondents who participated in this research.



Source: Primary data (2015)

4.4 Marital status of the respondents

This study covered the different status of the respondents who participated in making study on divorce and child neglect among single parents in Nakisunga Sub county in Mukono district. From the research findings, parents and local leaders were singles, married, divorced and widowed.

In partnership of presenting data, below is the table showing the respondents in this study on divorce and child neglect among single parents.

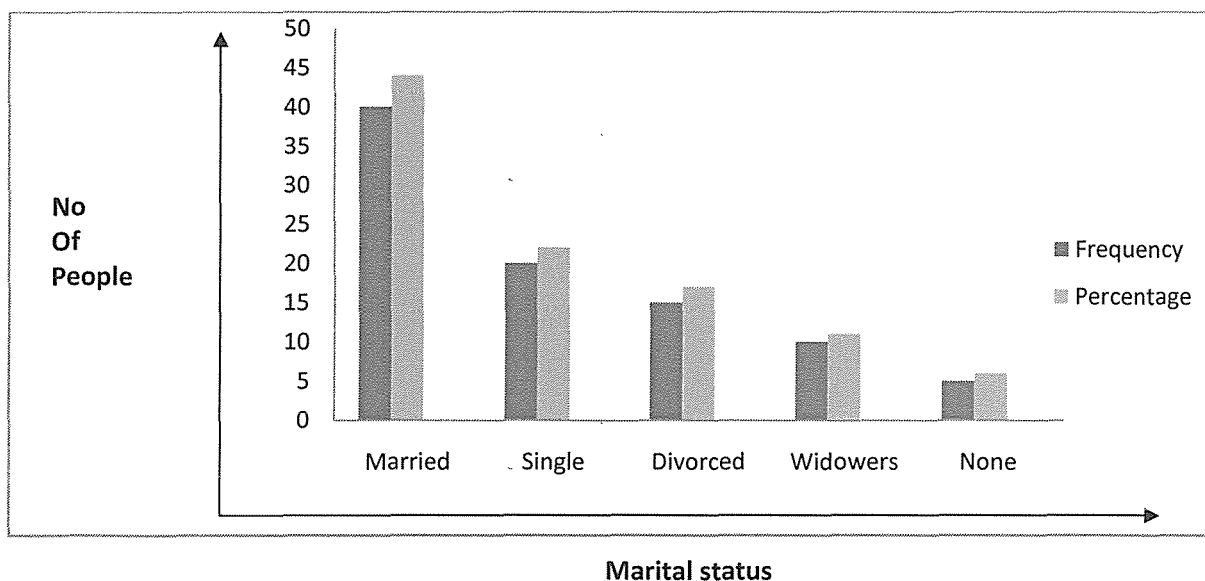
Table 4: representing data collected according to marital status in this research

Marital	Frequency	Percentage
Married	40	44
Single	20	22
Divorced	15	17
Widowers	10	11
None	5	6
Total	90	100

Source: Primary data (2015)

From the above table, it represents the marital status of the respondents in this study on the divorce and child neglect among single parents in Nakisunga subcounty. In details, married respondents were 40 with 44% the single were 20 with 22%, divorced were 15 with 17%. Widowers were 10 with 11% and none were 5 with 6%

Figure 4: A bar graph showing the marital status of respondents



Source: Primary data (2015)

4.5 Knowledge of the Respondents

The main objective of this study was to find out the major causes of divorce and child neglect among single parents in Nakisunga Sub county in Mukono district. To achieve this objective, the respondents were asked several questions intended to gauge their views and knowledge about divorce and child neglect.

They were asked to;

State if they have ever heard about divorce and child neglect.

State forms of divorce and child neglect they understand

State the causes of divorce and child neglect.

