

Assessment of Overweight, Obesity and Lifestyle-Related Factors Among Women Aged 18-49 Years in Kizinda, Bushenyi District

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ABSTRACT

The trend of overweight and obesity was growing with shifts in individual and behavioral factors. Globally, overweight and obesity becoming a major problem, yet extensive data especially in Africa is still lacking. The objectives of the study were to determine the prevalence, socio-economic, and lifestyle-related factors associated with overweight and obesity among women aged 18-49 years in Kizinda in Bushenyi district. A cross-sectional analytical study design was used. Data on prevalence was collected through anthropometric measurements using the BMI (Body Mass Index) while those of socio-economic and individual factors were collected with a structured questionnaire. 271 women aged 18-49 years in Kizinda Trading Center, Bushenyi district were sampled. The prevalence of overweight and obesity among women of reproductive age in Bushenyi town was 47.24% and 19.92% respectively. Housewives were twice as likely to be overweighted and obese [AOR: 2.10, 95% CI (0.87-3.15)]. Unemployed women have 74% [AOR: 1.26, 95% CI (0.50-2.36)] higher odds of being overweight or obese and those who earn >700000 shillings have 37% [AOR: 1.63, 95% CI (0.56-2.25)] higher odds to be overweight and obese. Compared with women who live in rented houses, those who live in their own houses were 48% [AOR: 1.52, 95% CI (0.78-2.94)] higher odds of being overweight or obese. Women who engaged in physical activity had 65% [AOR: 0.35, 95% CI (0.17-1.27)] less odds of being overweight or obese compared to those who did not. Participants whose food intake is mostly rice and ghee had 55% [AOR: 1.45, 95% CI (0.40-1.27)] and 44% [AOR: 1.56, 95% CI (0.53-2.11)] more odds of being overweight or obese respectively compared to those who take Posho. Women whose food intake was mostly milk were two times [AOR: 2.01, 95% CI (0.55-2.75)] more likely to be overweighted or obese compared to those who take Posho. The high prevalence of overweight and obesity among women of reproductive age in Bushenyi calls for serious attention. Public health interventions through awareness programs about the consequences of overall and abdominal obesity should be implemented.

Keywords: Overweight, Obesity, Posho, Women, Housewives.

INTRODUCTION

Being overweight and obesity as well as associated comorbidities are major challenges to the health system and present an important public health problem in the world. Persons who are overweight are said to have their body weight exceed a certain level for a given body height. While excessive overweight on the other hand is referred to as obesity and classified as a disease [1, 2]. Obesity is a risk factor linked to chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes mellitus [3, 4], and cardiovascular diseases [5]. It is also associated with a higher risk of premature death [6]. According to the World Health Organization, the prevalence of overweight has nearly tripled since 1975. [7]. Substantive evidence shows that the prevalence of overweight

among children and adults has continued to increase. For instance, in 1980, the prevalence of overweight among men stood at 28.8 % this increased to 36.9 % in 2013 and among women from 29.8 % in the same year to 38.0 % in 2013 globally [3]. In 2014, the global prevalence of overweight and obesity among adults was estimated at 39 % (38 % of men and 40% of women) and 13% (11 % of men and 15 % of women) respectively. In 2016, more than 1.9 billion adults, 18 years and above were overweight. Of these, over 650 million were obese. Overall, about 13% of the world's adult population (11% of men and 15% of women) were obese in the same year [7]. Across the WHO regions, America has the highest prevalence of overweight and obesity standing at 61

% and 27 %, respectively, with the lowest reported in the South-East Asia region 22 % overweight and 5% obesity [8]. More than 50 % of women in the European, Eastern Mediterranean and American regions are overweight, with almost 50 % of the overweight women in the same regions being obese. Specific to the African, Eastern Mediterranean and South-East Asian regions, the prevalence of obesity among women has almost doubled that of men [3]. In Africa, an estimated 20-50 % of urban populations are either overweight or obese [9]. According to WHO, the adult prevalence of obesity in Africa was about 6 % among men and 15 % among women in 2014 [4]. In Eastern sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), the prevalence of overweight and obesity among men was estimated at 14.9 % and 4.4 % in 2013 respectively. In the same year, the prevalence of overweight and obesity among women was estimated at 23.7 % and 8.8 % respectively [10]. In Uganda, an increasing trend in the prevalence of overweight and obesity among women of reproductive age from 8 % in 1995 to 18.8 % in 2011 has been reported by the Uganda Demographic Health Surveys [11]. Uganda's recent national NCD risk factor survey reported 19.1 % adult prevalence of overweight (11.3 % of men and 27.1 % of women); obesity was 4.6 % (1.8 % of men and 7.5 % of women) [12]; [13]. A study in rural southwestern Uganda among individuals aged 13 years and above reported that 3.6 % of males and 14.5 % of females were overweight and 0.5 % of males and 3.9 % of females were obese [14]. Similarly, a study among 35-60 years old adults in rural eastern Uganda reported overweight prevalence of 12.3 % (7.5 % of men and 16.9 % of women) and obesity of 5.3 % (2.2 % of men and 8.2 % of women) [15]. In south western Uganda, the prevalence of overweight of 11.8% in men and 16.9 % of women was reported [16]. Notably was a study in Kasese district which reported that among adults aged 25 years and more, overweight was 15.6 % (14.7 % of men and

