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Master's thesis of Public Administration

**The Impact of Unemployment on
Social Behavior among the Youth in
Uganda:**

A Case Study of Kampala City

실업이 우간다 청소년들의 사회적
행태에 미치는 영향:
캄팔라시에 대한 사례 연구

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Graduate School of Public Administration

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Public Administration Major

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The Impact of Unemployment on Social Behavior among the Youth in Uganda:

A Case Study of Kampala City

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Abstract

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The research was under the topic, “The impact of unemployment on social behavior among the Youth in Uganda: a case study of Kampala city”. The study focused on two main objectives of assessing the influence of unemployment on early marriages among Kampala youth and examining the extent to which youth unemployment contributes to the crime rate in Kampala city. It was based on both primary and secondary data. Primary data was gathered directly from the field using a self completed questionnaire instrument. 16 questionnaires were given out to the respondents. The secondary data was obtained from existing documents written about the topic under study.

Majority of the respondents agreed to the fact that there is a close linkage between youth unemployment, crime and early marriages citing financial constraints as the main reason for youth to engage in the two activities. Respondents also cited other factors other than unemployment as leading to youth involvement in crime and early marriage like, poor parenting, peer pressure, cultural norms, drug and alcohol abuse among others. It was noted that crime and early marriage also have multiplier effects like moral decay in society, insecurity and high population growth rate. From such findings,

recommendation were drawn to help curb the problem of crime and early marriages in relation to unemployment and these include; strict enforcement of laws relating to the two variables, fight corruption in government institutions, equip young people with more skills for self employment and career guidance to the youth in regards to attitude towards certain jobs especially in the agricultural sector.

Key words: youth, unemployment, crime and early marriage

Student ID: 2011-24180

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
BTVET	Business, Technical and Vocational Education and Training
DFID	Department for International Development of the United Kingdom
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IGG	Inspector General of Government
ILO	International Labor Organization
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development
NAADS	National Agricultural Advisory Services
NGO	Non Government Organization
NYP	National Youth Policy
SACCOS	Savings and Credit Cooperative Societies
TFR	Total Fertility Rate
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics

UDHS	Uganda Demographic and Health survey
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHS	Uganda National Household Survey
UNICEF	United Nations Children’s Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Youth unemployment is a prevalent problem in 21st Century Uganda. A 2010 International Labour Organisation (ILO) report reveals that the share of unemployed youth among the total unemployed persons in the country is as high as 83%. Youth unemployment, therefore, poses a serious political, economic and social challenge to the country and its leadership. The persistence of this problem is also partly contributing to Uganda's slow progress towards attaining some of its Millennium Development Goals. According to the ILO, the number of unemployed youth worldwide increased by 10.2 million in 2009 compared to 2007, the largest hike since 1991. At 12.6 per cent in 2011, the global youth unemployment rate remains a full percentage point above its level in 2007. In 2011, nearly 75 million youth were unemployed around the world, an increase of more than 4 million since 2007. (ILO, May 2012)

More and more young people are having trouble when first looking for job, and youth unemployment levels are certainly serious in many member States of the ILO. The rate of unemployment of the youth is much higher than that of adults in most countries of the world; recent ILO estimates suggest that at least 60 million young people are without a job and that youth unemployment rates are, on average, three times as high as adult rates (ILO, 1998a).

The National Labour Force and Child activities survey 2011/12 shows that about 58 percent of the population was aged 17 years or below, implying that Uganda has a very young population. The population of the youth (18 – 30 years) constituted about 20 percent of the total population almost the same proportion of those aged 15-24 years. The median age was 15 years, with no major variations in the structure of the population.

Recent statistics show that Uganda has the youngest population in the world, with youth 18-30 years currently estimated at 6,588,000 (UYCSEP, 2009). Although the percentage of the youth living in poverty is not known, poverty affects young people in a striking manner. The World Bank in its 2008 report said Uganda had the highest youth unemployment rate and the youngest population in the world. It warned that unless Uganda scales up her efforts to create jobs, the youth would be more involved in crime and armed conflicts.

Uganda's unemployment rate is 3.5% and that of the youths is a whopping 32.2%, while for those who have University degrees is 36 per cent¹. The National Bureau of Statistics also indicates that the rate of unemployment in Uganda is 32% and 22.3% is for the youth alone. According to the African Development Indicator's report 2008/2009, 83% of Ugandan youth are unemployed and the information from the Uganda youth conference held at Makerere University in Aug 2010 shows that out of the 400,000 students who graduate every year only 80,000 get employed. According to the same report,

¹ <http://www.sunrise.ug/blogs/87-moses-walubiri/2134-are-natural-disasters-an-indicator-of-gods-wrath.html>

Uganda's population also has the highest dependency ratio² in Africa — registered at 1:1.

The level of unemployment in Uganda has profound economic and social implications. From an economic point of view, the overall unemployment rate is one of the key measures of an economy's performance. Moreover, the unemployment rate is of social importance since it is also a key variable in alleviating poverty. With a high unemployment rate, it will be difficult, to alleviate poverty and inequality in Uganda over the long term.

Crime and delinquency are also one of the most frequently discussed outcomes of youth unemployment, although Grainger (1980) concluded that there is no simple or direct relationship. One major American longitudinal study found unemployed youth to report twice as much use of illicit drugs and aggressive acts as did their employed counterparts (Bachman, O'Malley and Johnston, 1978). This finding is no exception to the Ugandan case where unemployed youth have turned into criminals as means of survival.

Gender should be counted in analyzing the unemployment. Although historically there has been a tendency in the literature to focus almost exclusively on male unemployment, thus tacitly implying that women are only supplementary wage earners (Liem and Rayman, 1984), there are compelling recent data documenting the growth in female participation in the labour force

²the ratio of people younger than 15 or older than 64 to the working age population

(e.g. Martin and Roberts, 1984), and identifying the consequences of unemployment for young women (Stafford, Jackson and Banks, 1980; Banks and Jackson, 1982; Warr, Banks and Ullah, 1985). This therefore explains why the young girls who cannot find employment in most cases are lured in early marriage in order for their spouse to provide them with financial support they need to survive.

1.2 Research questions

Despite all efforts to try and improve the situation of youth unemployment by the Ugandan government such as setting up the school leaver's industrial fund according to the 2010/2011 National budget meant to provide funds for youth to start up small businesses, the problem still persists leading to youth involvement in crime and early marriages as social cost of their being unemployed.

This research aims at analyzing the impact of youth unemployment on social behavior so as to come up with a productive youth population that can foster the country's economic growth.

Two primary objectives of this thesis are:

- i. Assess the influence of unemployment on early marriages among Kampala youth
- ii. Examine the extent to which youth unemployment contributes to the crime rate in Kampala city

The following research questions will be used to analyze and draw up conclusions on the impact of youth unemployment on social behavior among youth in Uganda.

1. What are the causes of youth unemployment in Uganda?
2. What are the consequences of youth unemployment?
3. To what extent does unemployment affect youth social behavior in relation to crime and early marriages?

The study will be conducted on Ugandan youth aged 15-24 so as to include those young girls and boys below the age of 18 who get married in order to cover the early marriage concept. The research is conducted on Kampala which is the capital city of Uganda with massive rural-urban migration of the youth in search for job opportunities which are actually not there, making the problem high in the area.

The findings of the study will provide information on what steps to be taken to achieve Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 1(Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger).

The study will also facilitate the formation of relevant policies, strategies and action programmes to address the problem of youth unemployment in relation to crime and early marriages in Uganda.

This research paper consists of four chapters. Chapter two is the literature review exploring what has been studied in the field of youth unemployment in relation to crime and early marriages in Uganda. Chapter three looks at the

methods used in data collection, analysis and interpretations. Chapter four provides the conclusions and recommendations.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter reviews literature on youth unemployment in relation to crime and early marriages. The chapter discusses the situation of youth unemployment, causes, consequences, youth and crime.

2.1 Definition of a youth and unemployment

According to the standard United Nations definition, "youth" comprises young people aged from 15 to 24 years (United Nations, 1992) but the definition varies among countries and development institutions. Generally, the period between childhood and adulthood is called youth. During this period a person prepares himself/herself to be an active and a fully responsible member of the society. It is a transitional period from family dependant childhood to independent adulthood and integration in the society as a responsible citizen. The youth are major component of the population because they constitute the productive and reproductive life of the population.