State the generic effects of divorce and child neglect signs of child neglect

State the solutions to divorce and child neglect

The result obtained were presented as follows

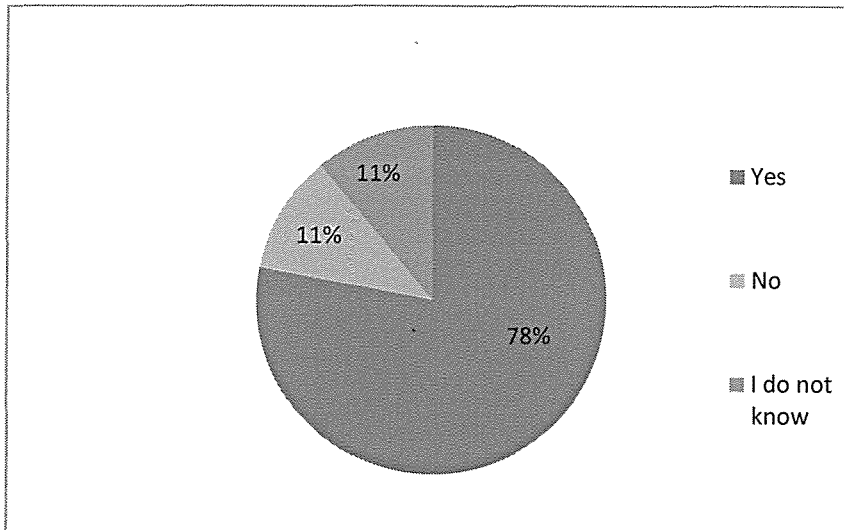
Table 5: showing the respondent's responses on whether they have ever heard about divorce and child neglect.

Marital	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	70	78
No	20	11
I do not know	10	11
Total	90	100

Source: Primary data (2015)

From the interpretation of results revealed in the above table, the majority of the respondents had ever heard about divorce and child neglect (70) with 78%, those who said no were 10 with 11% and finally those who said they do not know were 10 with 11%

Figure 5: the pie chart showing whether the respondents have ever heard about divorce and child neglect.



Source: Primary data (2015)

4.6 Responses on how the participants understood the term divorce

Table 6: showing the responses on how they understood divorce

Marital	Frequency	Percentage
It is breakdown of marriage	20	22
It is the end of marriage	10	11
It is when the wife and husband separate	60	67
Total	90	100

Source: Primary data

The table above shows the responses on how the respondents understood the divorce where the majority agreed that it is when the two couples separate (67%) and the least concluded that it is the end of marriage (11%)

4.7 Responses on how the respondents understood the term child neglect.

Table 7: showing the responses on how the respondents understood child neglect

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Its failure to look after child	50	56
Its when a parent does not provide basic needs to the child e.g food and shelter	30	33
Its when a parent dishonors the dignity of a child	10	11
Total	90	100

Source: Primary data

According to the table above, findings on the responses of the participants on how they understood child neglect revealed that slightly a half (50) which 56% said that it's the failure to look after a child while 30 which is 33% said it is when a parent does not provide basic needs to a child and finally 10 which is 11% said its when a parent dishonors the dignity of a child.

4.8 Findings on the kinds of divorce they understood

Table 8: showing the kinds of divorce that respondent understood

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Uncontested divorce	50	56
Default divorce	20	22
Mediated divorce	20	22
Total	90	100

Source: Primary data

The above reveals that the majority of the respondents ere well versed with uncontested divorce with about 50 (56%) while others which is 20 (22%) knew default and mediated divorce and this gave the researcher enough knowledge on the 3 types of divorce.

4.9 Knowledge on the forms child neglect the respondents were well versed with

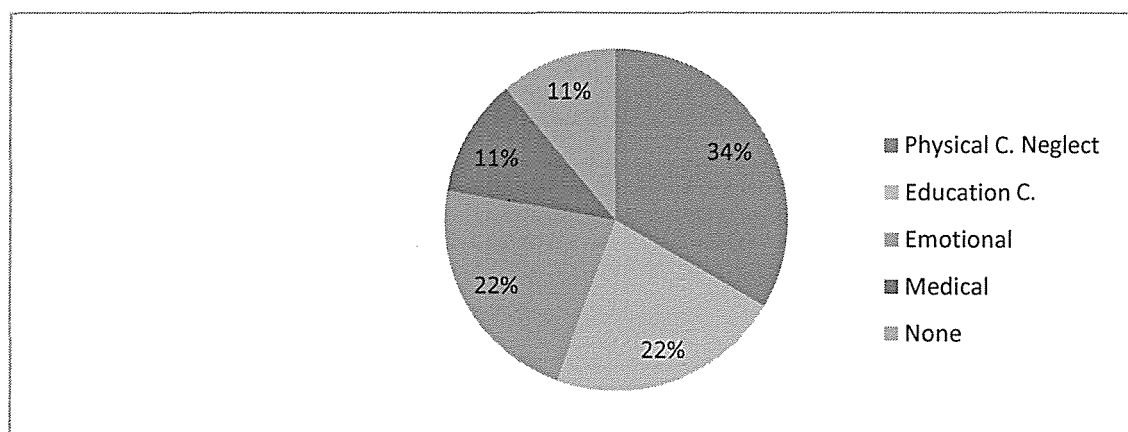
Table 9: shows the forms of child neglect that respondents explained to the researcher.