16.7 % of women) and obesity was 6.7 % (4.9 % of men and 9.0 % of women) [17]. The trend of overweight and obesity is growing with shifts in individual and behavioral factors [18]. Individual factors such as age, sex, marital status and parity, educational level, income and occupation have been reported to play important roles in the development of overweight and obesity among women [19]. Dietary intake and physical activity patterns of an individual are behavioral variables which influences weight gain when they are not balanced [19]. In Uganda, the nutritional transition taking place is not different from other low and middle income countries, and is associated with accelerating growth of chronic, non-communicable diseases [20]. This study therefore sought to assess overweight, obesity and lifestyle-related factors among women aged 18-49 in Kizinda, Bushenyi district.

The prevalence of overweight and obesity are on the rise worldwide [21]. While underweight prevalence is still high, overweight and obesity are now prevalent in low- and middle-income countries, including those in Africa [2], at a prevalence of 20-50 % [22], in urban areas and 7-30 % in rural areas [15]. Underweight, overweight and obesity are known risk factors for NCDs [23]. Similarly, the Uganda Demographic and Health Surveys (UDHS) from 1995 to 2011 reported an increasing prevalence of overweight and obesity from 8 to 18.8 % while underweight prevalence stagnated at 10 - 12 % [24]. However, evidence examining the influence of the individual, social-economic as well as environment on overweight/obesity is still sketchy and limited to urban and suburban populations in high-income countries which cannot be generalized to low- and middle-income countries and this is even true in rural settings. In Bushenyi district, there is paucity of research data regarding overweight/obesity and lifestyle-related factors among women which this study investigated in Kizinda.

METHODOLOGY

Study Design

The study design was cross-sectional analytical employing quantitative approach.

Area of Study

The study was conducted in Bushenyi-Ishaka municipal council. The municipal council stands on 5 different centers of Nyakabirizi, Bushenyi, Basajabalaba, Ishaka and Kizinda. Bushenyi-Ishaka is found in Igara county of Bushenyi district. It is bordered in the south by Bumbeire, East by Kyeizoba, North by Kyabugimbi and Kakanju and Wets by Nyabubare Sub Counties. This study was specifically conducted in Kizinda trading center

which constitute one of the busiest and populous area in Bushenyi-Ishaka municipality.

Study Population

The study population comprised of women aged 18-49 years residing in Kizinda trading center, Bushenyi District.

Inclusion Criteria

All women between the age of 18 and 49 years residing in Kizinda trading center for at least six months, present at the time of data collection and consented.

Exclusion Criteria

Women between the age of 18 and 49 years residing in Kizinda trading center who were less pregnant or did not consent to participate.

Sample Size Determination

The sample size was estimated using Fisher's formula [25]

$$n = \frac{z^2 pq}{e^2}$$

Where:

n = desired sample size

z = standard deviation at desired degree of accuracy which is 1.96 at 95% degree of accuracy.

p = is the proportion of the overweight women characteristics = 0.229 [11].

$$q = (1-p) = 1-0.229 = 0.771$$

r = margin of error for sampling = 0.05

$$n = \frac{(1.96)^2 \times 0.229 \times (1-0.229)}{(0.05)^2}$$

n = 271 Women aged 18- 49 years

Dependent Variable

The dependent variable in the study was overweight and obesity

Independent Variables

The independent variables of the study were socio-economic and individual factors.

Sampling Procedure

Women aged 18-49 years were purposively sampled as the research team moved from one house to the other until the required sampled size was achieved. On approaching a household or trading shop where women who satisfy the study criteria are, they are informed of the study objectives and anyone who consent was recruited and assessed. Data was obtained from face-to-face interview and physical examination.