The Uganda National Youth Policy (NYP) defines a youth as a person who is within the age bracket of 18 to 30 years. The Ugandan definition has been informed by international and regional definitions namely United Nations, Common Wealth and African Union. (i.e. UN 15 – 24 years, Commonwealth 15 – 29 years, African Union 15 – 35 years and Malaysia 15 – 40 years). In practice, the operational definition of youth or young people varies widely from country to country, depending on cultural, institutional and political factors.

The youth in Uganda, like elsewhere is not a homogeneous group and in addition to the obvious age differences, there are also important differentiation parameters including: level of education (elite versus not educated), by settlement (rural versus urban), all with distinctive features and realities. For instance, the life pre-occupation and experience of a 24 year-old female or male youth living in urban and rural areas or educated or illiterate will be quite different. This research will focus on those youth aged 15 to 24 as defined by the UN unless stated otherwise.

Unemployment refers to a situation whereby a person aged 14 – 64 years, who during the last 7 days preceding the survey was without work but was available for paid employment or self-employment. And underemployment is a situation where a person's productivity is underutilized. On the other hand, employment is the state of gainful engagement in work or job that attracts pay or salary.

Unemployment as defined by the ILO occurs when people are without jobs and they have actively looked for work within the past four weeks. However, this definition does not squarely apply to the Ugandan context in which the average person can remain unemployed for a period of up to six months or longer.

The unemployment rate is the proportion of the unemployed expressed as a percentage of the labour force (working plus unemployed). The Ministry of

Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) in collaboration with the Ugandan Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) as mandated to handle youth issues is responsible for measuring youth unemployment rate on an annual basis.

There are several types of unemployment, each one defined in terms of cause and severity.

2.2 Cyclical, structural, regional, classical, seasonal, frictional, and voluntary unemployment

Cyclical unemployment exists when individuals lose their jobs as a result of a downturn in Aggregate Demand (**AD**). If the decline in aggregate demand is persistent, and the unemployment is long-term, it is called either *demand deficient*, *general*, or *Keynesian* unemployment.

Structural unemployment occurs when certain industries decline because of long term changes in market conditions. For example, over the last 20 years, UK motor vehicle production has declined while car production in the Far East has increased, creating structurally unemployed car workers. Globalization is an increasingly significant cause of structural unemployment in many countries.

When structural unemployment affects local areas of an economy, it is called 'regional' unemployment. This explains why there are high unemployment rates in the urban regions of Uganda like Kampala city.

Classical unemployment is caused when wages are 'too' high. This explanation of unemployment dominated economic theory before the 1930s, when workers themselves were blamed for not accepting lower wages, or for asking for too high wages. Classical unemployment is also called *real wage* unemployment.

Seasonal unemployment exists because certain industries only produce or distribute their products at certain times of the year. Industries where seasonal unemployment is common include agriculture, tourism, and construction.

Frictional unemployment, also called *search unemployment*, occurs when workers lose their current job and are in the process of finding another one. There may be little that can be done to reduce this type of unemployment, other than provide better information to reduce the search time. This suggests that *full employment* is impossible at any one time because some workers will always be in the process of changing jobs.

Voluntary unemployment is defined as a situation when workers choose not to work at the current equilibrium wage rate. For one reason or another, workers may elect not to participate in the labour market. There are several reasons for the existence of voluntary unemployment including excessively generous welfare benefits and high rates of income tax. Voluntary unemployment is likely to occur when the equilibrium wage rate is below the wage necessary to encourage individuals to supply their labour.

Unemployment evolves in very different ways and strikes nations in different proportions. It depends on the structural capacity or incapacity of a country to create jobs, changes in the labor force or changes in the rate of participation. As regards to less developed countries, some scholars identified underdevelopment as a source of unemployment. However, examples of rapid economic growth and persisting high levels of unemployment give evidence that development cannot be the only determinant for fewer job opportunities.

With regards to this study, structural, regional and voluntary unemployment are closely related to crime and early marriages in Uganda in the sense that young people remain unemployed because of changes in market conditions which require certain skills that they don't have. As a result of this, migration to the cities in search for job opportunities creates regional unemployment in such areas. Also voluntary unemployment relates to crime and early marriage because the youth decide not to take up certain jobs which they feel are not appealing to them hence remaining unemployed.

2.3 Context of youth unemployment in Uganda

2.3.1 The Size of the Labour Force

Labour force is defined as the economically active population including persons aged 14-64 years, who were either employed or unemployed during the last seven days prior to the survey. The table shows the size of the labour force and annual growth rate by sex, residence and region. The labour force was estimated at 11.5 million persons reflecting an increase of 2 million from

9.5 million in 2005/2006; an annual growth rate of 4.7 percent. This is above the national population growth rate of 3.2 percent per year. The high growth rate of the labour force poses a challenge in that jobs should be secured to match the increasing labour force. The table further shows gender disparities in the labour force with 53 percent females and 47 percent males. There was a notable difference in the growth rate of the labour force with eight percent in rural and four percent in urban areas. Regional variations in the Labour force indicate that the Eastern region had the highest share (26%) followed by the Central (24%). All the regions registered positive growth rates. The current Annual Labour Force growth rate was 4.7% More females than males joined the labour force. Furthermore the proportion of Youth (International definition, 15-24 years) rose from 27 percent in 2005/06 to 28 percent in 2009/10. On the other hand, the proportion of the youth (National definition, 18-30 years) rose from 44 percent in 2005/06 to 48 percent in 2009/10.

As the Government struggles to come up with programs geared at supporting the youth, a new report indicates that 62% of Uganda's youth are jobless.

The study titled; "Lost Opportunity?" notes that the high unemployment rate among the youth poses a serious threat to the well-being of society³.

³ New Vision Uganda's leading Daily, 27 May 2013

Table 11: Distribution of the Labour Force by Sex, Residence and Age Group (%)

Background characteristics	2005/06	2009/10	Annual growth rate
Sex			
Male	48.0	46.7	4.0
Female	52.0	53.3	5.3
Total	100	100	4.7
Residence			
Urban	16.2	18.2	7.6
Rural	83.8	81.8	4.1
Total	100	100	4.7
Region			
Kampala	6.3	6.6	5.9
Central	23.7	23.6	4.6
Eastern	23.8	26.0	6.9
Northern	18.9	19.0	4.9
Western	27.2	24.7	2.2
Total	100	100	4.7
Age Group			
15-24	26.6	28.0	5.9
18-30	44.0	47.7	6.7
Total	100	100	4.7
Number	9,526,500	11,483,800	

Source: Uganda National Household Survey report 2009/10

2.3.2 Unemployment

The standard method of collecting employment and unemployment data uses a reference period of one week. According to the 1982 ILO Resolution, a person who worked for at least one hour in the reference week is regarded as

employed, while a person who was “without work”, “available for work”, or “actively seeking work” is counted as unemployed. Actively seeking work includes “registering at public or private employment exchanges, direct application to employers, checking at work sites, placing or answering newspaper advertisements and looking for financial resources amongst others. The unemployment rate measures the number of unemployed persons as a percentage of the labour force. The Table reveals that Uganda’s unemployment rate was 4.2 percent in 2009/2010, compared to 1.9 percent observed in 2005/2006. Unemployment remained predominantly an urban problem as the unemployment rate in urban areas is more than three times that of their rural counterparts. The unemployment rate was highest in Kampala (11%) and lowest in Western and Eastern regions (2%) respectively.

