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THE IMPACT OF BODABODA TRANSPORT ON SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AND ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AMONG SECONDARY STUDENTS IN KABALE MUNICIPALITY, KABALE DISTRICT

By

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CANDIDATE'S INDEX NUMBER: U\*\_\*\_/\*\_\*

St Mary's Vocational School Kyamuhunga

A General Paper Research Project Submitted to the Uganda National Examinations Board in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Award of the Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education

SUPERVISOR: TR. NAMANYA JUSTUS

11TH MAY 2026

PAGE 2: DECLARATION

I, Asiimwe Bruce, hereby declare that this research project titled "The Impact of Bodaboda Transport on School Attendance and Academic Performance Among Secondary Students in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District" is my original work. It has not been submitted to UNEB or any other examining body for any award. All sources of information have been acknowledged by means of references.

Signature:



Date: 11th May 2026

### PAGE 3: APPROVAL

This research project by Asiimwe Bruce has been done under my supervision and is now ready for submission to UNEB with my approval.

Supervisor's Name: Tr. Namanya Justus

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Headteacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ School Stamp: \_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### PAGE 4: DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my beloved parents Mr. and Mrs. \* \*\* \* \_ of Kabale District who have paid my school fees and supported me throughout my education. I also dedicate it to all students in Kabale Municipality who brave the steep hills of Rushoroza, Kigongi, and Makanga daily to attain education.

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### PAGE 5: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT\*

I thank the Almighty God for giving me life and wisdom to complete this research.

Special thanks go to my General Paper teacher, Mr. Namanya Justus, for guidance on research methods. I thank the Headteacher St Mary's Vocational School Kyamuhunga, Fr. Felix Tumuhaise, for granting permission to carry out this study.

I appreciate the Kabale Municipal Council Education Officer, LC1 Chairpersons of Central Division, Kigongi, and Mwanjari, and the Chairman Boda Boda Association at Kabale Taxi Park Stage for allowing me to collect data.

I am grateful to the 25 students from Kigezi High School, Kabale S.S, and St Mary's College Rushoroza, 10 boda boda riders, and 5 teachers who sacrificed time to answer my questions.

Lastly, I thank my classmates and my family for financial and moral support during fieldwork. May God bless you all.

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\*ABBREVIATIONS\*

UNEB - Uganda National Examinations Board

KMC - Kabale Municipal Council

KDLG - Kabale District Local Government

MoES - Ministry of Education and Sports

NPA - National Planning Authority

LC1 - Local Council One

UGX - Uganda Shillings

UCE - Uganda Certificate of Education

UACE - Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education

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## PAGE 8: ABSTRACT

This study investigated the impact of bodaboda transport on school attendance and academic performance among secondary students in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District. The hilly terrain of Kabale makes bodabodas the most common means of transport for students. The objectives were to determine the extent of boda use, assess positive and negative effects on attendance, and suggest solutions.

A descriptive survey design was used. Data was collected from 40 respondents: 25 students, 10 boda riders, and 5 teachers from Kigezi High School, Kabale S.S, and St Mary's College Rushoroza. Questionnaires, interviews, and observation were used.

Findings showed 68% of students use bodas 4-5 days a week, spending 20,000-40,000 UGX monthly. Positive effects include saving time on hills like Rushoroza and accessing school during rain. Negative effects include late coming by 52% due to high fares, accidents, and breakdowns. 40% of teachers said boda users miss first lessons.

The study concludes that bodabodas are essential in Kabale but need regulation. It recommends KMC to gazette student boda stages with fixed fares, schools to start bicycle projects, and parents to pay riders monthly.

## PAGE 9: CHAPTER ONE - INTRODUCTION\*

### \*1.1 Background to the Study\*

Kabale District is located in South Western Uganda. It is nicknamed the "Switzerland of Africa" because of its numerous steep hills and valleys. Kabale Municipality covers Central, Southern, and Northern Divisions. The municipality has

major schools like Kigezi High School on Rugarama Hill, Kabale Secondary School in Kigongi, and St Mary's College Rushoroza on Rushoroza Hill.