Data Collection Tools and Methods

Anthropometric measurements taken using steel measuring tape and weighing scale to determine the prevalence of overweight and obesity through BMI

calculation. BMI was calculated using the weight and height measurement of each participant. The weights of participants were measured using a bathroom weighing scale to the nearest 0.1kg with the participant wearing light clothes and no shoes. Measurement of height was done using a steel measuring tape to the nearest 0.1cm with the participant standing upright. BMI was obtained by dividing the weight measured in kilograms against the square of the height in meters. The questionnaires were used to obtain data on socio-economic and lifestyle factors.

Table 1: Classification of Overweight and Obesity.

Indicator	Overweight	Obesity
BMI (kg/m^2)	25-29.9	≥ 30
Waist Circumference (cm)	80-88cm	$\geq 88cm$
Waist to height ratio	0.50	> 0.50

Source:[26][22]

Data Quality Control

A data collection team of four research assistants were recruited to assist in data collection and to help interpret the questionnaires. The research assistants were trained for two days by the principal researcher on the objectives of the study and how to take the anthropometric measurements.

Pre-Testing of Questionnaires

The principal researcher and the data collection team conducted the pre-testing of the questionnaires over a period of two days in Ishaka the closest and commercial town to Kizinda. Ishaka. Pre-testing is done to impart practical experience to the team in administering questionnaires and using of the various anthropometric tools. Pretesting also gave the researcher an idea of the population characteristics.

Data Analysis

The data was cleaned and checked to ensure was complete. Data was entered in Microsoft office

excels then exported to SPSS version 20.0 for analysis. Descriptive statistics was used to show socio-economic and lifestyle characteristics associated with overweight and obesity. A p value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant. Odds Ratios and their 95 % Confidence Intervals were reported. Results were presented in tables and graphs as percentages and frequencies. BMI was obtained by dividing the weight measured in kilograms against the square of the height in meters.

Ethical Consideration

An introductory letter to conduct this research was obtained from the dean of faculty of clinical medicine & dentistry and taken to the Bushenyi district office through the office of the District Health Officer (DHO) for approval. A focal person was identified in the community who helped the research team to assess the participants. Participants who consented were assured of strict confidentiality.

RESULTS

Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

Table 2: Socio-Demographic characteristics of women aged 18-49 years in Kizinda Trading center.

Variable	Category	Frequency (n = 271)	Percentage
Age (years)	18-22	20	7.38
	23-27	23	8.49
	28-32	32	11.81
	33-37	31	11.44
	38-42	80	29.52
	43-47	40	14.76
	47-49	45	16.60
Marital status	Married	101	37.27
	Single	124	45.76
	Separated	39	14.39
	Divorced	7	2.58
Level of education	None	48	17.71
	Primary	72	26.57
	Secondary	88	32.47
	Tertiary	63	23.25
Religion	Christian	198	73.06
	Islam	30	11.07
	Others	43	15.87
Parity	1-2	206	76.0
	3-5	49	18.1
	>5	16	5.9

Majority 206 (76.0%) of the women who participated in this study had 1-2 children and were Christians (73.06%). Most 124(45.76%) of the participants were single with the highest level of education attained

was reported as secondary (32.47%) and most 80(29.52%) of them were in the age bracket 38-42 years.

Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity Among Women of Reproductive Age in Bushenyi Town Using BMI

Table 3: Prevalence of overweight and obesity by BMI

Classification	Frequency (n=271)	Percentage (%)
Normal	89	32.84
Obesity (BMI: $\geq 30 \text{ kg/m}^3$)	54	19.92
Overweight (BMI: $\geq 25\text{-}29.9 \text{ kg/m}^3$)	128	47.24

Most 128 (47.24%) of the women who participated in this study were overweight while 54 (19.92%) of them were obese. The rest of the women who were

sampled were normal 89 (32.84%) (table3 & figure 2).

Socio-Economic Factors Associated with Overweight and Obesity Among Women Aged 18-49 Years in Kizinda T.C, Bushenyi District

Table 4: Distribution of Socio-economic factors associated with overweight and obesity

Variable	Category	Frequency (n =182)	Percentage
Occupation	Employed	45	24.73
	Self employed	55	30.22
	Student	28	15.38
	House wife	32	17.58
	Unemployed	22	12.09
Main source of income	Own business	69	37.91
	Salary	45	24.73
	Parents	32	17.58
	Husband	36	19.78
Average monthly income (UGX)	<100,000	91	50.0
	100001 – 300000	58	31.87
	300001- 500000	21	11.54
	500001- 700000	10	5.49
	>700000	2	1.10

Results in table 4 above shows that half 91(50.0%) of the participants reported that their average monthly income was less than 100,000 UgX and 93(51.08%)

said the own the house they stay. Most 55(30.22%) of the participants were self-employed and only 69 (37.91%).

