

# The Study on the Effect of Child Labour on the Learners Academic Performance in Secondary Schools. A Case Study of Nansana Municipality

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**Abstract:** *The goal of the study was to determine how child labor affected secondary school students' academic and school achievement in Nansana Municipality. Out of the 415 respondents, 350 provided the researcher with correct data, which served as the foundation for the study. Data were collected by the researcher using random sampling methods, and data analysis and interpretation were done using quantitative methods. The study's goals were to establish the connection between child labor and academic achievement among secondary school students in Nansana Municipality, to look into the factors that influence child labor among pupils in secondary schools in Nansana Municipality in Wakiso District, and to identify the various forms of child labor that these students engage in. According to the report's results, the research scientist came to the conclusion that the majority of those surveyed told him there was a strong correlation among both child labor and academic achievement. The study's findings also showed that the majority of survey participants said poverty was the main factor driving child labor, and they showed that the majority of the participants gave the research scientist results.*

**Keywords:** child labour and academic performance

## Background of the Study

According to the bible, proverbs 1:8, written by the united bible societies, children are commanded by God to obey their parents. The same has also applied in the African traditional ethics, due to some factors like poverty, diseases, and death, this rule has been abused by parents or guardians and they engage children into the act of child labour. The child labour activities have of late increased rising an alarm to various concerned organization.

Child labour is a long-time international vice that denies children from attending school at their tender ages, instead they work for their own or family's survival. Child labour has always been associated with high levels of poverty and family circumstances. There were 215 million kids who had full-time jobs (ILO 2004). These kids don't attend school, and they have little to no free time, inadequate nutrition, or care. According to estimates, there are 215 million child laborers worldwide, with 114 million of them living in Asia and the Pacific, 14 million in Latin America, and 65 millions in sub-Saharan Africa (Robin, Carol, Jenifer). The Ugandan constitution provides the kinds of employment that children may do, such as assist with domestic chores and paperwork, as long as it is done outside of school hours and just doesn't conflict with their education, physical growth, or mental character. According to the 1975 labour decree, a person must be at least 14 years old to work. Children who are compensated for doing work outside of their homes are considered to be engaged in child labor, which is defined as employing kids in the age range of 5 to 14 years, whether or not they receive compensation. Employing a kid less than 13 in any capacity is prohibited by Ugandan law's Part 2 Section 9 of the Children Act. NO. 16 of the Children's Act of 1996. Defines women's rights and the wellbeing standards that should be followed by those who look after them. While it is legal for children to attend school, many are forced into child labor programs due to poverty and other factors, which compromise their schooling, health, and protection as a youngster.

## Problem Statement

According to the 1975 labour decree, a person must be at least 14 years old to work. Children who are compensated for doing work from outside their homes are considered to be engaged in child labor, which is defined as employing kids in the age range of 5 to 14 years, whether or not they receive compensation. Employing a kid less than 13 in any capacity is prohibited by Ugandan law's Part 2 Section 9 of the Children Act. NO. 16 of the Children's Act of 1996. Defines women's rights and the wellbeing standards that should be followed by those who look after them. While it is legal for children to attend school, many are forced into child labor programs due to poverty and other factors, which compromise their schooling, health, and protection as a youngster.

## Specific Objectives

1. To assess the relationship between child labour and academic performance in secondary school students in Nansana Municipality.
2. To investigate the determinants of child labour among secondary school students in Nansana Municipality in Wakiso District.

3. To identify the different child labour activities among secondary school students in Nansana Municipality.

### Research Questions

1. What is the relationship between child labour and academic performance of secondary school students in Nansana Municipality?
2. What are the different determinants of child labour among secondary school students in Nansana Municipality in Wakiso District?
3. What is the different child labour activities among secondary school students in Nansana Municipality?

### Methodology

#### Research design

This study included the descriptive survey design which was good at describing characteristics of variables in a situation. According to Best and Khan (2019), descriptive survey design is concerned with conditions or relationships that exists, opinions that are held, processes that are going on, effects that are evident, or trends that are developed. (Kerlinger, 1969). The descriptive survey design will enable collection of data without manipulating the research variables.