Table 12: Unemployment Rates by Sex and Residence (%)

2005/06			2009/10	
Background characteristic	No.	Unemployment rate	No.	Unemployment rate
Sex				
Male	89,600	1.7	162,500	3.0
Female	120,100	2.1	317,800	5.2
Residence				
Urban	104,900	6.4	198,100	9.5
Rural	104,800	1.1	282,200	3.0
Regions				
Kampala	17,400	8.3	87,100	11.4
Central	3,600	1.7	154,000	5.7
Eastern	1,500	0.7	91,000	3.0
Northern	6,900	3.3	89,200	4.1
Western	1,500	0.7	59,000	2.1
Youth				
15-24	110,400	4.4	174,700	5.4
18-30	143,800	3.4	256,700	4.7
Uganda	209,700	1.9	480,300	4.2

Source: Uganda National Household Survey report 2009/10

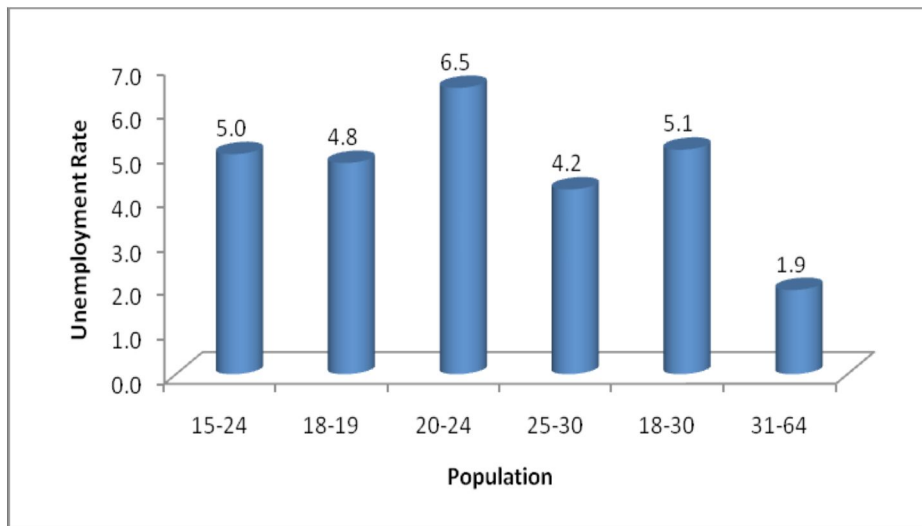
Location has a big impact on the levels of unemployment. The urban areas had a much higher unemployment rate (12%) than the rural areas (3%). This is attributed to the existence of the high levels of subsistence farming in the rural areas which offers some employment to the rural youths. Among the regions, Kampala, the Central region and Eastern regions had relatively high unemployment rates with 15 percent, 6 percent and 8 percent respectively. (The National labour force and child activities survey 2011/12 Youth employment report, Uganda Bureau of Statistics)

This kind of statistics shows that Uganda's youth unemployment problems are not getting any better and unless policies to address the problem are put in place, the country will not be in position to achieve the desired economic growth.

To further lend credibility to these findings, in the 2011/2012 budget of Uganda, the Minister of Finance, Planning and Economic Development recognized that because of the high levels of unemployment, the Ugandan economy can only absorb 20% of its youth.

According to a 2011 statistical abstract, the total labour force in Uganda increased from 10.8 million persons in 2005/06 to 13.4 million persons in 2009/10, an increase of 23 percent; by industry, agriculture employed 66% of the working population, while by occupation, 60% of the working population were agriculture and fishery Workers; by employment status 79% were self-employed in 2009/10.

Figure 1: Unemployment Rates in the population by Age



Source: Uganda Bureau of Statistics, The National labour force and child activities survey 2011/12 Youth employment report

2.3.3 Factors for the high rate of youth unemployment in Uganda

The National Youth Policy recognizes that the major causes of the high youth unemployment rate are lack of: employable skills, lack of access to resources like land and capital, lack of focus by the existing programmes on the informal sector and agriculture, overemphasis on experience, lack of apprenticeship schemes, negative attitudes by the youth towards work, especially the in agriculture sector, lack of a comprehensive employment policy and negative cultural attitudes such as gender discrimination and others.

The mismatch between the skills being provided for the youth and the labour market skills demands can be attributed to three factors which are highlighted here: a) insensitivity of training and educational systems to labour market

demand; b) trainees seeking training that is affordable instead of taking up training that can make them employable and c) the labour market not providing any signals to job seekers.

George Ogola Soti (1994) in his analysis of some of the causes of unemployment and the influence of some selected variables on employment growth attributed the youth unemployment to factors like job selectivity among the young people whose expectations are high to gain modern sector employment not considering the limited opportunities in the formal employment sector. He noted that 26% of the unemployed could have completed primary education and 36% secondary school education but wonders why a large number of them are unemployed in the informal sector of the economy. This is because the youth are all looking for the “white collar jobs” and don’t want to work in sectors like agriculture yet they are productive.

The main causes of youth unemployment have been widely studied in the economic literature and can be classified in two groups: whether they are analysed from a macroeconomic or microeconomic point of view. Following the former approach, the determinants of youth unemployment more often quoted are aggregate demand, youth wages, the size of the youth labour force and the lack of skills among youth (O’Higgins (2001).

MGLSD (2011) reports indicated that corruption is one of the factors for increasing youth unemployment problem in Uganda. The Ministry reports that

many government officials should be investigated by the office of the Inspector General of Government (IGG) because they have misappropriated the financial resources government allocated to address youth unemployment and indeed many officials have been investigated including former vice president Specioza Wandera Kazibwe who it is believed as head of the micro finance institutions in Uganda misappropriated over 10 billion shillings meant to provide financial assistance to different people to address the unemployment problem. The Ministry suggests that many youths are suffering from the unemployment problem because of the deliberate and selfish desires of some few public officials. (Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, department of youth 2011).

Transparency International has assessed Uganda as “highly corrupt” every year since 1996 – its first appearance on the Corruption Perception Index with the World Bank noting a decline in the control of corruption since 2006. In the 2012 East Africa Bribery Index, 95% of all respondents judged Uganda’s public institutions as corrupt, with Uganda registering the highest bribery levels in the region. (DFID’s Anti-Corruption Strategy for Uganda January 2013)

Furthermore, as part of a more general picture of disadvantage, particular groups of youth are more likely to be unemployed than others. Most notably, the area in which a young person lives and their ethnic origins have been shown to increase the risks of unemployment (Jackson, 1985).

The high youth unemployment rate in Uganda and Africa at large can also be attributed to the slow economic growth and small formal labour markets, high population growth rate, lack of sufficient experience and skills, lack of decent work, the rigid education system, rural-urban migration, limited social networks, youth's limited access to capital support systems among others. A number of analysts also hold the opinion that the poor Government policies are partly to blame for these youth problems. In recent times the Government has come up with a number of solutions to youth problems and these are embedded in policies such as the National Youth Policy, Employment policy and so on.

2.3.4 Consequences of youth unemployment

Unemployment has social as well as economic consequences for young people. Unemployed young people are forced to find alternatives to generate income, including activities in the survival-type informal sector and, in extreme cases, criminal activity. Urban unemployment is further exacerbated by rural-urban migration. Rural migrants believe that more jobs and social opportunities are available in urban areas, but once in the cities they find themselves without a job and with limited social networks. Frustrated and discouraged by lack of job prospects, some turn to the sex, criminality and drug industries to survive.

2.4 Youth unemployment and crime

“crime is any harmful act or omission against the public which the State wishes to prevent and which, upon conviction, is punishable by fine,

imprisonment, and/or death. No conduct constitutes a crime unless it is declared criminal in the laws of the country. Some crimes (such as theft or criminal damage) may also be civil wrongs (torts) for which the victim(s) may claim damages in compensation”.⁴

Crime and violence have been increasing in many parts of Uganda among unemployed young people. Youth gangs, viewed as second or substitute families, typically satisfy the economic and social needs of unemployed young people through violence. Some young people enter the criminal world at a very young age and end up becoming victims of crime themselves. The combination of youth unemployment and availability of firearms has been deadly.

Parliament Speaker Rebecca Kadaga has warned that the high unemployment rates among youth was a threat to stability of business environment because when the unemployed take to streets in riots they could destroy businesses.

"It is in the interest of companies to see that youth get employed to ensure stability. Give them opportunities for internship and employment”, she said.

Several of these studies use panel data; see, for example, Levitt (1996), Ahmed, Doyle and Horn (1999), Raphael and Winter-Ebmer (2001), and Gould, Weinberg and Mustard (2002) for U.S. state- and county-level investigations, Entorf and Spengler (2000) for a German state-level survey,

⁴ <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/crime.html>

Papps and Winkelmann (2000) for a study on regional data from New Zealand, and Rodriguez (2003) who uses Spanish region-level data. The four American studies all find support for the hypothesis that deteriorated conditions in the labor market are associated with higher property crime rates.