Table 5: Cross tabulation of the socio-economic factors associated with overweight and obesity among women of reproductive age in Bushenyi

Variable	Category	Overweight/Obesity (182)		P-value
		Yes, n (%)	No, n (%)	
Occupation	Employed	27 (60.0)	18 (40.0)	0.004
	Self employed	21 (38.18)	34 (61.82)	
	Student	11 (39.29)	17 (60.71)	
	House wife	22 (68.75)	12 (31.25)	
	Unemployed	9 (40.90)	13 (59.1)	
Main source of income	Own business	40 (57.97)	29 (42.03)	0.011
	Salary	29 (64.44)	16 (35.56)	
	Parents	10 (31.25)	22(68.75)	
	Husband	26 (72.22)	10 (27.78)	
Average monthly income (UGX) x 1000	<100,000	32 (35.16)	59(64.83)	0.020
	100001 – 300000	22 (37.93)	36 (62.07)	
	300001- 500000	12 (57.14)	9 (42.86)	
	500001- 700000	2 (20.0)	8 (80.0)	
	>700000	2 (100.0)	0 (0.00)	
House Ownership	Owned	59 (63.44)	34 (36.56)	0.003
	Rented	38 (42.70)	51 (57.3)	

All the socio-economic factors studied were significantly associated with overweight and obesity among participants. That is, occupation (p = 0.004),

main source of income (p = 0.011), average monthly income (p = 0.020) and house ownership (p = 0.003).

Table 6: Multivariate logistic regression for socio-economic variables associated with overweight and obesity

Variable	Category	AOR	Confidence Interval	
			Lower	Upper
Occupation	Employed	1		
	Self employed	0.29	0.13	0.74
	Student	0.36	0.63	1.16
	House wife	2.10	0.87	3.15
	Unemployed	1.26	0.50	2.36
Main source of income	Own business	1		
	Salary	0.34	0.21	0.62
	Parents	0.33	0.18	0.98
	Husband	0.78	0.56	1.55
Average monthly income (UGX)	<100,000	1		
	100001 – 300000	0.93	0.33	1.24
	300001- 500000	0.58	0.43	1.26
	500001- 700000	0.76	0.50	1.95
	>700000	1.63	0.56	2.25
House Ownership		1		
	Rented	1.52	0.78	2.94
	Owned			

The results show that house wives were twice more likely to be overweighted and obese [AOR: 2.10, 95% CI (0.87-3.15)]. Women who are unemployed have 74% [AOR: 1.26, 95% CI (0.50-2.36)] higher odds to be overweight or obese and those who earn >700000 shillings have 37% [AOR: 1.63, 95% CI (0.56-2.25)]

higher odds to be overweight and obese. Compared with women who live in rented houses, those who live in their own houses were 48% [AOR: 1.52, 95% CI (0.78-2.94)] higher odds to be overweight or obese (table 6).

Lifestyle-Related Factors Associated with Overweight and Obesity Among Women of Aged 18-40 Years Kizinda Trading Center

Table 7: Lifestyle –related factors associated with overweight and obesity

Variable	Category	Frequency (n = 182)	Percentage	p-value
Physical activity participation (PAP) At home or work	No	60	32.97	0.001
	Yes	122	67.3	
Sedentary activity (time spent sitting at work, watching TV, playing games, reading and traveling)	Yes	117	64.29	0.040
	No	65	35.71	
Food intake	Carbohydrate	82	45.05	0.023
	Proteins	60	32.97	
	Vegetables/fruits	40	21.98	
Smoking	Yes	5	2.75	0.524
	No	177	97.25	
Alcohol intake	Yes	122	67.03	0.020
	No	60	32.97	

Majority 177 (97.25%) of the participants reported that they do not smoke, 122(67.3%) said they engage in one form of physical activity or the other while 117(64.29%) reported that they do one sedentary activity or the other. Majority 122 (67.03%) of the

participants said they take alcohol often. Lifestyle-related factors which significantly influenced overweight and obesity among the participants were physical activity, sedentary life, food intake and alcohol intake (table 7).

Table 8: Multivariate logistic regression for lifestyle-related factors associated with overweight and obesity.