Forms of child neglect	Frequency	Percentage
Physical child neglect	30	33
Emotional child neglect	20	22
Educational child neglect	20	22
Medical child neglect	10	11
None	10	11
Total	90	100

Source: primary data

From the data displayed in then above table, the respondents suggested various forms of child neglect, physical child neglect were 30 with 33%, emotional child neglect were 20 with 22% educational child neglect were 20 with 22%, medical neglect were 10 with 11% and those who did not have knowledge on the four mentioned were 10 with 11%.

Figure 6: The pie chart showing the respondents on the various forms of child neglect.



Source: Primary data (2015)

4.10 Knowledge on the causes of divorce and child neglect

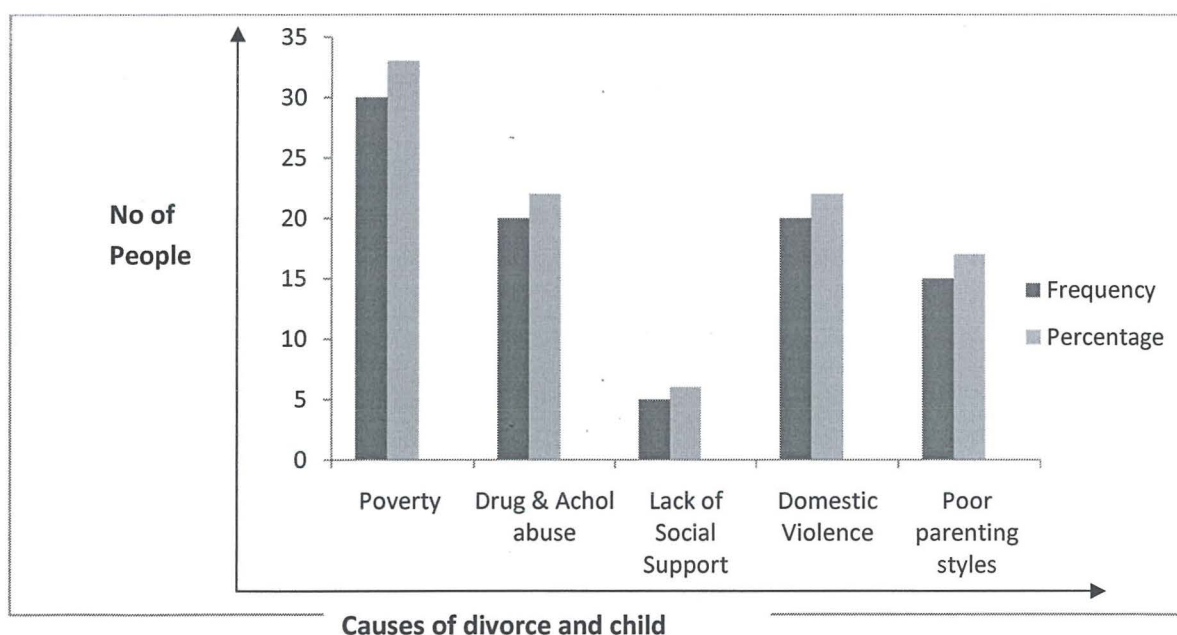
Table 10: showing the respondents knowledge on the causes of child neglect to social development.

Causes of child neglect	Frequency	Percentage
Poverty	30	33
Drug and alcohol abuse	20	22
Lack of social support	5	6
Domestic Violence	20	22
Poor parenting styles	15	17
Total	90	100

Source: primary data

According to the table above the majority of the respondents said that divorce and child neglect by poverty (30) with 33%, drug and alcohol were 20 with 22%, lack of support (5) with 6%, domestic violence were 20 with 22% and finally poor parenting styles were 15 with 17%

Figure 7: A graph showing the respondents' responses on the causes of divorce and child neglect among single parents in Nakisunga.



Source: Primary data (2015)

