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CHILD POVERTY IN UGANDA: IS ORPHAN-HOOD ENOUGH EXPLANATION? A CRITICAL LITERATURE REVIEW

INTRODUCTION

* Answering the above question is subtle than yes and no: because:

* Many children are victims of multiple deprivations yet vivid explanation is scanty

* OVCs approach has been used to differentiate the poor and non poor

* Ovc approach has its own short fall, thus this paper sets forth to show why ovc approach is not adequate explanation of child poverty in Uganda

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION CONTINUES

- Hence setting a stage for further analyses to answer the Ph.D. research questions that include?

IS HE AN ORPHAN?

QUESTIONS

1. Are orphans the most affected by poverty than the general children population?

2. Are all orphans affected in the same way and equally?

3. What are the patterns of child poverty in Uganda between 1995-2011

PH.D. RESEARCH QUESTIONS
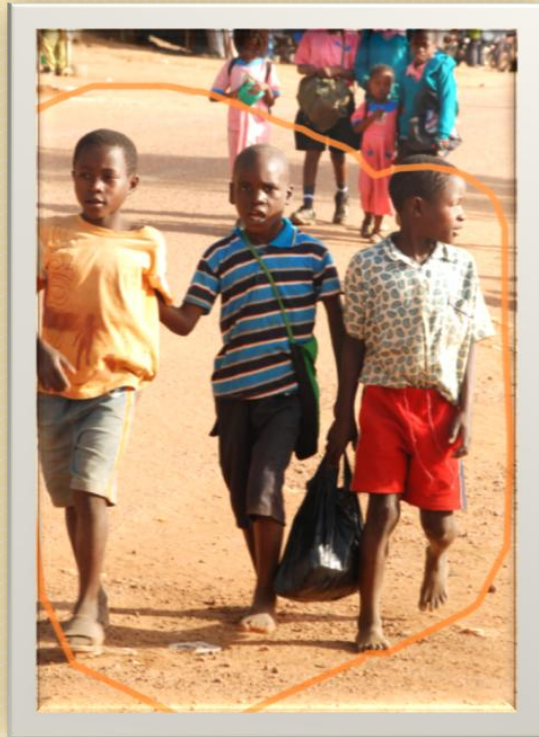
WHO LACKS SHOES?

HOW DO WE MEASURE CHILD POVERTY?

i. What are the theoretical frameworks on which the proxy determinants of observed poverty patterns are hinged?

ii. What changes have taken place in terms of child poverty between 1995 and 2011?

PH.D. RESEARCH QUESTIONS CONTINUES

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Over all: to establish the patterns of child poverty and examine the theoretical frameworks on which the major determinants of child poverty in Uganda is premised

LACK OF SCHOOL UNIFORM

OBJECTIVES

✖ To find the nature of variation in child poverty between orphaned and non-orphaned children

✖ To examine the differentiation in poverty profiles among orphaned children .

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES CONTINUES

* To Assess the patterns and changes of child poverty profiles for 1995, 2000/2001, 2005/2006 and 2010.

UNSAFE WATER SOURCE

HAS THE PATTERN CHANGED AND WHY?

✖ To Assess the patterns of child poverty profiles for 1995, 2000/2001, 2005/2006 and 2010, so as to establish the changes that have occurred among the selected periods of the study

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES CONTINUES

HOUSEHOLD ASSETS

OBJECTIVES

✖ Probe theoretically whether use of household assets such as ownership of a bicycle, TV, radio etc. really explain child poverty in Uganda or are taken as proxy indicators of poverty?

✖ Examine the relative changes in the importance of different factors in explanation of child poverty in the study period.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES CONTINUES

ORPHAN-HOOD SITUATION IN UGANDA

- Over 52% children are 15 years and below
- 15% are estimated to be orphan
- The pattern has been the same since 2003(UBOS, 2003) an indication of stabilization or stagnation
- Challenge one: considering only orphans of 15 years and below does not conform with both national and UNCRC definition of a child.
- Not accounting for children above 15 years only provides partial knowledge.

POSTULATES ABOUT ORPHAN-HOOD

* There are two postulates about orphan-hood:
    I. That orphan hood matters and therefore explains children's poor outcome in health, education, material ownership and emotional well being
    II. The second argument is that orphan-hood do not matter, it is the general poverty conditions that affect each and every child's well being.

* Quite a number of scholars fall on either side showing strong disagreement over the issue

ANY LINE OF AGREEMENT?

* Yes- They both look at orphans from a homogenous point of view.

* Looking at orphans as the same and juxtaposing them against non-orphans obscure the understanding of child poverty
  * Note all children are differentiated by households, regions and individual characteristics

LIMITATION OF ORPHAN-HOOD THEORY

- 2nd evidence are mainly from cross sectional studies which has high possibility of being biased

- 3rd both studies tend to be single indicator studies hence not accounting for multidimensional nature of poverty,
  - Single indicators ideal for sector targeting,

- Lastly, the orphans as agents in household consumption and production is not taken in to account.

SELLING POLYTHENE BAGS IN MARKETS

ORPHAN POSTULATE CONT.

ORPHAN AS STATIC STRUCTURE

- Although publications concerning orphans well being has continued to carry the same tone that orphan hood is a crisis, there indications that the causes are changing.

- The civil war ended especially war in Northern Uganda, though Kony still eludes the UPDF

- In Uganda HIV prevalence reduced from 28% in 1990s to 6% in 2005 although it remains a serious health concern

ORPHAN AS STATIC STRUCTURE

- Scientific projections and studies have shown that mortality due to HIV/AIDS has reduced implying that even men and women who are infected live longer comparable with those who are not infected(Mills, et al., 2011, Hladik et al., 2008:507, Quinn, et al., 2008)

- Likewise the socioeconomic intervention has also helped to reduce the level of HIV/AIDS impact(Smith, et al., 2001)

EVIDENCE

* Evidence from Rakai, the first district in Uganda to have vast effect of HIV have demonstrated good performance in child education and health compared to other districts.

* All these indicate that orphan-hood may not matter in areas where the cause of orphan-hood has stabilized or changed(Beegle, 2009)

* Need for detailed analyses and observation of data.

CONCLUSION

- Orphan-hood is inadequate explanation of poverty

- Due to the reasons above.

- The study will develop child poverty index and take a multidimensional approach to understand who is a poor child in Uganda.

VIELEN DANK FÜR IHRE AUFMERKSAMKEIT