Variable	Category	AOR	Confidence Interval	
			Lower	Upper
Physical activity participation (PAP) At home or work	No	1		
	Yes	0.35	0.17	1.27
Sedentary activity	No	1		
	Yes	2.45	0.40	3.15.
Food intake	Posho	1		
	Matooke	0.85	0.46	1.56
	Rice	1.45	0.67	2.67
	Potatoes	0.67	0.30	1.75
	Chapatti	0.76	0.40	1.57
	Milk	2.01	0.55	2.75
	Ghee	1.56	0.53	2.73
	Beans	0.74	0.49	1.37

Food intake	Posho	1		
	Matooke Rice	0.85	0.46	1.56
	Potatoes	1.45	0.67	2.67
	Chapatti	0.67	0.30	1.75
	Milk	0.76	0.40	1.57
	Ghee	2.01	0.55	2.75
	Beans	1.56	0.53	2.73
		0.74	0.49	1.37
Alcohol intake	No	1		
	Yes	2.13	0.74	3.14

DISCUSSION

Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity Among Women Aged 18–49 Years in Kizinda Trading Center in Bushenyi District

In this study, the prevalence of overweight and obesity of women in Kizinda using anthropometric measurement of Body Mass Index (BMI) was found to be 47.24% and 19.92% respectively. Being female was the most significant factor associated with being overweight or obese. These findings concur with findings of Mayega et al. [27] in Uganda, Gomes et al. [28] in Mozambique, Samadoulougou et al. [29] in Malawi and Rudastsikira et al. [30], in Zambia. However, the findings of this study disagrees with

findings from other studies which reported that overweight or obesity among women is predominant to those in urban areas as reported by [31–36]. This study therefore shows that rural populations are also at risk of the nutritional disorder and it is on the rise. The result is however in absolute agreement with available data which indicates that the burden of obesity generally shifts towards the poorer groups as countries improve their level of economic development.

Socio-Economic Factors Associated Overweight and Obesity Among Women Aged 18-49 Years in Kizinda Trading Center an Bushenyi District

Findings from this study, revealed that house wives were twice more likely to be overweighted and obese. This finding agrees with the findings of Karki et al. [32] who showed that being a housewife especially of a medium income class is associated with overweight and obesity. The study findings also show that women who were unemployed were overweighted and obese, this finding disagrees with that of Mayega [27] who reported higher chances of underweight among unemployed persons. Findings of this study revealed that women who earn >700000 Uganda shillings were overweighted/obese. Higher monthly income could suggest higher standard of living and comfort being that a woman

LIFESTYLE-RELATED FACTORS ASSOCIATED OVERWEIGHT AND OBESITY AMONG WOMEN AGED 18-49 YEARS IN KIZINDA TRADING CENTER IN BUSHENYI DISTRICT.

This study found that women in Kizinda trading center in Bushenyi district who live sedentarily were overweighted and obese. This can be attributed to the high unemployment as indicated earlier and can also be explained by ownership of a private business which requires sitting in one place all day. This study is consistent with a study by Cohen et al. [34], which found higher levels of sedentary activity among black women. Finding from this study also show that women who take a lot of milk and ghee

The findings of this study showed that majority of the women in Bushenyi town are either overweight, obese or both. This implies that due to their sedentary lifestyles and consistent consumption of fatty and starchy food from milk and carbohydrates will continue to have a toll of the women and their health. Being a housewife, unemployed, earning high

could afford most of the things she requires easily. This is in agreement with a study carried out among South African men and women which attributed overweight and obesity to wealth [6]. However, another study reported decreasing levels of overweight and obesity as income increases [21]. In this study, women who owned houses were overweighted and obese. This could be attributed with the level of satisfaction and comfort achieved when a woman owns her residential house and vice versa. However other studies have reported a higher likelihood of home renting to overweight and obesity [37-44].

were overweight/obese [43-47]. This is expected considering that the major animal protein consumed in this region is mostly dairy and its product being that the major occupation of the people in this region is agriculture and cattle rearing. In this study, it was found that women who consume alcohol (AOR= 2.134) were overweight/obese. This finding agrees with by study in Kerala, India by Traversy et al. [35] who found that alcohol users have more risk to develop obesity compared with nondrinkers.

CONCLUSION

and owning a house (s) were socio-economic factors associated with overweight and obesity. Living sedentarily, taking carbohydrates and milk, consuming alcohol (AOR = 2.134) and not exercising often are lifestyle-related factors associated with overweight and obesity.

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