

# A QUICK GUIDE TO FIELDWORK

*for secondary schools with Kalema Golooba. Sept 2009*

With special focus on Secondary School examination techniques

## **PART#1: PREPARATION**

### **Topic**

**Factors that influence the growth and development of Kasenyi Fish Landing Site, Northern Shores of Lake Victoria (Wakiso District)**

### **Tips**

- Emphasize **WHAT** and **WHERE** and the Geographical Relationship
- It must be precise, Specific and cover a small area
- Not ambiguous
- Note that the topic above specifies where Kasenyi Landing site is located. Indeed there are many landing sites on Ugandan lakes which are called Kasenyi

### **Objectives of the Study**

1. To Locate Kasenyi Fishing Landing Site in relation to the surrounding areas
2. To find out the historical background of the area
3. To find out the physical background of the area
4. To find out the physical and socio-economic conditions favouring fishing activities in the area
5. To find out the influence of fishing on the surrounding areas
6. To identify the problems faced at Kasenyi and the possible solutions
7. To find out the future prospects of fishing in the area

### **TIPS**

- Objectives must **START** with **TO**
- Use action verbs e.g., to find out, to establish, to identify,
- **AVOID** verbs such as to appreciate, enjoy, understand, know etc. This is because we cannot measure the result of these.
- Must be achievable
- Should be related to the topic
- They should be logical e.g.do not start with future prospects. Start with location and historical background, and end with future prospects
- They should not be too many (5 – 7) is good enough.
- The objective of finding out the physical background of the area is very important because it helps when discussing geographical interrelationships.

### **Sample Questions**

- **Qn. Describe the activities you carried out in preparation for the fieldwork**  
UNEB 2007
- **Qn. Describe the pre fieldwork activities you carried out in preparation for the study**

### **Preparation Stage**

1. Pilot/pre survey
2. Topic
3. Objectives
4. Methods of data collection
5. Selection and collection of equipment to be used
6. Seek permission to go for the study

7. Formation of groups
8. Preparation of transport
9. Departure etc

**Illustration: Pilot Survey**

.... The Geography Teacher of Mengo Senior School went to Entebbe and selected Kasenyi Landing Site for this study

Tip: It is understandable that the whole class cannot go for the pilot study. However, a candidate must state who did the pilot survey and the result of his/her action. Use the title of the individual who did the survey, name the place where he/she is from, and the name of the place visited.

**X** Do NOT Say: Our teacher, Mr. Kalema went and did the pilot survey

**Illustration: Selecting the Topic**

.... We selected a Topic of Study as shown above

Tip The candidate can refer to the topic already stated.

**Illustration: Objectives**

....We stated the objectives of the study as shown in a (ii) above

Tip Since you have already written down the objectives; simply make reference to section where you wrote them to save time

**Illustration: Methods of Study**

.... We identified the methods of data collection in the field for example Observation method which was used to find out the physical background of Kasenyi landing site.

- Tip
- Identify a method
  - Show the objective for which the method was used

**Illustration: Tools Of Study**

....We identified and collected the tools which we used in the study. These included pens and papers which we used to draw a sketch map of Kasenyi Fish landing site.

Tip: Identify a method  
Show the objective for which the tool was used

**Illustration: Getting Permission to do the fieldwork**

...We sought permission from the Headteacher of **Mengo Senior School** to go for the field study

Tip: The name of the place (in this case Mengo Senior School) is crucial. Do not say, we sought permission from the headmaster, Mr. Semivule.

.... We sought permission from the L.C. I Chairman of **BUKESA** Village to carry out fieldwork in his area

**TIP: The First 5 Steps MUST appear in that order**

## **PART#2: The Actual Study**

Questions on actual visit/field stage

- Describe how you collected the data during your study
- Explain how you obtained information to the objectives of the study
- Explain how you used the following methods during the study

### **The Approach**

- Identify: Identify the method of study
- Define: Define the method
- How: Explain HOW you used the method
- What Info: What information you obtained with the method of Study

Tips:

- Do NOT REPEAT the method in case it was used for more than one objective
- Avoid using the Method Word in your explanations e.g. for observation, say WE saw.
- Analyzed / assessed, interpreted etc.

### **Observation**

- Observation was used to find out the physical background of Kasenyi Fish landing site
- Observation is a method of study where one uses the natural senses to identify geographical phenomena.
- We used the eyes to see the physical geography of the Kasenyi landing site. Right from Kasenyi landing site gate toward the lake shore, we were able to see the type of soils, the relief of the area.
- We saw that the lake shore has sand deposits west of Kasenyi Pier typical of a beach.