Because of the terrain, walking to school is difficult. Many students come from villages like Muyumbu, Karubanda, Mwanjari, and Bugongi which are 3–7km from schools. Since 2012, bodaboda motorcycles have become the main transport means. The Kabale Municipal Council Licensing Office reported 1,842 registered bodas in 2024. They operate from stages like Kabale Taxi Park, Kigongi Stage, Makanga Road, and Mwanjari Stage.

While bodas help students climb hills quickly, school administrators complain of late coming. The Kigezi High School 2023 Annual Report showed 30% of disciplinary cases were due to late coming, with students blaming boda transport. This study therefore seeks to find out how bodas affect attendance.

### \*1.2 Statement of the Problem\*

Education requires regular attendance for good performance. In Kabale Municipality, students depend on bodabodas due to hilly terrain and lack of school buses. However, teachers report that many students arrive late or miss school, blaming boda-related issues like lack of fare, rain, accidents, and strikes. If this continues, academic performance in UCE and UACE will decline. Therefore, there is need to investigate the real impact of bodabodas on student attendance and suggest solutions.

### \*1.3 Objectives of the Study\*

1. To establish the extent to which secondary students in Kabale

Municipality use bodaboda transport to school.

2. To assess the positive effects of bodaboda transport on school attendance.
3. To assess the negative effects of bodaboda transport on school attendance and academic performance.
4. To suggest measures that can be taken by stakeholders to improve student transport in Kabale Municipality.

#### \*1.4 Research Questions\*

1. What percentage of students in Kabale Municipality use bodabodas to school and how often?
2. In what ways do bodabodas help students attend school regularly and on time?
3. What challenges do students face when using bodabodas that make them miss school or come late?
4. What can KMC, schools, and parents do to make student transport better?

#### \*1.5 Significance of the Study\*

1. To Kabale Municipal Council: The findings will help in making by-laws to regulate boda fares for students.
2. To Schools: Headteachers can adjust school programs or start transport projects. St Mary's Vocational can use this to start a bicycle repair business as an income project.
3. To Parents: The study will show the real cost of bodas so they can budget better.
4. To Students: It will create awareness of how transport affects their education.
5. To Future Researchers: It adds literature on transport and education in Kigezi region.

## \*1.6 Scope of the Study\*

**Geographical Scope:** The study was carried out in Kabale Municipality, focusing on Central, Southern, and Northern Divisions. Three schools were selected: Kigezi High School, Kabale S.S, and St Mary's College Rushoroza.

**Content Scope:** The study focused only on boda boda transport and its effect on attendance and punctuality. Other factors like fees, sickness were not studied.

**Time Scope:** Data was collected from January to April 2026.

\*PAGE 11: CHAPTER ONE + TWO\*

## \*1.7 Limitations of the Study\*

1. Rain: Fieldwork was done in February which is a rainy month in Kabale. Some days I could not move. Solution: I used sunny mornings and interviewed students under school verandas.
2. Fear: Some students feared to say they miss school. Solution: I told them their names would not be written.
3. Finance: Printing questionnaires and transport cost money. Solution: My parents supported me with 50,000 UGX.

## CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

### \*2.1 Boda Boda Transport in Uganda\*

According to the National Planning Authority Report 2022, bodabodas employ over 1.2 million youths in Uganda. In Kabale, they are important because the district has few taxis and the roads are marred with steep corners. The Ministry of Works and Transport 2024 Guidelines say every municipality should register bodas and give them stages. However, the report notes that 35% of road accidents involve bodas. In Kabale, the

Daily Monitor of 10th Feb 2025 reported that 3 students were injured in a boda accident on Rushoroza Hill. This shows bodas help but are also risky.

