ABSTRACT

The descriptive case with study with qualitative and quantitative approaches was conducted on the contribution of vocational training on the welfare of orphans and other vulnerable children, was carried out in Muhanga district on Nkundabana initiative for psychosocial support project. The study population was composed of 40 youths who have graduated in vocational training courses, 20, OVC who are still undertaking vocational training courses, 20 OVC who have not attended vocational training courses, 5 teachers in vocational training centers and 5 NIPS field staff. Data was collected through, questionnaire, focus group discussion and interviews. The findings of the study also show that before joining the vocational training the life of some OVC was characterized by some misconduct behaviors like delinquency, beggars, unemployment inaccessibility on savings an loan cooperative as confirmed by 100% of interviewed OVC, 60% that some of them were prostitutes. After the graduation the life of the OVC changed. More than 80% responded that they were able to pay school fees to their relatives, covering community based medical insurance, they access youth savings and loan cooperatives, some of them were self employed, and they were able to cover basic needs. To buy seeds and small animals, etc. For the integration and the welfare of OVC in the community, 100% of NIPS staff confirmed that some psychosocial support activities were offered to OVC. These activities include group counseling sessions, trainings on different issues, reproductive health, etc. the main challenges faced by the vocational training centers and OVC as indicated by 100 % of respondents and key informants were insufficient materials and equipment, insufficient classrooms, delay in funding, high rates of school dropouts and insufficient start-up kits for OVC. This study concludes that vocational training not only provides practical skills but also psychosocial support to orphans and other vulnerable children and prepares them for sustainable self employment.