4.11 Knowledge on the effects of divorce and among single parents

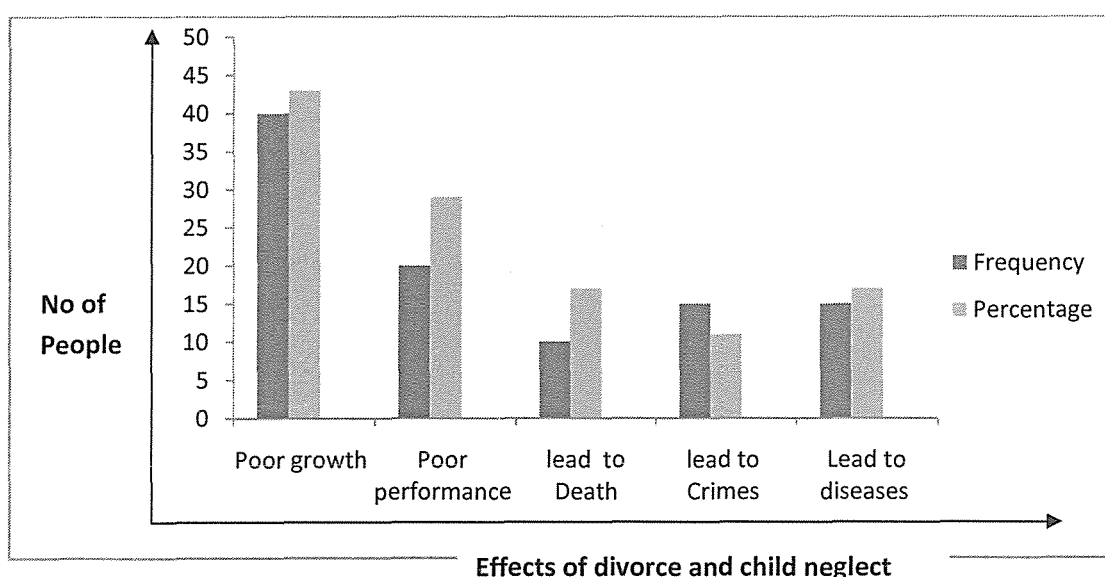
Table 11: showing the respondents knowledge on the effects of divorce and child neglect

Effects of divorce and child neglect	Frequency	Percentage
Leads to poor growth and development	40	43
Leads to poor performance at school	20	29
It can lead to death	10	17
Can lead to crimes	15	11
Leads to diseases like HIV/AIDS	15	17
Total	90	100