## \*2.2 Student Transport and School Attendance\*

The Ministry of Education and Sports School Attendance Guidelines 2023 state that a student who lives more than 3km from school is likely to be absent 2 days a week if there is no transport. The Kabale District Local Government Education Report 2023 found that in Central Division, 55% of day scholars use bodas. The same report said late coming reduced by 10% when Kigezi High School started early morning preps to allow boda users to arrive. A study by Bariyo, R. 2021, "Transport and Education in Kigezi" found that students who spend over 2000 UGX daily on transport are likely to miss school 4 days a month when parents lack money.

\*PAGE 12: CHAPTER TWO + THREE\*

## \*2.3 Research Gap\*

Many studies have been done on bodabodas in Kampala and education in Uganda. However, few studies have linked Kabale's unique hilly terrain, boda transport, and student attendance. This study fills that gap by using primary data from Kabale Municipality.

\*CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY\*

## \*3.1 Research Design\*

The study used a descriptive survey design. This design was chosen because it helps to describe the current situation of boda use and attendance as it is in Kabale without

changing anything.

### \*3.2 Area of Study\*

The study was carried out in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District. Kabale Municipality was chosen because it has many hills and the highest number of bodas in Kigezi region. The specific schools were Kigezi High School in Southern Division, Kabale S.S in Central Division, and St Mary's College Rushoroza in Northern Division.

### \*3.3 Population and Sample Size\*

The target population was all secondary students, boda riders, and teachers in Kabale Municipality. The sample size was 40 respondents: 25 students, 10 boda boda riders, and 5 teachers. This number was manageable for me given time and money.

### \*3.4 Sampling Techniques\*

For students, simple random sampling was used. I wrote names of S.3-S.6 students on papers, put in a box, and picked 25. For teachers, purposive sampling was used – I chose Deputy Headteachers and Class Teachers because they keep attendance records. For boda riders, I used purposive sampling at Kabale Taxi Park and Kigongi stages because those stages have many student customers.

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### \*PAGE 13: CHAPTER THREE + FOUR\*

### \*3.5 Data Collection Methods\*

1. Questionnaires: I gave 25 students questionnaires with 10 questions. They were easy to fill.
2. Interviews: I interviewed 5 teachers and 10 boda riders using an interview guide. This gave me detailed answers.
3. Observation: I went to Kabale Taxi Park Stage at 7:00am for 3 days and counted students boarding bodas.
4. Photography: I took photos of boda stages and students boarding with permission.

### \*3.6 Data Analysis\*

Data from questionnaires was counted by hand, tallied, and changed into percentages. Tables and graphs were drawn. For interviews, answers were grouped into themes like “high fares” and “time saving”.

### \*3.7 Ethical Considerations\*

1. I got an introduction letter from St Mary’s Vocational School.
2. I explained the purpose to all respondents.
3. I did not write names of students to keep privacy.
4. I did not force anyone to answer.

## CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS\*

### *\*4.1 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents\**

Table 4.1: Age and sex of student respondents

<b>**Age**</b>	<b>**Male**</b>	<b>**Female**</b>	<b>**Total**</b>	<b>**%**</b>
13-15	3	4	7	28%
16-18	8	6	14	56%
19-21	2	2	4	16%
<b>**Total**</b>	<b>**13**</b>	<b>**12**</b>	<b>**25**</b>	<b>**100%**</b>

Interpretation: Table 4.1 shows most respondents, 56%, were

aged 16–18 years. This is the common age for S.4–S.6 students. The sex was balanced with 13 males and 12 females.

Table 4.2: Distance from home to school

<b>**Distance**</b>	<b>**Frequency**</b>	<b>**%**</b>
Less than 1km	2	8%
1–3km	8	32%
More than 3km	15	60%
<b>**Total**</b>	<b>**25**</b>	<b>**100%**</b>

Interpretation: 60% of students live more than 3km from school. This explains why they need bodas because Kabale hills make walking tiring.