In Uganda, majority of youth who have failed to get employment have turned to various crimes so as to make ends meet for their survival. Many are involved in armed robberies, fraud, being hired to kill and in the case of any outbreak of riots in the city, it is the youth who take the lead and often end up looting people's businesses. This kind of youth involvement in crime has greatly affected the country socially, economically and politically hindering its attainment of the desired economic growth.

According to the New Vision (Ugandan Newspaper) of November 1, 2011, Kale Kayihura, the Inspector General of Police expressed fear that the high rates of unemployment among the youths pose a great threat to the security of the country. He said due to unemployment the youths have become mercenaries who can be hired by anybody to cause unrest.

"As a country we have a big problem, the high rate of unemployment among the youths is a time bomb for us," he said. He said though the country is facing tough economic challenges there need to have a mechanism to address the socio- economic issues affecting the youths.

Apart from youth redundancy caused by their lack of employment, there are other factors that account for the high crime rate in Kampala as discussed below;

Drug and alcohol abuse is another factor to account for the crime rate in Uganda. The increasing rate of drug abusers also increased the crime rates in the country and the police registered over 300 cases of drug abuse since the year 2011. Many Ugandans are cultivating drugs like marijuana and Banji and they have been protected by top officials in the government which has made it difficult for the police to execute them in courts of law.

Lack of education; because of the poor educational backgrounds of most criminals, their employment histories consists of mostly low wage jobs with frequent periods of unemployment. People must make a choice between long-term low income and the prospect of profitable crime. Gaining further education, of course, is another option, but classes can be expensive and time consuming. While education can provide them chance to get a better job, it does not always overcome the effects of abuse, poverty, or other limiting factors.

Poor parenting skills; children who are neglected or abused are more likely to commit crimes later in life than others. Similarly, sexual abuse in childhood often leads these victims to become sexual predators as adults.

2.5 Trends of early marriage in Uganda

The term “early marriage” is used to refer to both formal marriages and informal unions in which a girl lives with a partner as if married before age of 18 (UNICEF 2005; Forum on Marriage and the rights of women and girls 2001). For UNIFPA (2006) Early marriage, also known as Child marriage, is defined as “any marriage carried out below the age of 18 years, before the girl is physically, physiologically, and psychologically ready to shoulder the responsibilities of marriage and childbearing.” Child marriage, on the other hand, involves either one or both spouses being children and may take place with or without formal registration, and under civil, religious or customary laws.

The minimum age for legally getting into a marriage union in Uganda is 18 years; therefore not all youths in Uganda are eligible for marriage (according to definition of 15-24). The proportion of the females married is much higher than that of the males. On the other hand, male youths were much more likely to have never married than females. This is partly explained by the fact that females usually marry at a lower age than their male counterparts.

The common phenomenon in Uganda is that this practice is mostly associated with the girls who are usually victims of being married off at an early age whether voluntarily or not in order to gain financial support from the men.

The table below, shows that in Africa, there are countries with very high rates of early marriage, such as Niger (77 percent), Chad (71percent), and Mozambique (57 percent), but others such as Togo in West Africa have a

more moderate rate of early marriage (31 percent), while South Africa has a fairly small percentage of young women who marry early (8 percent), Maltur et ali. 2003).

Table 13: Women ages 20 to 24 married by 18 years old for some selected countries

Country	Marriage Prevalence
Niger	77%
Chad	71%
Mali	65%
Bangladesh	65%
Guinea	65%
Nepal	56%
Mozambique	57%
Uganda	54%
Burkina Faso	52%
India	50%
Ethiopia	49%
Yemen	48%
Eritrea	47%
Togo	31%
South Africa	8%

Source: Demographic Health Survey (DHS) data from 1995 to 2003

2.5.1 Factors associated with early marriage

Marriage is a fundamental relationship in all societies, linking not only the husband and wife but also their families. It shapes sexual practices,

childbearing and childrearing, as well as economic opportunities. It also provides security and social support for women (Defoe, 1997).

The most outstanding reason for early marriage is poverty. Giving a daughter in marriage allows parents to reduce family expenses by ensuring they have one less person to feed, clothe and educate. In communities where economic transactions are integral to the marriage process, dowry or 'bride price' is often welcome income for poor families in Uganda. Girls from poor families are usually forced to get married at an early age in order to get financial security because the men can provide for them. Poverty is a major factor driving early marriage. Where poverty is severe, a young woman may be considered either an economic burden or an asset from which families can gain property and livestock from bride wealth exchanges. Mothers and fathers have on several occasions mentioned poverty as one of the most significant factor that influences girls and boys to marry early. One parent stated that family poverty "forces parents to marry off their young girls because they are a source of wealth in the form of bride price" (Rubin, Green & Mukuria 2009). Related to poverty is the phenomenon of "sugar daddies and sugar mommies," older men and sometimes women who seek sex from children and adolescents in exchange for money or other materialistic goods. Orphans and other vulnerable children were sometimes married off to relieve the financial and social burden on their caretakers. To earn money, some parents were said to encourage their daughters to take jobs that place them in circumstances where they meet with older men who can provide them with money in exchange for sexual favors. Such jobs include serving in restaurants and bars. The girls are

left with no option but to accept these men at an early age all because they cannot provide for themselves but rather look up to these men for their survival.

In addition to poverty or lack of employment, early marriages in Uganda can be attributed to several other factors as follows;

Tradition; is also another factor to account for early marriages in Uganda. Early marriage is a traditional practice in many places, happens today simply because it has happened for generations – In our traditional culture, children are married off as young as 15 years since it is believed that at that particular age she is much fertile and can give birth to as many children as possible rather than when she is much older. Straying from tradition could mean exclusion from the community. Marriages may be used to consolidate family ties or settle feuds. Families may also marry daughters off rather than risk loss of honour through pre-marital sexual activity.

Gender roles; too play a greater role in early marriages. Where women's social standing is defined first and foremost in terms of marrying and bearing children, child marriage is seen as a key rite of passage and a girl's moment to fulfill her role in life. Gender inequality also means that women and girls are seen as second class citizens, and denied the power to make their own decisions about their future.

Women's status; The low status of women contributes to the broad acceptance of early marriage. Women's status can be defined as

empowerment—the degree to which women have access and control over resources, can act autonomously, and are able to express independence in decision making (Abadian, 1996). Education can empower women with knowledge and create the potential to engage in meaningful work that gives them an identity beyond that of wife and mother. Work empowers women to earn a living and make a contribution towards household expenses. Women’s autonomy may be hindered in polygamous marriages that tend to be rural and poor. The widespread acceptance of gender-based violence is indicative of the low status of women (Kishor and Johnson, 2004). Wife-beating is widely accepted in Uganda.

Education; Low educational attainment is linked with early marriage. According to 2006 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) data, among ever-married women ages 25–49, a larger percentage of those who married before their 14th birthday had no education (37%), compared with those who married later (26%). A larger percentage of women married after age 18 attained secondary education and above, compared with those who married at younger ages. In the Western region, few women attained secondary school education at all. Between the 2001 and 2006 surveys, there is a slight increase in the percentage of those who first married at age 18 or older and had completed secondary school or higher. Both parents and teachers who participated in the focus group discussions stated that the government’s policy change to universal primary education in 1997 has encouraged parents to keep their daughters in school. While parents expressed a desire for more education for their daughters, they also raised concerns

about sexual exploitation of students by teachers, lack of supervision, and poor examples set by teachers and other students. One parent stated, “Sending girls off to boarding school is dangerous because they become more sexually active away from their homes.” On the other hand, parents recognized that there were few good schools in rural areas and thus sending children to urban areas for school was a way to ensure high-quality education.

