

**THE IMPACT OF GOLD MINING ON PUPILS' ACADEMIC
PERFORMANCE AT SCHOOL IN MUTUMBA SUB – COUNTY,
NAMAYINGO DISTRICT,
UGANDA**

BY

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DECLARATION

I, **Wafula Stephen**, do hereby declare that this dissertation is my original work. I am sure nobody has ever submitted it to any higher institution of education for any award except for the case of related literature review from earlier works relevant to my topic of study.

Name: **WAFULA STEPHEN** Sign: 

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APPROVAL

This piece of work has been under my supervision and now it is ready to be submitted to the internal panel of examiners of Busitema University for award of Bachelor's Degree. of Education – Primary.

Signature: 

Date...10th May, 2023

MUGOYA LIVINGSTONE

SUPERVISOR

DEDICATION

It has been a three-year tedious academic work at this giant Busitema University. I have humbly acknowledged the higher one goes in academic and career development, the harder pursuit becomes. I want to thank God for his Grace, love and care for every stakeholder in my BEP course. I dedicate this research work to my mother *Nerima Rosemary* for her tireless efforts that made me what I am today.

It is said west or east, home is best and that charity begins at home. In a special way, I would like to dedicate this special art-piece to my brothers and sisters *Wanyama Godfrey Alex, Oguttu William, Nabwire Betty* and *Auma Christine*.

May the almighty God reward your efforts

I further dedicate this work to my children who forfeited some of their basic needs in order to support my course to the end. It will be cheating if I forgot to thank their mother because she is a lady of substance.

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ABSTRACT

Work for survival traces back to the story of the garden of Eden when God sent Adam and Eve away to fend for themselves after disobeying his instructions of not eating from the forbidden tree of knowledge. Since then, man works in order to get what to eat and cater for other basic needs.

With the advent of formal education, formal work sector evolved. This means one undergoes education until such time when one gains skills and knowledge to perform tasks of a given formal career. This formal career means a wage at the end of a month.

However, with the fact that not everybody is destined to succeed through formal education, a majority of people especially in Uganda remain fending for a living in the informal work sector. This kind of fending involves hard labour in the garden fields, in peoples' homes, in stone quarries and in the gold mines among many others.

Whether formal or informal, all work points to socio-economic development in a specific family, community, region and a nation at large. The fact is, the level of education in a given society defines the level of socio-economic development in that society. This is very apparent in the Ugandan setting. There is clear family, community and regional socio-economic imbalance as a result of formal education imbalance, political instability and unfair distribution of national services.

In my experience, geographical location seems also to have played a great role in rendering some societies and communities backward in socio-economic development.

Discovery of minerals in Uganda for example has more so put some communities where such precious materials have been found at a great disadvantage. For example, the extensive sugar cane outgrowing in Mayuge district has enticed most primary school children, especially boys to desert school for lucrative sugar cane cutting and loading.

In Namayingo district, the area of study, Artisanal gold rush have attracted an influx of miners with school age going children not spared.

The vivid question in the researcher's mind was; "How were the children in the gold mining areas balancing school attendance and the informal mining career?"

Constitutionally, education is a right that every child in Uganda must receive. But is it practically sufficient? No. The biting poverty denies several minors their right to education especially in these gold mining areas. Lack of food at home and requirements at school tend to force children to go mining hence affecting their school attendance and subsequently performance.

It is so absurd to note that Mutumba sub-county did worse in the 2020 and 2022 PLE results. This study was designed to find out the real causes of poor performance of children at PLE in Mutumba sub-county. Was it gold mining or other related factors?

Regarding methodology, the researcher used mixed method research design. He used *quantitative research* for accurate and systematic description of the characteristics of the population under study and *qualitative method* to draw detailed explanation of events relating gold mining and children's performance in the selected primary schools in Mutumba Sub-county – a gold mining area.

The population studied included pupils, teachers, parents, local leaders and school administrators from 4 community schools.

To select the most reliable population for the study, the researcher used purposive and snowball sampling techniques.

On data analysis, the researcher used percentages to analyze data instead of SPSS due to unfriendly circumstances and the complexity of the later.

Ethically, the researcher practiced principles of anonymity, simple and friendly language, respect, and honesty to provide a free and fair atmosphere to the respondents and the participants.

And the central expected output for the study was the agreement of the results of the study with either the null hypothesis or the alternative hypothesis. The researcher was pleased to say the results rejected the null hypothesis and confirmed the alternative hypothesis. The documentary review of the study showed that candidates who failed and passed in weak grades in the PLE examinations of 2022 were perpetual absentees while candidates who attended school regularly registered a better academic performance in the Primary Leaving Examinations of 2022.

The study also found that artisanal gold mining in Mutumba Sub-county has immensely affects academic performance of children at school by causing poor school attendance, loss of interest in education, influencing children to work for financial independence, exhausting their physical potential, and at worst diverting professional effort of some of the teachers.

To mitigate these impacts, the study implores stakeholders in education to impartially implement children's safety laws; provide adequate emotional support, raise community awareness and collectively mobilise financial support towards alternative income-generating activities.

Regarding the strategies to reduce child labour in the gold mines and positively reintegrate child miners into school, the recommends building social capital for children in communities, exploring the influence of the child support grant, targeting trans generational sexual norms, applying the law on underage child labour and making information on contraception more accessible for girl children who are working in the sites. In a nutshell, the study recommends multifaceted and inter-sectoral approaches are required to be employed so as to help reduce child labour in the gold mines.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Chapter one of this study presents the background information, statement of the problem, the purpose, objectives, the scope, significance and conceptual framework of the study.

1.2 Background

1.2.1 Conceptual background

Key words: *gold, mining and gold mining*

Gold is a yellow metallic element that occurs naturally in pure form and is used especially in coins, jewelry, and electronics. It is a valuable, yellow metal usually found underground veins of metamorphic rock. It does not depreciate in value and has been used as currency and for investment in the world over for thousands of years. Besides using it to mint currency in coins, gold is used highly in the jewelry industry. This industry is known to be the largest source of annual demand for gold per sector.

Mining is the economic activity of extracting valuable minerals from underground. Minerals refer to naturally occurring substances extracted for human use. Mining is the extraction of minerals and precious metals from the earth (Adu-Gyamfi, 2014). Some minerals extracted from the earth are diamond, bauxite, manganese and gold.

Mining is the world's second oldest and most important industry after agriculture. It is currently among the largest industry in the world and it plays a crucial role in the world economic development.

The process of mining begins with exploration and discovery of mineral deposits. Mining technology is divided into *surface mining* and *underground mining*. In the area of study specifically, artisanal small scale mining is carried out using simple tools like picks and shovels to extract from the underneath surface of the earth.

Mining operations in developing countries like Uganda is run by individuals, families or groups of local communities or local enterprises, the majority of whom have no formal technical training and depend on rudimentary tools. The Ugandan mining legislation does not provide a direct definition of "artisanal" mining; only "small-scale" mining has been defined in the Mining Act, of 2003 as

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