### **Interviewing Needed**

- Identify the method of Interviewing
- Define Interviewing
- Could provide the question and the answer
- Provide the name of the person you interviewed and what he does at the site
- Provide actual information gained in the field

### **Illustration: Interviewing**

- We used the Interviewing method to find out the historical background of Kasenyi Landing site.
- Interviewing is a face-to-face discussion between the researcher and a knowledgeable person which involves asking questions and getting answers.
- We asked the Kasenyi Landing site fisheries officer about the origin and development of Kasenyi Landing Site
  - Interviewer: ... When did fishing activities start here?
  - Interviewee: ... actual growth started in the 1980s.
- With this method, we found out that commercial fishing started in 1980's and today it has expanded to handle fish for export

**Illustration: Analysis of Existing information**

- **Identify:** This method was used to find out the amount of the different types of fish landed at Kasenyi Fish landing site.
- **Define:** This is a method of fieldwork research whereby a researcher reads existing documents such as manuals, magazines etc. to get information
- **How:** We read a file from the fisheries office at Kasenyi showing the different types of fish and amounts landed at Kasenyi weekly. We interpreted/assessed the information.
- **What Info:** We discovered that the largest percentage of fish landed was Nile perch, closely followed by Tilapia

**LIMITATIONS OF METHODS**

Qn. Describe the limitations of the methods used in data collection

- The examiner expects the limitations arising from methods already used or the shortcomings of the methods used in carrying out the fieldwork
- You must state the method
- The limitations should be tied to the method used
- The limitations focus on the geographical/professional aspects and not on the problems of the researcher
- These limitations should be related to the field situation. The candidate should show how they hindered him/her from attaining the objectives/getting relevant information to meet the objectives
- The candidate MUST state the piece of information that was not obtained because of the shortcoming of the method.

**Sample Question: Outline the problems encountered while in the field**

- Problems should be connected to the fieldwork, and should be illustrated. Avoid writing personal problems
- Common problems
  - Weather, e.g. Rain, extreme temperatures
  - Language barriers, people may not understand the local languages
  - Conflicting information provided by different people.
  - Lack of equipment e.g umbrellas, compass,
  - Lack of cooperation from some of the respondents

**Illustration: Limitations of Observation**

- We were not able to identify the type of soils on the western slopes of Kasenyi because the area has thick vegetation cover.
- While observing the soil types, the thick vegetation cover on the western side of Kasenyi Fish landing site made it difficult for the study to find out the actual types of soils.
- While observing the type of soil on the western slopes of Kasenyi landing site, we found it difficult to find out the type of soil due to the thick vegetation cover

**SKILLS GAINED**

**What skills did you gain from the study?**

- The skills are derived from the methods of collecting data.
- Each skill obtained must be accompanied with evidence

- Skills include
  - Observation skills
  - Interviewing
  - Map Orientation
  - Field sketching
  - Data collection using the questionnaire
  - Analysis of data
  - Recording skills etc.

#### **Skill of Observation**

- The skill of observation was obtained, as illustrated in () above

#### **Skill of Map Orientation**

- ...We learnt the skill of map orientation.
- We turned the base map of Katabi subcounty while standing near the Kasenyi landing site main entrance. We turned the map eastwards such that Nabagereka road on the map tallied with the one on the actual ground. We found that there was a headland to the west of Kasenyi landing site which protects the landing site from strong waves.

### **PART#3: The Follow Up Stage**

#### **Sample Qn. Describe the activities you carried out as a follow up to the field study**

- The follow up stage is done after the field stage and has several activities which include
- Re-organization of data collected
- Discussion and interpretation of findings
- Comparison of data collected by different groups
- Comparison data collected by using different methods
- Correlation of data collected from the field with existing information or written literature
- Compilation of results into a report
- Dissemination of results to the different stake holders
- Analysis of information (tabulation, graphs, charts, interrelationships)
- Presentation and display of data
- Writing recommendations
- Drawing conclusions

#### **>>> Correlation of data collected from the field with existing information or written literature**

- We also correlated data collected from the field with existing information. For example, from the written literature, most of the landing sites are located in bays which are sheltered from strong waves. We observed that Kasenyi Fish Landing is also located in a Kasenyi bay on the Northern Shores of Lake Victoria

#### **Study Findings/Importance/Significance**

Qn#1. How geographical was your study?

Qn#2. Outline the findings of your study

**Qn#3. Explain the significance of the study findings in understanding the geography of the area (UNEB 2007)**

*The three questions above have similar approach*

The significance of the study findings should clearly bring out the geographical relationships in the area studied.

- Physical to Physical
- Physical to Human
- Human to human

In presenting a relationship;

- Identify the relationship
- Explain it. i.e, why is it the way it is?
- Illustrate it with clear examples in terms of place names and/or direction.