#### Target population

The target population of the study was on the students of different secondary schools in Nansana Municipality Wakiso, Teachers and Parents. The target population was comprising of over 500 respondents in total including 400 students, 50 Teachers and 50 Parents.

Table 1: Target Population

Respondents	Target Population
Students	400
Teachers	50
Parents	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>

### Sampling

#### Sample size

A sample is a smaller pressure of subjects obtained from the accessible population (Mugenda and Mugenda 2013). The study employed Mugenda and Mugenda (2013) who recommended sample size of at least 60% of the target population. The researcher used the above formula to determine the sample size for the 500 respondents.

Table 2: Sample Size

Respondents	Target Population	Sample Size
Students	400	350
Teachers	50	30
Parents	50	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>415</b>

#### Sampling Procedure

Sampling is the process of selecting a number of individuals for a study in such a way that the individuals selected represent the large pressure from which they were selected Mugenda and Mugenda, (2013). The researcher used random sampling technique to

select the sample size from individuals. A sampling frame was designed by the researcher and distributed to the target population. This was enabled every member of the accessible population to have equal chance of participating in the study.

### Data Analysis techniques

The study's single approach was adopted, which necessitated the use of statistical methods for gathering data. Data analysis employed the deductive method. With this methodology, operationalized study objectives were used to generate and test hypotheses. In order to explain the quantitative data, tables and charts were created using computer software such as Microsoft Excel. In order to show the study's findings with the greatest amount of impartiality and readability, tables and charts were also utilized. Moreover, descriptive data from the field group conversation was evaluated to get extra support for the conclusions drawn.

## RESULTS

### Response Rate

The response rate of the respondents is explained in the table below:

**Table 3: Groups of respondents and number of questionnaires retrieved**

Respondent Groups	Target Population	Sample Size	Retrieved Questionnaires
Students	400	350	300
Parents	50	30	20
Teachers	55	35	30
TOTAL	500	415	350

Source: Research data 2021

The table above clearly indicated that the researcher retrieved data from 300 students out of the sample size of 350 students and the researcher at the same time retrieved data from 20 Parents out of the sample size of 50 and finally the researcher retrieved data from 30 teachers out of the sample size of 50. This made a total of 350 respondents who presented to the researcher accurate data that was used basing on the objectives of the study.

### Demographic Profile of the respondents

#### Gender Composition of respondents

Table 4: Table showing gender Composition of respondents

GENDER	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
MALE	220	63
FEMALE	130	37

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>
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Source: Research data 2021

The table above shows the gender composition of respondents and it indicated that 63% of the respondents were females and 37% of the respondents were males.

#### Age of respondents

Table 5: Table showing age of respondents

<b>AGE</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>
15 - 35	320	91
36 - 50	15	4
51 - 60	10	3
61+	5	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Research data 2021

The table above shows the age of respondents and it indicated that 91% of the respondents ranged from 15 to 35, 4% of the respondents ranged from 36 to 50, 3% of the respondents ranged from 51 to 60 and finally 2% of the respondents were above 60 years old.

#### Education level of respondents

Table 6: Education Level of respondents

<b>EDUCATION LEVEL</b>	<b>FREQUENCY</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE (%)</b>
DEGREE	30	8
DIPLOMA	15	4
SECONDARY LEVEL	300	86
PRIMARY	5	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Research data 2021

The table above shows the education level of respondents. It indicates that 10% of the respondents have degrees, 4% have diplomas, 86% have secondary level and finally 2% are of primary level.

**Marital Status of respondents (Teachers and Parents)**

Table 7: Marital Status of respondents

MARITAL STATUS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
MARRIED	25	50
DIVORCED	10	20
SINGLE	15	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Research data 2021

The table above clearly indicates that 50% of the respondents were married, 20% of the respondents were divorced and finally 30% of the respondents were still single since they were all students.

**Working experience (Teachers)**

Table 8: Working Experience

YEARS OF WORKING	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
01 - 05	20	67
06 - 10	7	23
11 - 15	3	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Research data 2021

The table above shows the working experience of the respondents and it presented that 67% of the respondents have a working experience of 01 to 05 years followed by 23% of the respondents who have worked for 06 to 10 years and finally 10% of the respondents had a working experience of 11 – 15 years.