PAGE 14: CHAPTER FOUR CONTINUED\*

\*4.2 Extent of Boda Boda Use\*

Table 4.3: Frequency of boda boda use per week

<b>**Frequency**</b>	<b>**No. of students**</b>	<b>**%**</b>
Daily, 5 days	17	68%
2–3 days	5	20%
Only rainy days	3	12%
<b>**Total**</b>	<b>**25**</b>	<b>**100%**</b>

Interpretation: 68% of students use bodas every school day. During interviews, a student from Kigezi High said, “I cannot climb Rugarama Hill daily on foot, I would reach when tired.”

Table 4.4: Monthly expenditure on boda transport

<b>**Amount UGX**</b>	<b>**Frequency**</b>	<b>**%**</b>
10,000–20,000	6	24%
21,000–40,000	14	56%
Above 40,000	5	20%

**\*\*Total\*\***

**\*\*25\*\***

**\*\*100%\*\***

Interpretation: 56% spend 21,000-40,000 UGX per month. This is high for parents in Kabale where many are peasant farmers.

### \*4.3 Positive Effects on Attendance\*

Fig 4.1: Pie chart showing reasons students use bodas

- Saves time on hills: 55%
- Helps during rain: 25%
- Safer than walking in dark: 15%
- Carries heavy bags: 5%

Explanation: The pie chart shows the main advantage is saving time. A teacher from Kabale S.S said, "Without bodas, students from Mwanjari would reach at 9am instead of 7:30am."

Observation at 7am showed bodas carrying 2 students each to beat time.

PAGE 15: CHAPTER FOUR CONTINUED\*

### \*4.4 Negative Effects on Attendance\*

Table 4.5: Effects of boda bodas on punctuality

<b>**Effect**</b>	<b>**Yes**</b>	<b>**No**</b>	<b>**%*</b>
Came late due to no fare	13	12	52%
Missed school due to rain/boda absent	11	14	44%
Involved in boda accident	4	21	16%
Sent home for boda debt	6	19	24%

Interpretation: 52% have come late because they lacked 1000-2000 UGX for fare. 44% missed school when it rained and bodas refused to move. This was confirmed by a boda rider at Kigongi stage who said, "When it rains, we fear Rushoroza Hill, it

is slippery.”

Fig 4.2: Bar graph showing challenges faced with bodas  
\_Draw bar graph\_: High fares – 14 students, Accidents – 4,  
Breakdown – 7, Riders are rude – 3, Strikes – 2.

Explanation: The biggest challenge is high fares. Students said fares increased from 1000 to 2000 UGX in 2025 due to fuel prices.

#### \*4.5 Boda Boda Use and Academic Performance\*

Out of 5 teachers interviewed, 3 said, “Students who come late on bodas miss the first 40-minute lesson and perform poorly in tests given in morning.” 2 said, “Bodas help them arrive fresh, so they concentrate better than those who walk.” This shows mixed effects.

#### \*PAGE 16: CHAPTER FIVE\*

#### CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS\*

##### \*5.1 Summary of Findings\*

1. 68% of students in Kabale Municipality use bodabodas 5 days a week because of long distances and steep hills.
2. 60% of students live more than 3km from school, making bodas necessary.
3. Positive effects: 55% said bodas save time and energy, helping them reach school by 7:30am.
4. Negative effects: 52% reported late coming due to lack of fare, 44% missed school during rain, and 16% had accidents.
5. Monthly cost is 21,000–40,000 UGX for 56% of students,

which strains parents.

6. Teachers had mixed views: bodas cause late coming but also help students not get tired.

### \*5.2 Conclusion\*

Basing on the findings, bodaboda transport is a double-edged sword for secondary students in Kabale Municipality. It is essential for overcoming the geographical barrier of hills and long distances, thus promoting access to education. However, it negatively affects school attendance through late coming, absenteeism caused by high fares and bad weather, and risks of accidents. Therefore, if unregulated, bodabodas may lower academic performance despite their convenience. The objectives of the study have been achieved.