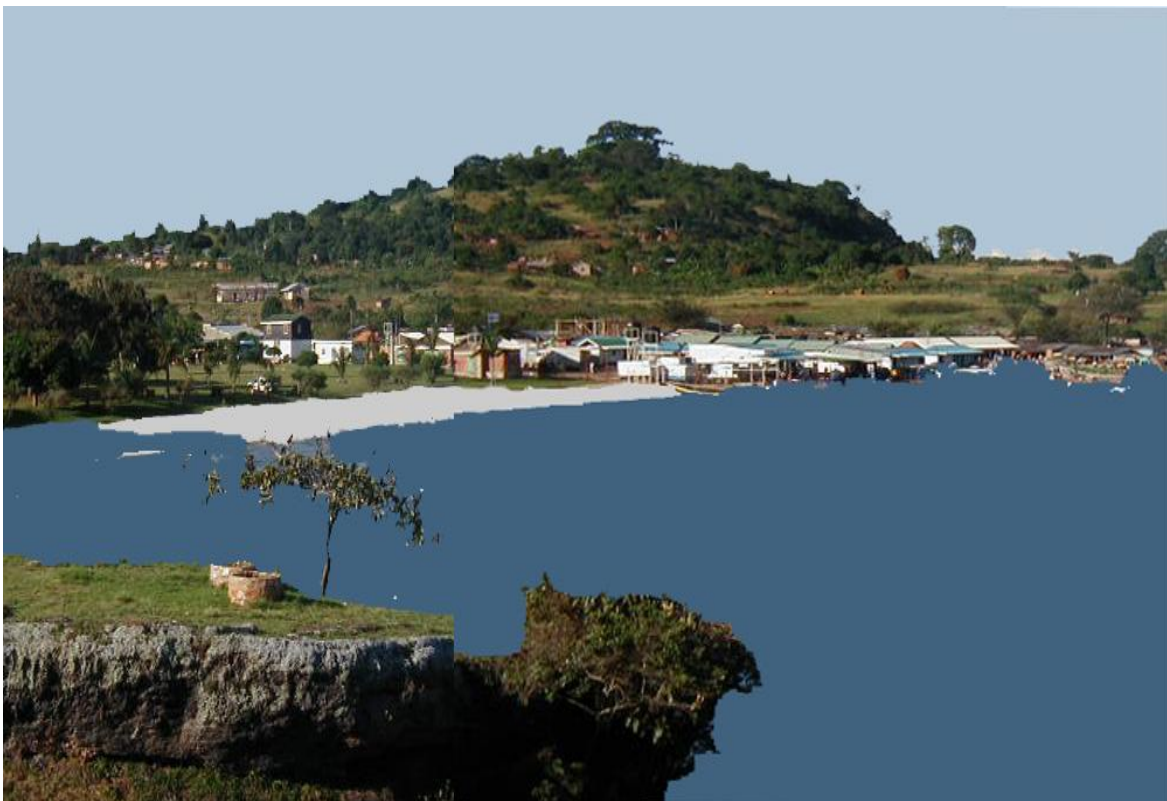
### **Physical to Physical Relationships**

This shows the relationship between the physical dimensions or natural aspects of Relief, soils, drainage and vegetation.

>>>> Kasenyi bay is protected from destructive waves by stacks and headlands so it has depositional landforms such as the beach on the shoreline, west of Kasenyi Pier. This is because the erosive power of the waves is broken by headlands and stacks.

>>>> The steep slopes of Bendegere hill north east of Kasenyi landing site have thin, skeletal, stony, soils. This is because on the steep slope, soil formation processes are limited and high rates of erosion wash the soil.

Physical to Human Relationship



>>>> Settlement (kasenyi market) occurs on the gentle slopes of Bendegerere hill, north east of Kasenyi landing site. This is because it is easy to construct houses on the gentle slopes.

Note: Positive Relationships are preferable

### **What is a negative relationship?**

GOOD ...The steep slopes of Bendegere hill, north east of Kasenyi landing site have discouraged settlement. This is because it is very difficult to construct houses

BETTER .... The steep slopes of Bendegere hill are covered by vegetation (thick bush and trees). This is because it is the best land use given that soils are too poor to support agriculture.

### **Human to Human Relationship**

>>>> The fishing activities at Kasenyi landing site have attracted a number of land uses such as Engen Fuel Station, boat making and greater settlements. The boat making yard is found to the East of the landing site.

>>>> There are settlements along Nabagereka road (Kasenyi – Nkumba road), north of Kasenyi fish landing site. This is because the road offers trade opportunities and accessibility.

### **Qn. Describe the relationship between the physical environment and land-use in the area studied**

The candidate is required to vary the physical environment, not just concentrate on the relief. These include

- Vegetation
- Drainage
- Soils
- Relief

### **TIPS on Section B**

1. Account for the rapid population growth in Uganda
2. To what has relief influenced population distribution in Uganda?
3. Assess the contribution of the manufacturing industry in Uganda.