**The relationship between child labour and academic performance**

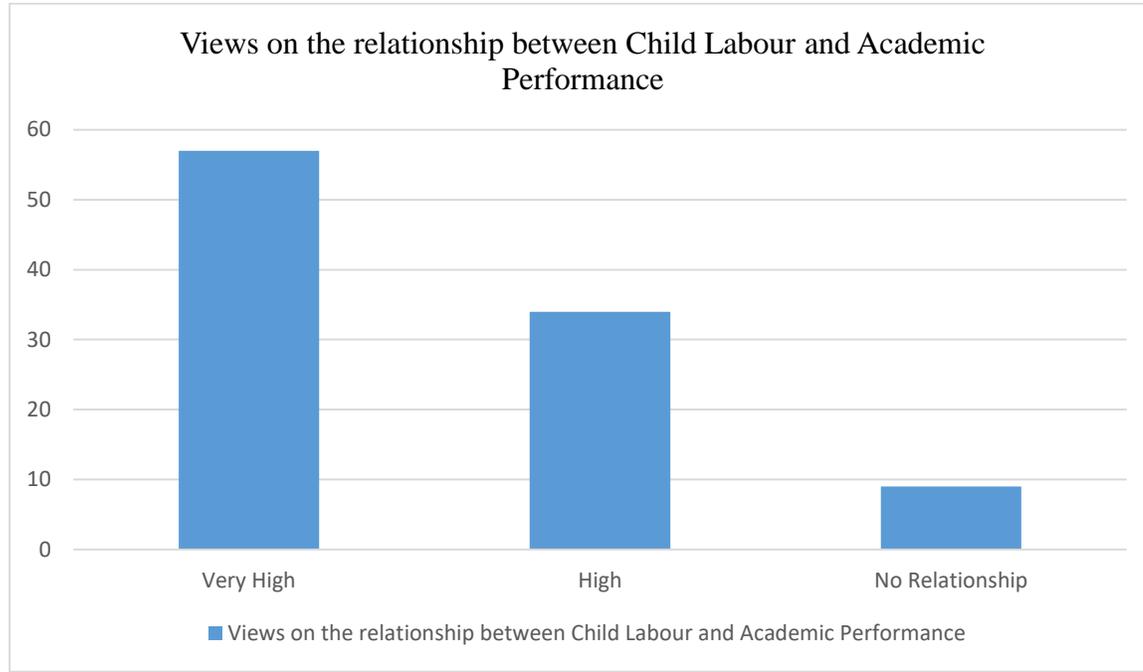
Table 9: Relationship between Child Labour and Academic Performance

RESPONDENTS VIEWS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Very high	200	57
High	120	34
No relationship	40	9

TOTAL	350	100
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Source: Research data 2021

