

Surname INGABIRE UZAMUKUNDA
Other Names: DENISE
Reg No: 10/A/MAED/115/PG
Gender: FEMALE
Programme: MAED
Academic Unit: FOUNDATIONS OF EDUCATION
Title of Dissertation: THE CONTRIBUTION OF KIGALI INDEPENDENT
UNIVERSITY-GISENYI CAMPUS IN RWANDA TO THE LOCAL POPULATION
Supervisor: PEACE TINDYEBWA
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ABSTRACT

This study was carried out to assess the contribution of Kigali Independent University-Gisenyi Campus in Rwanda to the local population. The study was conducted through action research design. This was done by self administered questionnaire as the main instrument. Interview as the second instrument and the method of documentation analysis was used to complement, supplement and validate data collected through questionnaires. There were 251 people who responded to our questionnaire and one person with whom the interviews was held. To obtain the sample of the study, the systematic and purposive sampling techniques were used. Data were analyzed and presented quantitatively using percentages. The study showed that Kigali Independent University_ Gisenyi campus has a contribution on the local population. With reference to the study, the contribution of ULK Gisenyi as regards social services and economic activities can be seen from its social economic activities in favor of surrounding population. These services and activities include building and maintaining infrastructure, fighting erosion, offering opportunities to local investors and availing halls for meetings and other cultural events, local communities' access to internet and library, to mention but a few. Besides, due to a big number of people regularly going to ULK, investment in library has grown. Respondents reported that a new line of motorcycles heading to ULK Gisenyi has been put up to satisfy a growing demand of transport. Also, given that the University's boarding cannot accommodate all the students, a new investment opportunity was born. It was noted that higher learning institutions cannot fulfill their mission without a close collaboration with their partners and stakeholders. This is why it was recommended to the University's officials to diversify concrete activities in favor of local population and increase the budget allocated to buying University's equipment. To political authorities, it was recommended to ease ULK Gisenyi activities and encourage the population to benefit from the opportunities (internet, library and halls) offered to them by ULK Gisenyi and be good partners and stakeholders of this institution. These were addressed to the University's officials, political authorities and to the local population.