Early sexual initiation; many girls marry early due to unintended pregnancy. Whether as a result of adolescent sexual exploration or sexual abuse, pregnancy is seen to reduce girls’ options. Girls who become pregnant while still in school have to withdraw. Without education or skills to earn a reasonable livelihood, they and their parents frequently see marriage as their only choice, especially because pregnancy outside of marriage is stigmatized. Girls are engaging in premarital sex at increasingly younger ages and that the problem is even more severe if they are at boarding school and not monitored. UDHS data indicate that the median age at first sexual intercourse was 16.7 for women ages 20–49 in 2001 and 16.6 in 2006—a relatively small difference. The 2006 UDHS data suggest that women in their 20s are becoming sexually active later than older cohorts; women ages 30–49 interviewed in the 2006 UDHS reported a median age at first sexual intercourse of 16.3, compared with 16.9 and 16.7 among women ages 20–24 and 25–29, respectively.

2.5.2 Consequences of Early Marriage for Women

In many cases, the cause and consequences of early marriage are closely linked and difficult to separate. For example, poverty in young girls’ homes

makes it difficult for parents to keep them in school, and parents are attracted to the promise of marriage to someone who will take care of their daughter financially/economically. At the same time, once a girl is married, she leaves school, soon becomes pregnant, and her opportunities for finding employment are quite limited, especially in rural areas. Marrying at younger ages is associated with life-long poverty. In most cases, young women do not continue their education once they are married, and their employment options may be limited by childcare and household responsibilities.

Early marriages are associated with rapid increase in population because these girls start child bearing at a young age and by the time they get to their late 20s they have a large number of children. High population growth also negatively affects a country's path to economic growth.

Early marriages also have negative consequences to the girl's health such as early childbearing is harmful to young girls whose bodies have not matured very well and may gain long life health complications. HIV/AIDS is also a negative outcome of early marriages since these girls usually marry men who are much older than them and some already infected hence passing it on to these young girls as well.

CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH DESIGN, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATIONS

3.1 Research design

This section describes the methodology that was used for the study. It deals with the research design, area of study, sample selection, data collection, data processing and analysis.

This study used a descriptive survey design in which both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used. The qualitative approach mainly dealt with identifying the causes of unemployment among Kampala youth and examining the impact on the socio-economic development of the country as a whole.

The quantitative approach specifically aimed at finding the correlation between the three variables of youth unemployment, crime and early marriages. Such information was obtained by use of survey questionnaires.

3.1.1 Area of study

The study was carried out in Kampala city which is the capital city of Uganda with a population of 1.72 million people out of the total population of 34.1 in the country (UBOS 2012 statistical abstract). The area was preferred because of its being a major city of the country, many youth have moved there in search for jobs which are also not available making the problem of youth unemployment complex in Kampala city.

Open-ended questionnaires about the relationship between youth unemployment and early marriage were sent and filled by the respondents in order to extract information. Questionnaires were preferred because they allow respondent's freedom in answering since the respondents were not guided unlike in interviews. 20 questionnaires were sent out and 16 were received back. Respondents were chosen according to their relevance and importance they would give to the survey questions. They included officers from, government (MDLSD, Police), NGOs and International organizations (UNICEF).

With open-ended questions, data was coded so as to categorize them exhaustively. This started with preparation of a code book which described in specific details the coding scheme as well as the code for each response category in the questionnaire.

Data collected was analyzed and the responses on the subjects were categorized in frequency counts and score tables with varying percentages calculated. Interpretations and conclusions were drawn according to the number of occurrences of each item which information was presented in tables.

3.2 Analysis and interpretations

This section highlights the presentation of collected data in tables which offers interpretations and discussions to the subject. The findings are presented in line with the objectives of this study and these include youth unemployment and its impact on social behavior among the youth in relation to crime and

early marriages. The study was carried out in Kampala city where 16 respondents in policy making positions were asked to fill out open ended survey questionnaires so as to seek their opinions on the subject under study.

3.3 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Among the respondents of the survey, there were more males who responded than females. The male respondents were 75% and female respondents were 25%. The probable reason is that most of the females are not yet in decision making positions in many organizations.

Also, majority of the respondents were from government institutions with 81% followed by NGOs with 13% and lastly international organizations with 6%. This shows government leading role in addressing the youth unemployment problem in regards to crime and early marriages.

Table 14: Organization type of respondents

Organization type	Frequency	Percentage
Government	13	81
NGO	2	13
International organization	1	6
Total	16	100

Source: primary data

As shown in the table 5 below, more than 44% of respondents have worked for more than or equal to 7 years, which implies that they are quite knowledgeable about the topic under study to give relevant information.

Table 15: Number of years in the organization

Number of years	Frequency	percentage
1 year & below	1	6.25
1 – 3	5	31.25
4 – 6	3	18.75
7 – 9	2	12.5
10 – 12	2	12.5
13 – 15	1	6.25
15 years & above	2	12.5
Total	16	100

Source: primary data

3.4 Analysis results

3.5 Explaining the linkage between youth

unemployment and crime

According to the survey results, all 16 respondents agreed that there is a linkage between youth unemployment and crime arguing they engage in crime in order to meet their basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter among others because the youth don't have ways of survival. The respondents also noted that because of youth redundancy due to lack of jobs, they then opt to engage in crimes such as alcohol and drug abuse.

At the level of individual behavior, the common view is that poor labor market conditions (e.g., high unemployment) create a stressful state that renders individuals susceptible to criminal behavior in order to overcome their economic problems (Bonger 1916; Brenner 1977).

Because these young boys and girls are frustrated because of failure to get jobs, they turn to crime as an alternative source of getting a livelihood so as to survive.

3.5.1 Types of crime youth are engaged in

The young people were found to engage in property, moral and violent crimes which include the following; armed robbery, theft, murder, fraud, shop lifting, pick pocketing, human and drug trafficking among others. All these crimes in one way or another are used by the youth to generate income because they have no jobs for their survival.

From the table below, it is indicated that the youth engage more in property and moral crimes because of their unemployment as compared to violent crimes. Most probable reason being that it is easier for them to engage in crimes like theft which is not as aggravated as murder for their survival.

Table 16: Types of crime youth are engaged in by category

Category of crime	Frequency of category	Examples of each category	Frequency of examples
Moral	22	alcohol and drug abuse	6
		Defilement	3
		Homosexuality	2
		Prostitution	7
		rape and defilement	4
Property	22	Affray	1
		Burglary	1

		cyber crime	1
		Fraud	2
		Gambling	1
		pick pocketing	1
		political demonstrations and looting	1
		Robbery	7
		Smuggling and theft	7
Violent	10	aggravated assault	1
		Assault	1
		child sacrifice	1
		domestic violence in early marriages	1
		political demonstrations and strikes	5
		Murder	1

Source: primary data

The figures in the second column from the left indicate number of the different categories that is moral, property and violent that the respondents mentioned while those in the last column on the right show the frequency of the examples from each category of crime.

Prostitution has become one of the most common trades throughout the world in recent times. Many people in poor countries have turned to prostitution as an outlet from their economic difficulties of which Uganda is no exemption. It is the easiest form of labour for those women who do not have a proper education or the economic background to join the legal labour force majority

of whom are youth. Many men and women have found this line of work to be extremely rewarding in monetary aspects. For this reason, many Ugandan women especially in urban areas like Kampala city have joined the trade, with numbers going up across the country, and even plying the trade abroad to other countries like Juba, China, Iraq, and Thailand in the recent past⁵.

3.5.2 Other causes of crime among the youth apart from lack of employment

It was discovered that there are other factors that account for youth involvement in crime other than unemployment as discussed below;

The data below shows that apart from unemployment, young people engage in crime due to several other reasons with majority of them being social reasons like peer influence, alcohol and drug abuse followed by economic reason such as lack of education and lastly political reasons which include politicization of the youth unemployment problem.

⁵ <http://www.thenotice.co.ug/?p=5232>

Table 17: Other factors for youth engagement in crime other than unemployment

Category of factor	Frequency of category	Examples of each category	Frequency of examples
Economic		Illiteracy	3
	5	urbanization leading to over population	2
Social	27	lack of good peers and role models	1
		society moral breakdown	1
		peer pressure	8
		alcohol and drug abuse	9
		lack of parental guidance	3
		desire by youth for leisure yet they are not willing to work hard	1
		joining bad gangs	1
		need to get rich fast without hard work	1
		lack of supervision	1
		lack of family values	1
Political	1	political manipulation of youth poverty	1

Source: primary data

Alcohol and drug abuse is one other important factor that accounts for the crime rate in Kampala city. In Uganda, the main drug used by adolescents is marijuana, which accounted for 99 per cent of seizures made by the authorities, with 34.6 million users representing 7.7 per cent of the country's

15-24 year-old population in 2002. In other parts of Uganda, drug abuse decreases young people's possibility of finding employment and results in additional costs to the economy. (John, A.J 2009). This kind of habitual abuse of drugs and alcohol prompts the youth to commit crime because they are not in their right state of minds.