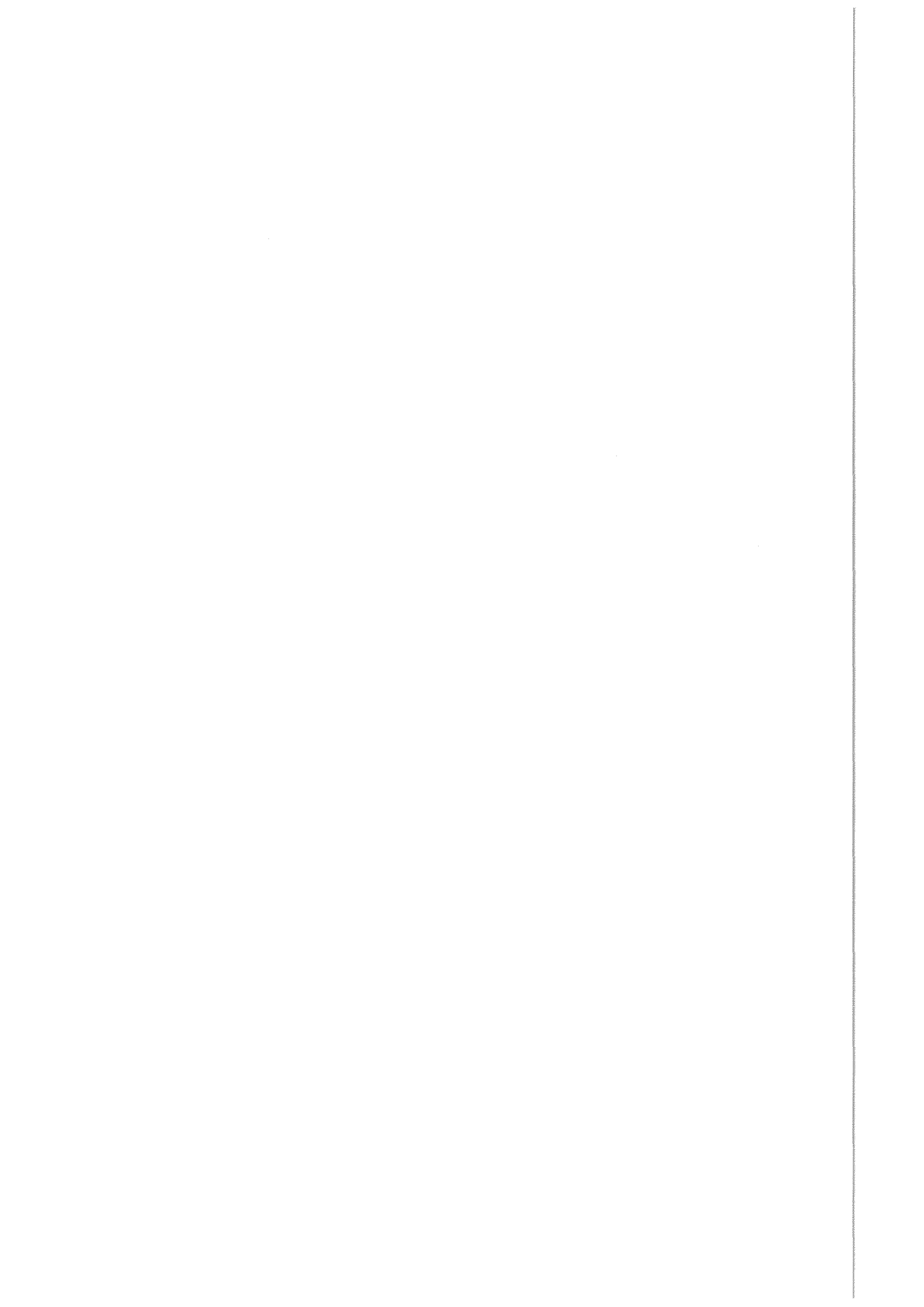
Source: Primary data

According to primary source of data, the above table shows that nearly a half of the respondents knew that divorce and child neglect can lead to poor growth and development (40) with 44%, those who knew that it can lead to poor performance at school were (20) with 22% those who said it can lead to death 10 with 11% while other respondents said diseases (HIV/AIDS) on the effect of divorce and child neglect were 8 with about 11%.

Figure 8: A bar graph showing the respondents' knowledge on the effects of divorce and child neglect



Source: Primary data (2015)



4.12 Signs of a child who has been neglected

The respondents who contributed in providing data for this study revealed various signs of a neglected child it was summarized in the table below.

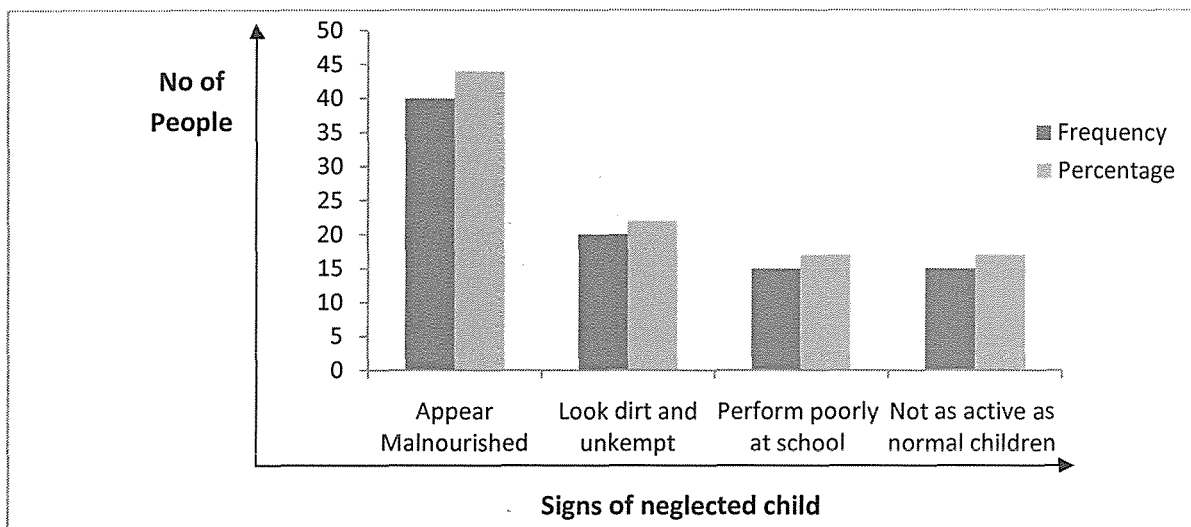
Table 12: shows the proportion of respondents who knew the key signs of a child who has been neglected due to divorce.

Signs of a neglected child	Frequency	Percentage
Appear malnourished	40	44
Looks dirty and unkempt	20	22
Performs poorly at school	15	17
Not as active as normal children	15	17
Total	90	100

Source: Primary data (2015)

According to the above, the data collected from respondents concerning signs of a neglected child indicated the following results, appear malnourished 40 with 44% looks dirty and unkempt 20 with 22% performs poorly at school 15 with 17% and finally those who said not active as the normal children were 15 with 17%.

Figure 9: A graph showing the proportion of respondents' who knew the key signs of a neglected child.



Source: Primary data (2015)

When asked the community whether they have very sensitized the community about the dangers of divorce and child neglect the responses were summarized in the table below.

