

**EFFECTS OF CHILDREN'S ABSENTEEISM ON ACADEMIC
PERFORMANCE OF PUPILS IN MAZIMASA SUB
COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN BUTALEJA
DISTRICT, UGANDA**

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BU/UP/2017/1623**

**RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT
OF EDUCATION IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF
THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF
A BACHELOR OF EDUCATION PRIMARY
DEGREE OF BUSITEMA
UNIVERSITY**

APRIL, 2021

DECLARATION

I SHEMA ABDU SWAMADU do hereby declare that this report is my original work. it has never been submitted to any University or institution of learning for academic award.

Sign:

Date.....

SHEMA ABDU SWAMADU

APPROVAL

I do hereby confirm that this research report was written by the student under my supervision as Busitema University supervisor.

Sign:

Date.....

MR WAMIMBI SAMUEL SOKOI

(SUPERVISOR)

DEDICATION

This research report is dedicated to my dear wife Namulwa Harriet, for the financial support accorded to me during the training that led to the award of Bachelor's Degree in Primary Education.

May God bless her abundantly

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I am greatly indebted to the Almighty God, Mazimasa Sub County Community which was the research area and all the people who got involved in this research for their contribution towards the realization of my academic dream.

I acknowledge the contribution of my parents, the late Mwaha Abdul Kadiri, and, Mrs. Tamiiti Zabiba for their contribution towards my education at the foundation stage.

Special thanks go to my dear wife, Namulwa Harriet for the financial support, especially at the bachelor's level.

I greatly acknowledge Mr. Wamimbi Samuel Sokoi, the University supervisor for the valuable contribution towards mentoring me in the research to the completion of this report.

I further more acknowledge the contribution of Busitema University staff for their contribution towards my education. The course mates are also acknowledged for their co-operation in the discussions carried out during the time of study.

In a special way I thank Sharon Nakiria for all the secretarial work rendered to me during this academic research. .

May the Almighty God reward all of you abundantly.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THEME/TOPIC	PAGE
DECLARATION	I
APPROVAL	II
DEDICATION	III
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	IV
LIST OF TABLE	VIII
LIST OF FIGURES	IX
ABSTRACT.....	X

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODICTION

Background of the study	1
Statement of the problem	3
The purpose of study.....	4
Specific Objectives of the study	4
Research Questions.....	4
Significance of the study.....	5
Scope of the study.....	5
Content scope.....	5
Time scope	6
Limitations of the study	6
Conceptual frame work.....	7

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

Introduction.....	9
Factors contributing to Children’s absenteeism in primary Schools	9

The effects of Children’s absenteeism on their academic performance in Primary Schools.....	12
Intervention strategies that can be applied in order to curb Children’s absenteeism in primary Schools.....	15

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

Introduction.....	18
Research Design.....	18
Population of the study	18
Population Sampling Technique	19
Sample size and sampling technique	19
Sample size	19
Sampling technique.....	20
Instruments for Data/information Collection.....	20
Questionnaire	20
Interview	21
Procedure for data collection	21
Quality control	22
Data analysis	22
Ethical Consideration.....	23
Limitation of the study.....	24

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Introduction.....	25
Gender of the respondents	25
Age of the Respondents	25

Marital status of the respondents	26
The respondents level of education.....	27
The respondents’ level of qualification.....	27
Response Rate.....	28
The bearing of demographic profile in this research	29
To suggest possible intervention strategies that can be applied in order to curb Children’s absenteeism in primary schools of Mazimasa Sub County, Butaleja District	34
Discussion of the findings.....	36

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction.....	38
Conclusion of the study findings	38
Recommendations of the study.....	39
Areas for future research.....	40
REFERENCES.....	41

APPENDICES

Appendix I: Krejcie, R.V. & Morgan, D. W Table For Sample Size	44
Appendix II: A Letter To The Respondent.	45
Appendix III: Questionnaire for teachers, headteachers and pta chairpersons.	46
Appendix IV: Interview guide for pupils and other parents who cannot read and write.....	48
Appendix V: Raw Data Captured From The Field.....	49
Appendix VI : Time Schedule	51
Appendix VII : Financial Budget.....	52

LIST OF TABLE

TABLE	PAGE
Table 3.1: Population, and sample size of the study.....	19
Table 3.2: details the interpretation of the mean range.....	23
Table 4.3: illustrates the gender of the respondents.....	25
Table 4.4: illustrates the age of the Respondents.....	26
Table 4.5: presents marital status of the respondents	26
Table 4.6: illustrates the level of education of the respondents	27
Table 4.7: illustrates the respondents' level of qualification	28
Table 4.8: Response rate per category of respondents.....	28
Table 4.9: illustrates the outcome as result of the data collected in relation to this objective.....	30
Table 4.10: illustrates the outcome as result of the analyzed data in relation to effects of absenteeism on performance of the pupils.....	32
Table 4.11: presents the strategies to be used to manage absenteeism of pupils from schools	34

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE	PAGE
Figure 1: the conceptual frame work presents the variables and how each contributes to each other.	7

ABSTRACT

The general objective of this study was to assess the effects of pupils' absenteeism on academic performance in Mazimasa Sub county primary schools. This study was guided by three specific objectives; (i) to identify the factors contributing to pupils' poor performance in primary Schools of Mazimasa Sub County, Butaleja District, (ii) to assess the effects of absenteeism on academic performance of pupils of primary schools of Mazimasa Sub County, Butaleja District. (iii) to suggest possible intervention strategies that could be applied in order to curb pupils' absenteeism in primary schools of Mazimasa Sub County in Butaleja District. The research designs used were cross sectional and case study. The sample size of the study was 296. Data was analyzed in two ways, for the case of demographic profile, percentage was used, and SPSS was used to analyze objectives of the study. For objective one, the overall mean was 2.39, rated as low. This means that there were factors that led to poor academic performance of the pupils in primary schools. For objective two, the overall mean was 2.63; rated as low. This outcome shows that absenteeism contributed to the pupils' poor academic performance. Objective three was concerned with strategies used to curb absenteeism of the pupils. The overall mean was 2.63; rated as low. This meant that the strategies to manage absenteeism amongst the pupils were not applied by the stakeholders. Conclusion of the study findings; for objective one, it was concluded that absenteeism in primary schools contributed to poor academic performance of the pupils at the end of the year. About objective two, it is concluded that absenteeism contributed negatively to academic performance of pupils in primary schools. For the sake of objective three, it was concluded that schools were not effectively using the absenteeism management strategies in place, recommended by the Ministry of Education and sports to manage absenteeism.. Recommendation of the study; the local councilors together with the parents should work hand in hand in order to identify the factors contributing to pupils' absenteeism and jointly apply the existing byelaws enacted by the District Local Council in order to manage absenteeism. To the School Administrators, it is recommended that the existing absenteeism management strategies put in place by the Ministry of Education and sports be strengthened in order for the absenteeism to be managed in schools. By so doing, the pupils will regularly go to school to the extent of being able to follow what the teachers will be teaching.