3.5.3 Effects of crime caused by youth unemployment on the socio-economic development of the country

Youth unemployment leading to crime has a vast number of effects on the development of Uganda in particular Kampala city which is the capital of the country and the central business district.

Socially, youth involvement in crime leads to increased spread of HIV/AIDS because of the immorality that comes with youth crime activities like prostitution. This further worsens the fight against AIDS in the country. Families are also broken down because of loss of moral values in the community due to youth engagement in moral crime like drug abuse.

Economically, the government expenditure increases on provision of security in the city in agencies like police, courts and prisons so as to deal with these criminals which investment is not a productive one for economic development of the country. For instance, Ugandan prisons according to the prison Boss Mr. Byabasaija, have excess 18,474 inmates. This has seen congestion levels increase from 221% to 217% despite a reduction in time spent on remand from an average 15 to 14 months over the last one year. "In this financial year,

Sh13.9b has been earmarked for feeding inmates, with an estimated sh6b from prison farms set to compliment the budget” he said. However, prison services require Sh28b to feed inmates that are expected to hit the 34,200 mark, according to Byabasaija.⁶

The government is also unable to generate enough revenue because of low consumption of goods and services. There is also an over burden on the working population to provide for the redundant youth. Destruction of property also economically affects the city where youth lead demonstrations and destroy property and businesses in the city.

Politically, crime causes unrest in situations where these redundant youth form anti government groups because they are dissatisfied by government policies and use these arenas by means of violence to bring about change of government. This political unrest further scares away foreign investors who would otherwise have been able to provide jobs for the youth by setting up several business ventures. On Sept, 10, 2009, protests by the supporters of one of Uganda's traditional Kings spread from outlying towns to the heart of Kampala, bringing the city to a standstill. This was because the King was denied access to a particular region which his followers felt was disrespect by the government to the king. The riots lasted two days. Cars and police stations were set on fire. Looting was widespread. In response, President Yoweri Museveni sent thousands of police and troops into the streets with orders to shoot on sight. They fired live rounds into the crowds. Four radio stations

⁶ <http://www.newvision.co.ug/mobile/Detail.aspx?NewsID=634002&CatID=1>

were taken off the air for "inciting violence," and a leading talk-show host who had been accused of sedition, several opposition politicians and hundreds of suspected rioters⁷. With such unrest in the city, no foreign investor in their right mind would want to risk starting a business in such an insecure environment.

3.5.4 Steps that have been put in place to address crime as a result of youth unemployment

The table below shows that government and other stakeholders have so far put in place various mechanisms to curb the overwhelming youth unemployment problem which include skills training, making relevant laws, provision of funds and awareness creation so that youth can make right decisions about life.

⁷ <http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1924258,00.html>

Table 18: Mechanisms to address the youth unemployment problem

Category of mechanism	Frequency of category	Examples of each category	Frequency of examples
skills training	19	entrepreneurship skills training	5
		skilling Uganda project	4
		vocational training	4
		patriotism clubs	1
		vocational skills - BTJET	1
		youth skills training centers	3
		global labor exchange partnership	1
funds for business	16	NAADS	2
		SACCOS	2
		youth fund	4
		loans by government to encourage small scale businesses	5
		youth capital venture fund	3
policies and laws	2	legal frameworks like the employment policy, labor policy	2
awareness creation	3	guidance to the youth by various stakeholders	2
		sensitization of parents and community members on crime	1

Source: primary data

BTVET as a skills institution develops a curriculum that is skills based and business oriented for formal and non-formal education. The institution comprises of three major units: Business Education, Technical Education and Information communication Technology.

Firstly, *Business Education Unit* develops business oriented curricula for courses leading to the award of certificates and Diplomas. The Certificate programs include: Accounting, Business Management, Marketing, Purchasing and Supplies Management, Secretarial Studies, General Business Management, Beauty Therapy and Hair Dressing. The diploma programs include Accounting, Marketing, Secretarial studies, Purchasing and Supplies, Journalism and Cosmetology.

Secondly, *Technical Education and Training Unit* develops curricula for practical skills training and education in various technical and vocational fields such as carpentry, seam stressing, brick laying and concrete practice among others.

Finally, the *Information and Communication Technology* provides ICT training in both software and hardware skills for the youth.

3.5.5 Challenges in combating crime related to youth unemployment.

Most importantly, the biggest challenge in dealing with the youth unemployment problem is the large number of youth population in the country

of up to 75%. This makes it very hard for government to deal with youth problems especially unemployment. The limited funds also makes it almost impossible to design programs meant for helping youth find meaningful employment.

Limited trained personnel to keep law and order especially in the police force which makes it easy for youth to continuously commit crimes without apprehension. This is further worsened by corruption in law enforcement agencies especially the police and courts of law. These agencies are easily bribed by the offenders and in some crimes like property crimes, the police are sometimes involved in helping the youth execute their plans. This is also because of the very low salaries of the police staff. Embezzlement of government funds meant for youth programs also makes it difficult to overcome the youth unemployment problem. In Uganda, young people mentioned that corruption and preferential family and political connections pose a disadvantage to most youth, as only those people who are well placed in society appear to have access to decent jobs.⁸

Negative attitudes of some young people towards certain jobs especially in agriculture and the informal sectors makes them rather engage in crime to find means of survival. Many youth do not think of hard work but rather getting everything easily which also makes it hard for government to fight unemployment.

⁸ <http://www.newvision.co.ug/mobile/Detail.aspx?NewsID=628872&CatID=1>

High illiteracy levels in the country are also a hindrance to dealing with youth unemployment. When young people drop out of school and become redundant, the only option they look up to is crime so as to gain financial support for themselves.

Drug abuse is a crime as well as one of the leading causes of crime in Kampala city. Many young people are using dangerous drugs such as marijuana and alcohol simply because they do not have a job which also makes the city insecure making development slow.

3.6 To assess the influence of unemployment on early marriage among Ugandan youth

As seen from the literature review, the concept of early marriage also to a greater extent comes from lack of financial resources for the youth to support themselves which is more or less lack of employment therefore the person will opt to marry in order to get the economic support from a spouse. Hence the analysis below seeks to find the connection between the two variables of early marriage and youth unemployment.

3.6.1 Explaining the linkage between youth unemployment and early marriages

Throughout the world, marriage is regarded as a moment of celebration and importance in adult life. Sadly, the practice of early marriage gives no such cause for celebration. All too often, the imposition of a marriage partner upon a child means that a girl or boy's childhood is cut short and their fundamental

rights are compromised (UNICEF, 2001 and Lefevre, Quiroga and Murply 2004).

From the data shown below; out of the 16 respondents, 87.5% agreed that youth unemployment and early marriage have a linkage while 12.5% disagreed. Those that agreed cited mainly economic reasons such as parent's inability to support their children through school thereby forcing them into marriage, young men and women marry in order for the spouse to provide financial support. Others cited cultural reasons where girls are not considered for school by parents because they see no value of educating girls.

Table 19: Responses to youth unemployment relation to early marriages

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	14	87.5
No	2	12.5
Total	16	100

Source: primary data

Females were noted to be the common sex that is prone to early marriages more than their male counterparts mainly because of cultural practices like parents desire to obtain bride price when they marry off their daughters. Early pregnancies also force these girls to get married so that they do not have children out of wedlock. Males are not so quick to marry because they fear responsibility. Despite culture also having a major influence on early marriage, it also goes back to poverty or lack of employment that these cultural practices are based upon like parents wanting dowry (bride price) if they marry off their children.

3.6.2 Other factors that account for the early marriage phenomenon apart from unemployment

According to the data collected from all respondents cultural aspects among other factors other than unemployment account most for the high level of early marriages which include bias against girl's education, desire for bride price by the parents among others. Social, economic, policy making and health factors also have a significant influence on young people's involvement in early marriages.