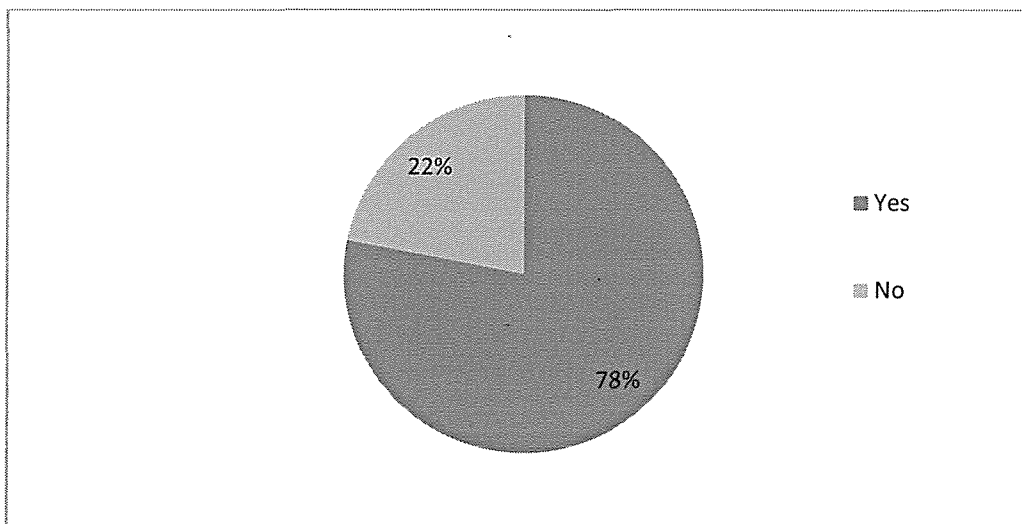
Table 13: showing the responses of community leaders on the sanitization of the community about the dangers of divorce and child neglect.

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	70	78
No	20	22
Total	90	100

Source: Primary data (2015)

According to the above table, on average 57 community leaders their response was Yes with about 81.4% where as those had sensitized their communities were 13 giving a percentage of 18.6%

Figure 10 A pie chart showing community sensitization about the dangers of divorce and child neglect.



Source: Primary data (2015)

When asked whether the government has taught about divorce and child neglect in community, the responses were summarized in the table below.

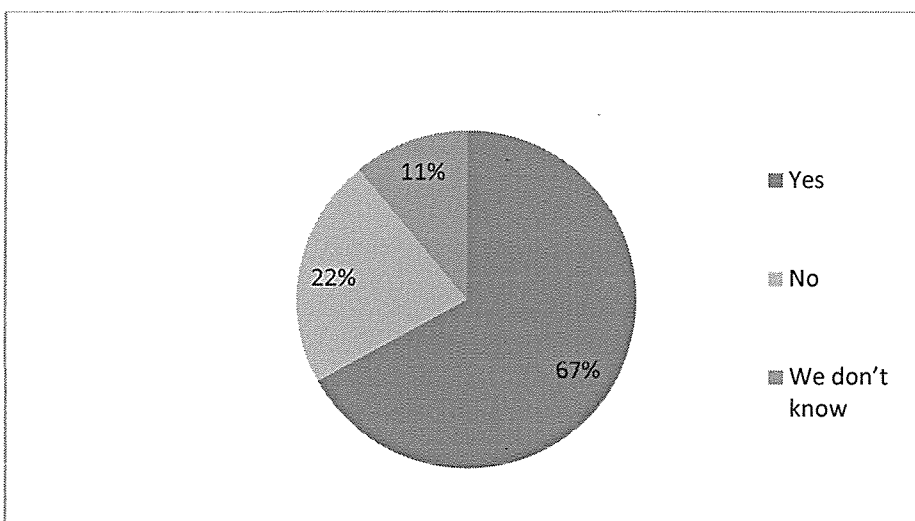
Table 12 showing respondents' responses on whether has government action about divorce and child neglect in the community

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	60	67
No	20	22
We don't know	10	11
Total	90	100

Source: Primary data (2015)

The table above shows various responses which were given by community leaders , parents and children when they were asked about the government move to stop divorce and child neglect 60 which is 67% said Yes, 20 which is 22% said No while those who do not know were 10 which is about 11%.

Figure 11 a pie chart showing whether government has intervened in the move to stop divorce and child neglect.