Figure 1: Relationship between Child Academic Performance



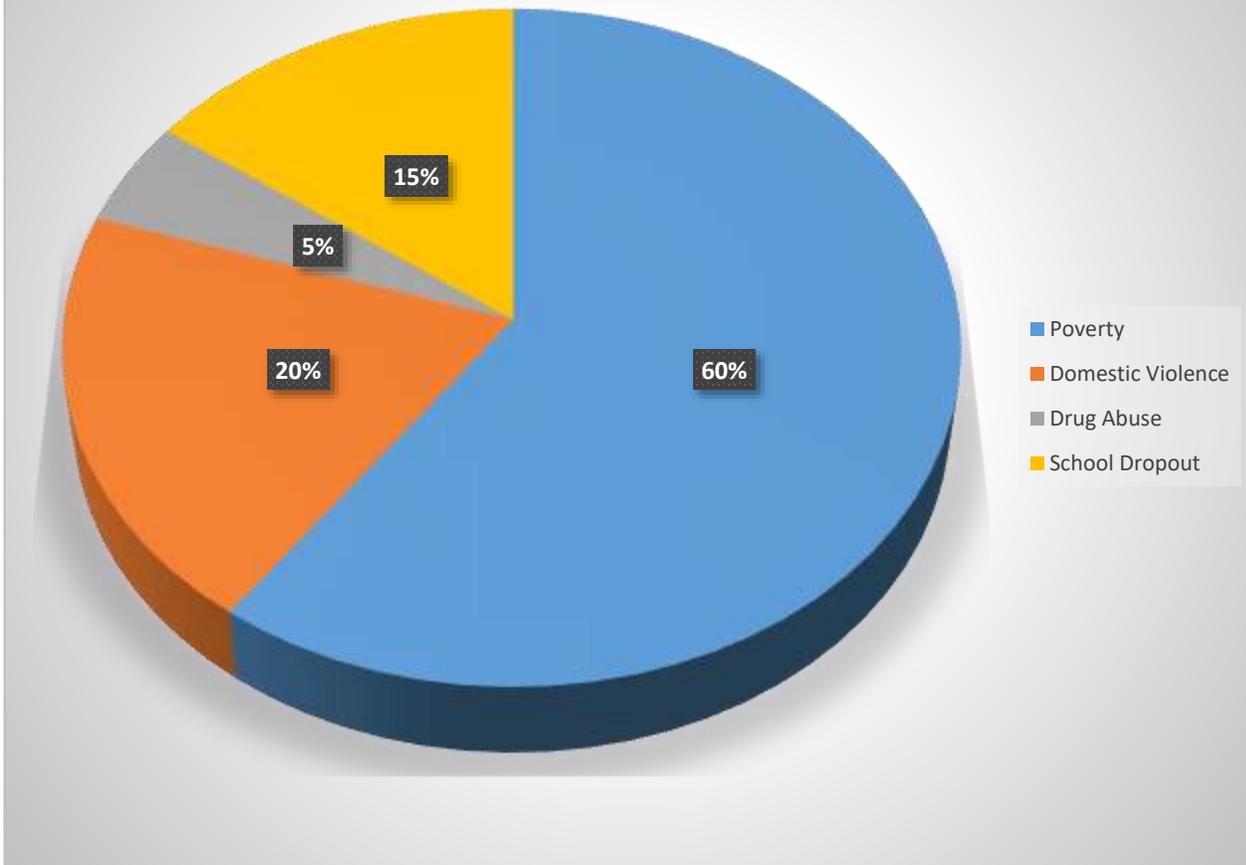
Source: Research data 2021

Both the table and the figure above indicate that 57% of the respondents informed the researcher that the relationship between child labour and academic performance was very high followed by 34% of the respondents and finally 9% of the respondents presented results to the researcher showing that there is no relationship between child labour and academic performance.

### The determinants of child labour among secondary school students

Figure 2: Determinants of Child labour among Secondary Schools

## Views on determinants of Child Labour



Source: Research data 2021

According to the figure above, 60% of the respondents informed the researcher that poverty was the main determinant of child labour followed by 20% of the respondents who however informed the researcher that domestic violence was another determinant of child labour. School dropout (15%) was another determinant of Child labour and finally 5% of the respondents informed the researcher that Drug abuse was also another determinant of child labour according to the respondents.

### Identify the different child labour activities

Table 10: Different Child Labour activities

CHILD LABOUR ACTIVITIES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE (%)
Fishing	55	16
Harvesting	70	20
Working in Factories	100	29

Hawking on streets	65	18
Construction	60	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>350</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Research data 2021

In accordance with the study's findings, 16% of survey participants told the research scientist that the primary child labor activity was fishing, which was primarily prevalent to those who lived near water bodies, accompanied by 20% of survey participants who said that extraction was just another child labor activity that was mostly prevalent during the harvesting season, and the majority of the participants, totaling 29%, claimed that numerous children who are unauthorized work in processing plants.

### Conclusions

According on the report's results, the researcher arrived at the following conclusions.

In accordance with the report's results, the research scientist came to the conclusion that the majority of respondents told him there was a very strong correlation between child labor and educational achievement, while others gave him data that showed there was no correlation between child labor and academic performance in secondary schools.

In concluding, the research authors revealed that the majority of respondents told the research scientist that the main factor influencing child labor in neighborhoods was poverty, and that another factor was domestic violence. Lastly, other respondents named drug use as a few of the factors that influence child labor.

### Recommendations

The government should provide activities and programs geared to improve accessibility of girls to quality relevant education. For instance, the government should fully take care of the needs of girls in while in schools by provision of personal effects. This will in turn enhance occupational mobility which will bring about economic empowerment.

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