Table 20: Other factors that account for early marriages

Category of factor	Frequency of category	Examples of each category	Frequency of examples
Culture/religious	17	religious beliefs which recognize marriage at an early age	3
		forced marriage for bride price	11
		women's disadvantaged status	1
		parents want to protect against premarital pregnancy of the girls	1
		biases against girl's education	1
Economic	9	lack of education	9
Social	7	lack of parental guidance	4
		limited access to modern media	1

		peer pressure	1
		use of drugs	1
Policies and laws	1	weak family laws	1
Health	1	early pregnancies	1

Source: primary data

Culturally, local perceptions on the ideal age for marriage, the desire for submissive wives, extended family patterns and other customary requirements, are all enshrined in local customs or religious norms. In many contexts early marriage is legitimized by patriarchy, and related family structures, which ensure that marriage transfers a father’s role over his girl child to her future spouse. The marriage of children in parts of Africa and Asia is valued as a means of consolidating powerful relations between families, for sealing deals over land or other property, or even for settling disputes (UNIFPA, 2006). The strong religious message also enforce the view that marrying early is best as supported by the following views of one priest representing Ethiopian’s orthodox church. He argues that “*these days, with western ideas spread everywhere; girls stay unmarried as late as 30. It is very scientific and modern, but in our church it is prohibited. Such girls are neither clean, nor blessed*”, (Barnes et al.1998).

Poverty especially that of the family where the girl comes from, is one of the major factors accounting for early marriage. Parents encourage the marriage of their daughters while they are still children in hope that the marriage will benefit them both financially and socially, while also relieving financial

burdens on the family. The marriage to a much older – sometimes even elderly – man is a practice common in many societies. In traditional societies of Uganda, the bride’s family may receive cattle from the groom, or the groom’s family, as the bride price for their daughter.

“Case Study: FORCED EARLY MARRIAGE

- Child marriage disproportionately affects girls and is found nearly everywhere. It is particularly widespread in South Asia and in sub-Saharan Africa, where more than half of the girls in some countries are married by the time they are 18.
- Girls are forced to be married by their parents or male abductors for various economic and cultural reasons.
- UNICEF has publicly labeled child marriage as a human rights violation and is working to combat the practice by developing education programmes and empowering local human rights organizations in regions where the practice is widespread.

Context

Across the globe, children, primarily girls, are forced into early marriage. It is difficult to estimate the number of early marriages because many early marriages are unregistered and unofficial, but the highest rates appear to occur

in Mali, Niger, Uganda, Burkina Faso and Cameroon. Girls as young as 8 or 10 years old are forced to be married, often with much older men”⁹.

In summary, the survey results indicated that there is a linkage between unemployment and young people getting married at an early age but several others sources account the phenomenon to other factors like cultural and religious norms that accept the practice. The unemployment/poverty is not usually of the girl being married off but rather of the family whereby the parents cannot support the girl anymore and give her out to a man for marriage where she automatically becomes his responsibility. Therefore, youth unemployment cannot be taken as a major factor leading to early marriage in Uganda but rather supports other factors.

3.6.3 Effects of early marriage caused by youth

unemployment on the socio-economic development of the country

“The United Nations population Fund (UNFPA) report, presented by Ntenga, showed that Uganda ranked the 14th country in early and forced marriage prevalence rates in the world with 46% of women being married before 18. In recently-published global reviews, it has been documented that young women who get married early are more likely to experience early school departure,

⁹

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/people/features/ihavearightto/four_b/casestudy_art16.shtml

lower earning capacity, frequent child bearing, complications in pregnancy, high maternal mortality rate and increased risk to HIV infection”¹⁰.

The problem of early marriage has several effects on the country’s growth that range from social, economic and health as discussed below;

Socially, women who marry at a young age are likely to find motherhood the sole focus of their lives at the expense of development in other aspects like formal education and training for employment, work experience and personal growth. This worsens the unemployment problem because they don’t have the necessary skills to make them employable. Early marriage is associated with high population growth rates since one starts a family at quite an early age. Increase in the population also escalates the problem of street children on the streets of Kampala since their parents are unable to take care of them and run to the streets to find means of survival.

A 2012 report by the NGO Joy for Children Uganda shows that women who marry before 18 do not have the opportunity to decide for themselves whether and when to marry and, in many cases, this single event shapes their entire adult lives. While the work done by different organisations to end child marriages is commendable, the evil continues to be wide-spread and is still socially accepted in many cultures in Uganda¹¹.

¹⁰ <http://allafrica.com/stories/201303180035.html>

¹¹ http://observer.ug/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=24110:early-marriages-forcing-more-girls-out-of-school

According to UBOS (2012), fertility levels have remained high over the past 3 decades, with the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 6.2 children per woman over the period 1995 to 2011. The 2011 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS), preliminary findings indicate that the TFR has reduced to 6.2 children per woman. The TFR is higher in the rural areas (6.8 children per woman) compared to urban areas (3.8 children per woman). Early marriage coupled with high fertility rates further escalates the problem of high population growth.

In the health aspect, getting married early is associated with increase in the spread of HIV/AIDS. This is because the girls usually marry men who are much older and have the tendency of having the HIV infection. These innocent young girls who readily accept the marriage because of financial support are likely to be infected by their much older spouses. There is also increased domestic violence among the women in the homes because of their financial vulnerability and young age hence the men can easily manipulate them as they wish. Increased maternal health complications also result from girls getting pregnant at a young age since their bodies are not well developed and ready for child birth.

Economically, there is increase in the illiteracy levels which further worsens the dependency problem on the working population.

3.6.4 Mechanisms that have been put in place to address youth unemployment and early marriage

Government with the help of other stakeholders has devised several strategies to curb the issue of early marriage in the country as discussed below;

Skills training: vocational skills training has been adopted in various forms to help the unemployed youth gain hands on skills so as to earn money for their survival other than looking up to men to provide in the marriages. Universal education at both primary and secondary levels has been given to all so that youth stay in school to become employable in the future.

Awareness creation and career guidance: sexual and reproductive health training has been introduced in schools and communities to empower girls especially about issues concerning their sexuality and how to say “NO” to early marriages.

Provision of funds for business: funds such as youth fund and youth capital venture fund have been provided to young people to help them start their own businesses for their survival.

Policies and laws: The constitution of the Republic of Uganda recognizes the legal age for marriage as 18 for both parties hence its illegal for one to marry below that age. Many human rights activists have also campaigned against marrying girls and boys before the age of 18.

3.6.5 Challenges faced by government and different stakeholders in combating early marriage and youth unemployment.

As discussed earlier, the most challenging aspect of dealing with the youth unemployment problem is the high population of the youth. This coupled with government limited resources makes it hard to fund programs meant for youth development.

Most cultural and religious practices recognize marrying off girls below the age of 18 years acceptable. Fighting such perceptions among people is very difficult which makes it hard to do away with early marriages. This coupled with weak enforcement of laws criminalizing early marriage also makes it hard for societies to stop the act of marrying off young girls. Laws do exist prohibiting marriage below the age of 18 like, the 1995 constitution, the penal code act but little apprehension is done to the culprits who practice it.

Embezzlement of government funds meant for youth activities is also a hindrance to fighting early marriage leaving most youth without employment with the only option of getting married.

High illiteracy levels in the country also makes it almost impossible to deal with unemployment and early marriage since youth lack the skills necessary to gain meaningful employment.

CHAPTER FOUR: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter gives a summary of the research findings as well as the recommendations suggested by the researcher.

4.1 Summary of findings

This study covered youth unemployment effect on social behavior among young people aged 15-24 years relating it to involvement in crime and early marriage. The study covered a sample of 16 respondents from policy making positions in various organizations believed to be key informants in dealing with youth issues. The sample was made up of 75% male and 25% females with majority of them having working experience of not less than 5 years showing that they are quite knowledgeable about the subject under study.

4.2 Conclusion

Youth unemployment and the broader problems of crime and early marriage are a significant constraint on the country's development. Among the leading causes of the increasing rate of crime and early marriage in Kampala city, youth unemployment takes the lead position. Because of lack of jobs and poverty among the young people, many of them look for alternative sources in order to make ends meet.