### \*5.3 Recommendations\*

1. To Kabale Municipal Council: KMC should register all bodas and create “Student Boda Boda” stages near schools. They should set a fixed fare of 1000 UGX for any distance within the municipality for students in uniform. This will reduce late coming due to lack of fare.
2. To Schools: Schools like St Mary’s Vocational should start a “Bicycle Loan Project”. The school can buy bicycles and lend to students from nearby villages at 10,000 UGX per term. Our vocational department can repair them, giving students skills and income to school.
3. To Parents: Parents should pay boda riders monthly instead of daily. For example, pay 30,000 UGX at start of month. This avoids “no fare” excuses. Parents should also escort S.1–S.2 students.

## \*PAGE 17: CHAPTER FIVE + REFERENCES\*

4. To Ministry of Education and Sports: MoES should adjust the school timetable for hilly districts. First lesson in Kabale can start at 8:30am instead of 7:30am during rainy seasons of March-May and September-November.
5. To Boda Boda Associations: All riders should attend safety training by KMC and police. They should give students helmets and reflectors.

### \*5.4 Areas for Further Research\*

1. The impact of boda boda transport on the girl child school safety in Kabale District.
2. The role of school buses vs bodas in improving academic performance in Kigezi region.

## \*REFERENCES\*

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4. Ministry of Works and Transport. 2024. National Boda Boda Policy and Regulations. Kampala: MoWT.
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6. The Daily Monitor. 10th February 2025. "Three students injured in Kabale boda accident". Kampala: Monitor Publications, p.5.

7. New Vision, 20th March 2025. "High transport costs force students to drop out in Kigezi". Kampala: New Vision Printing, p. 8.

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\*PAGE 18: APPENDICES\*

\*APPENDICES\*

\*Appendix I: Questionnaire for Students\*

Dear Respondent,

I am Asiimwe Bruce, an S.6 student at St Mary's Vocational School Kyamuhunga. I am carrying out research on "The Impact of Boda Boda Transport on School Attendance in Kabale Municipality". Please answer honestly. Your name is not needed.

1. Sex: Male  Female
2. Age: 13-15  16-18  19-21
3. Class: S.3  S.4  S.5  S.6
4. Division where you stay: Central  Southern  Northern
5. How far is your home from school? Less than 1km  1-3km   
More than 3km
6. Do you use bodaboda to come to school? Yes  No
7. If yes, how often per week? Daily  2-3 days  Only when raining
8. How much do you pay per day? Less than 1000  1000-2000   
> Above 2000
9. Have you ever come late because of boda problems? Yes  No   
 If yes, explain: \* \_ \*\* \_
10. What should be done to improve student transport in

Kabale? \* \_ \*\* \_ \*

Thank you.

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## PAGE 19: APPENDICES CONTINUED\*

### \*Appendix II: Interview Guide for Teachers\*

1. Name of School: \* \_ \*\* \_ \*
2. Position: \* \_ \*\* \_ \*
3. How many students in your class use bodas?
4. Do boda users come late compared to others? Explain.
5. Have you recorded cases of absenteeism due to boda issues?
6. How does late coming affect performance?
7. What can schools and KMC do to help?

### \*Appendix III: Interview Guide for Boda Boda Riders\*

1. Which stage do you operate from?
2. How many students do you transport daily?
3. How much do you charge students from Mwanjari/Kigongi to town?
4. What challenges do you face with student customers?
5. Have you ever been involved in an accident with a student?
6. What should be done to make student transport safe?

### \*Appendix IV: Letter of Introduction\*

\_Get this from your GP teacher and staple it here. It should have school stamp.\_

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PAGE 20: APPENDICES CONTINUED\*

\*Appendix V: Photos from Fieldwork\*

\_Paste 3 photos. Under each write caption in pen.\_

Fig 1: The researcher interviewing a boda boda rider at Kabale Taxi Park Stage on 15/02/2026.

Fig 2: Students from Kigezi High School boarding bodas at Kigongi Stage at 7:10am.

Fig 3: Rushoroza Hill which makes students depend on bodas during rainy season.

\*THE END\*