Source: Primary data (2015)

When asked community leaders on how they handle cases of divorce and child neglect, their responses were summarized as follows, been neglected by parents, it is important that we listen to him or her and we usually ask them five questions which help us to come at a conclusion

Table 13 showing how leaders handle cases of child neglect in Nakisunga Subcounty

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Provision of safe environment for the child to reveal hidden information	35	39
We summon a parent in our meetings	20	22
Give guidance and counseling to both parent and child	25	28
We refer extreme cases to other courts of law	10	11
Total	90	100

Source: Primary data (2015)

According to the table above almost a half of the respondents said provision of safe environment for the child information, and were 35 (39%) those who said we summon a parent in our meetings were 20 which is 22% while those who said give guidance and counseling to both parent and child were 25 which is 28% and finally who said we refer extreme cases to other courts of law were 10 which is 11%.

Other finding on the effects of divorce and child neglect were summarized as follows

Table 14 showing other effects of child neglect to the social development.

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Behavioural problems	20	22
Youth suicide	5	6
Mental health problems	15	17
Eating disorders	10	11
Drug and alcohol abuse	10	11
Aggressive characters	15	17
Trauma and psychological problems	10	11
Learning and developmental problems	10	11
Pyhsical health problems	5	6
Total	90	100

Source: Primary data (2015)

The table above shows the various responses that were asked about other effects of child neglect to the social development 20 which is 22% said behavior problems, 5 which is 6% said youth suicide, 15 which is 17% suggested mental health problems, 10 which is 17% said aggressive characters, those who said psychological problems were 10 which is 11% whereas said learning and development problems and finally those who said health problems were 5 which is 6%.

Findings on what should be done to alleviate the effects of child abuse to social development amongst the disabled people in Nakisunga Sub county.

Table 15 showing possible solutions to eliminate child neglect

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Guidance and counseling be done to both children and parents	20	22
Home visiting programs that can act as early detection mechanism	15	17
High quality child care for disadvantaged children	17	19
Effective programs of intervention like poverty alleviation	10	11
Children's statute should be implemented	12	13
Strict laws against child neglect	6	7
Family planning methods should be encouraged	5	6
Child rehabilitation centers should be set up	5	6
Total	90	100

Source: Primary data (2015)

The table above presents the possible solutions which were suggested by community leaders, parents and children as an attempt to alleviate the child neglect to social development. 20 which is 22% said guidance and counseling of both parents and children, 15 which is 17% said home visiting programs that can act as early detection mechanism, still 17 which is 19% said high quality child care for the disadvantaged children. 10 which is 11% said effective programs of intervention like poverty alleviation, 12 which is 13% said children's statute should be implemented, 6 which is 7% said strict laws against child neglect. 5 which is 6% said family planning methods should be encouraged and finally 5 which is also 6% said child rehabilitation centers should be set up.

The points (suggested views) in the table above therefore need to be considered and applied by the concerned authorities if effects of child neglect to the social development amongst the disabled people are to be solved in Nakisunga Sub County Mukono district.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION, RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the discussion, summary, conclusion and recommendation that have been proposed by the study to address the issues that were raised in the research questions.

5.1 Discussion

The main objective for this study was to investigate on the divorce and child neglect among single parents in Nakisunga Subcounty, Mukono. Specifically, the study sought to explore the levels of divorce and neglect its impact to the development of child socially.

Data analysis and interpretation of the questionnaire responses from the respondents revealed that despite the knowledge, civil society and the general public did not place this issue as very important one.

According to the findings, many children were neglected by their parents due to lack of social support, poverty, domestic violence and child abuse. The study also indicated that child neglect has a negative contribution to the child's social development such as emotion and physical disturbance.

The study also indicated a high rate of mortality due to child neglect, high drop out rates and poor academic performance on the side of the neglected children.

5.2 Social demographic information

From the study findings slightly less than a half, 30 of the respondents were in their productive age between 16-24 with a mean age of 24 years. This category admitted to have seen some negative impact to the child as a result of neglect.

Slightly more than a half of the respondents 60 were male with a percentage of 67% while 30 were female with 33%. This showed that men are the household held and decision makers, female were involved in economic activities than male as male were found at home during interviews.

Equally, from the analysis, it is clear that slightly more than three quarters of the respondents 77% were divorced and without stable income. This occurrence contributes significantly to the children's neglect.

Slightly more than a half of respondents attained primary level education 50 which is 56%, while 20 which is 22% had secondary education, while 10 which is 11% had tertiary education and 10 which is 11% had university education. This indicated that respondents with tertiary and university education understood that disability is a result of natural cause while primary and members of the community had neglected the children.