Youth unemployment has been shown to have detrimental effects for the individual as unemployment early in someone's career may permanently

impair their future productive capacity (Blanchflower, 1999). Seen in a broader respect, the whole society may suffer from a high level of youth unemployment as there is a link between youth joblessness and serious social problems such as drug abuse, vandalism and crime (Freeman, 1999).

There are also important multiplier effects; drug abuse as a form of crime caused by youth lacking jobs leads to increased moral decay in society and also increased insecurity in the country. On the other hand, early marriages increase the population growth rate in the country. These in turn make claims on scarce resources - including expenditures on the police service, judicial systems and the provision of social services - that would otherwise be used for other development purposes.

If these barriers are not addressed, the country will be unable to benefit from the potentially significant contributions of young people and their enterprises to economic growth, and to meet targets set out in the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In sum, the study revealed that youth unemployment has been the major cause of high crime rate among the youth in Kampala city and the country as a whole. However, in spite of the fact that poverty is a cause of early marriage, there are also other significant factors such religious and cultural aspects that influence the act. Early marriage is an accepted cultural practice in many parts of Uganda which makes youth unemployment not the major factor why people still marry off young girls and boys early.

4.3 Recommendations

This study recommends the following with regard to youth unemployment in relation to crime and early marriage in Kampala city.

Corruption as seen from data analysis in chapter four is one of the main problems escalating the youth unemployment problem in the city. Funds meant for youth program are often taken by government officials who are not held accountable which worsens the youth unemployment problem. In this regard, government should ensure that corruption is dealt with if youth are to be engaged in meaningful employment.

The President of Uganda, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has over the years publicly condemned corruption and promised zero tolerance to theft in public offices. This was supposed to be exemplified through the setup of the Anti-Corruption Court and the National Strategy to fight Corruption, the Directorate of Ethics and Integrity in the President's Office, among other institutions put in place to fight corruption. What has emerged is that, we have too many institutions and yet we see no concrete action on corruption.

Crime among young people is on the rise partly because the law enforcement agencies (police, courts of law and prisons) are not well equipped to deal with such cases. Staffing as well as salaries are very low hence these agencies are not motivated to fight crime among the youth. Therefore government should ensure that such people are in position to do their job effectively by providing the necessary facilities to do so. With peace and security ensured in the

country, this will attract foreign investors to further boost the country's economy and also provide jobs for the young people.

We can recommend that though some policies are already in place about use of drugs as well as crime, but there is need to ensure that the culprits are dealt with as law suggests. Because the law already sets 18 as the legal age of marriage for girls, the role of political leaders is to call public attention to the individual and societal benefits of adhering to the law. National, regional, and local policymakers can publicize the extent of under-age marriages taking place within their area. Government should also ensure that laws regarding early marriages are enforced and all those found forcing their children to get married under the age of 18, should be dealt with under the law.

Awareness creation is a crucial aspect of cubing down youth unemployment. Firstly, the youth should be educated about their negative attitudes towards certain jobs. Youth need to be given career guidance on how to make meaningful life choices and not to under look any job as long as it can get them some money. Additionally, communities and parents need to be educated about the dangers of marrying off their children young so as to change their attitudes from seeing children as a source of bride price.

Introduction of skills training at early stages of school education like primary and secondary levels is very important to equip the youth with skills necessary to help them create their own employment. The educational system should be more practical than theoretical in order to produce job creators who are

creative and innovative to create their own job other than seekers. As seen from the analysis, skills training is one of the options government has embarked on to solve youth unemployment but there is still more that needs to be done to equip you with hands on skills to create their own jobs.

Uganda's economy is predominantly agriculture, therefore it is important to mechanize the sector and encourage youth to join it so as to become employed. There is need to organize the youth into young farmers' associations/ cooperatives to enable them access training and extension services, financial services and agricultural inputs such as demand-driven improved seeds and to ease marketing of their produce.

4.4 Limitations

The researcher encountered a big challenge of accessing official government documents on the topic under study from Uganda. Also the survey had few respondents because most target respondents were very busy to take the survey. All these challenges limited the amount of data to analyze the research questions.

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APPENDIX: QUESTIONNAIRE

Survey on Youth Unemployment and its Impact on Crime and Early Marriage

I am a Masters student writing a thesis on “**The impact of unemployment on social behavior among Ugandan youth in relation to crime and early marriages**” at Graduate School of Public Administration, Seoul National University. You are kindly requested to fill this questionnaire exhaustively and as honestly as possible to enable me achieve the objectives of this study.

The information provided is strictly for academic purposes and will be treated with maximum confidentiality.

A: GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Name:

Organization Type: (e.g. Gov't, private, NGO etc)

Title:

Number of years in organization:

Sex: Male Female

B: This section seeks to examine the extent to which youth unemployment contributes to the crime rate in Uganda.

1. Is there a linkage between youth unemployment and crime? If yes, please explain
2. What kinds of crime do the youth in general engage in?
3. What are the other causes of crime among the youth apart from their lack of employment?
4. What are the effects of youth unemployment and crime on the socio-economic development of the country?
5. What mechanisms have been put in place to address the problem of youth unemployment and crime?
6. What challenges are faced by government and the different stakeholders in combating crime and youth unemployment?
7. In your opinion, kindly give suggestions on how to address the issue of youth unemployment and crime in Uganda.

C: This section seeks to assess the influence of unemployment (poverty) on early marriages among Ugandan youth.

1. Is there any linkage between youth unemployment and early marriages among young people? If yes, please explain.
2. Which gender is mostly affected by the problem of early marriage and why?
3. Apart from unemployment (poverty), what other factors account for the early marriage phenomenon in Uganda?

4. What are the effects of youth unemployment and early marriage on the socio-economic development of the country?
5. What mechanisms have been put in place to address the problem of youth unemployment and early marriage in Uganda?
6. What challenges are faced by government and the different stakeholders in combating early marriage and youth unemployment?
7. In your opinion, kindly give suggestions on how to address the issue of youth unemployment and early marriage in Uganda.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR VALUABLE TIME

국문초록

실업이 우간다 청소년들의 사회적 행태에 미치는 영향: 캄팔라시에 대한 사례 연구

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본 연구는 실업이 청년층의 사회적 행위에 미치는 영향에 관해 우간다의 캄팔라(Kampala) 시 사례를 중심으로 연구하였다. 보다 구체적으로 본 연구는 첫째, 캄팔라 지역의 청년들 사이에서 실업이 조혼(early marriage)에 미치는 영향을 평가하고, 둘째, 실업이 범죄율에 어떤 영향을 미치는지를 살펴보았다. 연구에는 1 차, 2 차 자료를 활용하였는데 직접 16 개 질문지에 대한 설문조사를 실시하여 직접적인 자료를 수집하였고, 2 차 자료는 관련 선행연구와 문헌연구를 통해 수집하였다.

연구결과, 대다수의 응답자들은 청년실업과 범죄, 조혼이 관계가 깊다고 대답하였다. 또한 경제적인 제약으로 인해서 두 가지 사회적 행위에 실업이 영향을 미치는 것으로 응답하였다. 실업 이외에도 조혼과 범죄에 영향을 미치는 요인으로서 가난한 부모, 동료들의 압박, 문화적인 규범, 마약과 약물 남용 등도 원인이 될 수 있다고 응답하였다. 범죄와 조혼으로 인하여 다른 부정적 부수효과들이 발생할 수 있는데, 예를 들어 사회의 도덕적 붕괴, 사회불안정, 높은 인구증가율 등이 발생할 수 있다.

분석결과를 바탕으로 청년층에서 실업으로 인한 범죄와 조혼을 방지하기 위한 정책들을 제안하였는데, 예를 들어, 범죄 및 조혼에 관한 법을 엄격하게 집행해야 하며, 정부기관의 부패를 개혁하고 청년층으로 하여금 자영업을 할 수 있는 기술을 훈련하거나 농업분야와 같은 특정 직업군에 대한 태도를 개선할 수 있도록 도와줄 필요가 있다.

주요어: 청년층, 실업, 범죄, 조혼

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