The community members know the key signs of a neglected child, slightly more than 50 which is 39% of the respondents mentioned physical signs which includes welts or cuts, behavioral signs may include a child being fearful, shy away from such or appear to be afraid to go home, a child's clothing may be inappropriate for the weather such as heavy, long sleeved pants and shifts on hot days 19% of the respondents mentioned care giver signs which indicated that physically abusive care givers may display anger management issues and excessive need for control. At least the community members had good knowledge on vulnerability

The study also revealed that knowledge on the effects of divorce and child neglect was high with 40 which is 44% reported poor growth and development, 20 reported poor performance at school giving a percentage of 22%, 10 which is 11% reported deaths of a child those who said that it can lead to crimes were 15 which is 17% and those who have knowledge on the effects of child neglect were 5 which is 6%

5.3 Summary of the major findings

The first objective of the study was to investigate the causes of divorce and child neglect among the single parents, 44% of the respondents agreed that child neglect leads to poor growth and development but accompanied with other factors.

The second objective focused on the effects of divorce and child neglect, still all 30% of the respondents agreed that child neglect is caused by poverty, drug and alcohol abuse and lack of social support.

The last objective focused on the possible solutions to alleviate the effects of divorce and child neglect amongst single parents. The respondents suggested various solutions which includes; guidance and counseling, home visiting programs, high quality child care for children of divorce parents.

5.4 Conclusion

The study investigated the effects of divorce and child neglect among single parents in Nakisunga Subcounty Mukono district. It was intended to explore the perceptions, practices, knowledge and socio-economic status as regards to social development. This was in relation of the rising cases of child neglect. The study specifically sought to examine the general effects of divorce and child neglect among single parents in Nakisunga Sub county, Mukono district.

The study established that there was adequate knowledge about divorce and child neglect as majority of the respondents knew the various signs of a neglected child. In view of these findings, the study concludes the response on divorce and child neglect depends mainly on income availability to all households, community mobilization on child neglect issues and quality cases of the neglected children among the single parents.

5.5 Recommendations

The rampant cases of divorce and child mortality can be arrested if the following can be carried out;

The community should be actively involved in decision making for any activity carried out by the church or civil society.

The community should be educated on the need to support the neglected children among single parents

There should be equitable distribution of resources with our discrimination to all people in the community so as to alleviate the causes of divorce and child neglect.

The ministry of Health should educate the community on family planning issues and the need to have safe sex since too much number of children can lead to the economic burden

Politicians should seek global advocacy to counter the problem of divorce and child neglect.

The government should tighten laws concerning divorce so as to eliminate the post effect of divorce such as child neglect.

The ministry of Health should initiate national actions backed by partnerships of stake holders (NGO's)

The community to be able to recognize the signs of a neglected child and act accordingly

5.6 Areas for further research

The study was only limited to the causes, effects and strategies of divorce and among single parents. Further researchers should look at the following;

Research on the relationship between divorce and child neglect in Nakisunga subcounty in Mukono district. Also a study should be conducted to investigate economic status of parents that lead to divorce and child neglect in Nakisunga Sub county in Mukono district.

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APPENDICES

Questionnaire to Community Leaders

Dear respondents

I am Namusoke Dianah a student of the above institution taking Bachelor of social work and social administration. I am researching on the topic "divorce and child neglect amongst single parents in Nakisunga Sub-county, Mukono district" as one of the academic requirements, therefore I humbly request you to answer the question below to the best ability.

All the information you will give will be held as confidential and used for study purposes only. Please answer with utmost sincere in the space provided, do not conceal any information and answer the best of your knowledge. With your help I am hopeful that this research will contribute to the general body knowledge and my success. Your cooperation will be highly appreciated.

Thank you in advance for your contribution and cooperation.

Please respond to the best of your knowledge. Please tick in the boxes provide where applicable

Questionnaire to Community Leaders

1. a) Have you ever heard about child neglect and divorce among single parents?

Yes No.

b) If yes, what does it mean?

.....
.....

2. What are the various forms of divorce and child neglect do you normally experience in your community?

.....
.....

3. What do you think are the causes of divorce and child neglect among single parents?

.....
.....

4. What are some of the effects of divorce and child neglect to the single parents in your community?

.....
.....

5. What are some of the effects of divorce and child neglect on the social development of children in single parent families?

.....
.....

6. a) As community leaders, have you ever sensitized your community about danger of divorce and child neglect.

Yes No

b) if yes, then how?

.....
.....

Questionnaire to Parents

1. What could be the cause of divorce and child neglect among single parents?

.....
.....

2. What do you think can be the effect of divorce and child neglect to the single parents?

.....
.....

3. What problems do single parents face as a result of divorce and child neglect in the community?

.....
.....

4. What are your general comments on divorce and child neglect?

.....
.....

5. What strategies have you put in place to mitigate the problem of divorce and child neglect?

.....
.....