

**ROLE OF FUNCTIONAL ADULT LITERACY PROGRAMS ON SOCIO-
ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**

**A CASE STUDY OF MAZUBA
SUBCOUNTY NAMUTUMBA DISTRICT**

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Abstract: *The study's goals were to determine how women's level of education have impacted their economic and social situation, how much engagement with practical adult learning initiatives contributed to women's social and financially social security, and to identify techniques that can be used to improve functioning literacy programs for adults. The study was conducted in the Mazuba subcounty of the Namutumba district. The results show that 72.2% of the participants agreed that FAL programs have a significant impact on household incomes because communities with knowledgeable parents tend to have more money in their pockets, which influences their economic and social standing and ultimately motivates their kids to become educated. Only 14.8% of participants were unsure, and 13% disagreed. The study said that in order to improve their roles and instill FAL skills in students, authorities should train adequate teachers and facilitators and continually engage them in conferences and refresher training.*

Key words: *adult literacy programs and socio-economic empowerment*

Background of the Study

The District Community Development Officer's Report from 2018 states that the East of synthesizer District's Mazuba Sub-County is blessed with 6 congregations and 24 communities. The general state of the economic, social, and cultural social assistance of women continued to be very low regardless of all those municipal governments, the majority of which take part in government-sponsored initiatives like NAADS, OWC, UWEP, YLP, ACDP, Emyooga Programs, Happiness for All, Skilling Uganda, among others. These belonging assistance initiatives were designed to ensure that ladies reach a higher standard, particularly in their socioeconomic setting.

Data from the CDO's Evaluation Report (2018) revealed that ladies from the Mazuba sub county's many communities, including Mazuba, Isita, and Nsoola, Mpenzya Parishes, encountered many difficulties, particularly those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Their social and economic well-being was impacted. The fact that the women in question lacked authority and took part in lucrative endeavours aimed at improving their status was also mentioned (Sentamu, 2017). Even worse, the schools-going youngsters missed sufficient text books, exercise books, uniforms, and meals at school, all of which had an impact on their schoolwork. a predicament that completely bound them to poverty.

As stated by (Asnake, 2016). In Uganda, practical adult literacy has a significant impact on the chances for female emancipation and their socioeconomic prosperity. He continued by saying that because of social division and differentiation, those without education typically head low-income homes and send their kids to institutions with lower financing levels, which lowers their achievement in school and drive and puts them at higher danger.

According to Kyeyune (2018), poor financial and social security for women in Uganda was brought on by factors such as unemployment, illiteracy, and legislation, insufficient income between parents, poor buildings, lack of encouraging discussions about academia, low women's empowerment strategies, and an overall lack of excitement among grandparents who had very little money to support their children's schooling, which resulted in poor academic achievement.

Problem Statement

Despite initiatives by government entities and non-governmental organizations groups in Mazuba Subcounty, Namutumba District, and many women in the area still struggle with getting schooling and learn the fundamentals of reading. Low levels of knowledge, little economic prospects, and lowered social standing for women are consequences of the absence of effective programs for adults catered to their requirements in the area. Due to this circumstance, women have been marginalized in the neighborhood and impoverishment and disparities between genders have been sustained.

Specific Objectives of the study

The objectives that guided the study were;

1. To find out how women literacy levels has affected their social economic welfare.
2. To establish the extent to which participation in Functional Adult Literacy Programs improved the social, economic welfare of women.
3. To find out the strategies that can be employed to enhance Functional Adult Literacy as a means of improving women social economic welfare in Mazuba sub county Namutumba District.

Research questions

1. How do women literacy levels affect their social economic welfare?
2. How does participation in Functional Adult Literacy Programs improve on the social, economic welfare of women?
3. What measures can be employed to enhance Functional Adult Literacy in Mazuba Subcounty Namutumba District?

Methodology

Research Design

Data from participants were gathered for the study using a combination of qualitative and quantitative techniques and a method of descriptive analysis. While the qualitative technique entailed categorizing the acquired data based on people's ideas and attitudes, the quantitative approach involved presenting the data and analyzing it statistically in the form of tables, proportions, frequencies, and percentages.

According to Study Population Fraenkel (2017), the general population is a particular group of people in which the investigator enjoys researching and from which she/he prefers to generalize the study's findings. People who communicated locally using Lusoga made up the inhabitants of Mazuba Subcounty.

However, Muslims made up the remaining population, while Christians made up around 75% of the total. As their primary source of income, these people relied on agriculture for subsistence.

Sampling Techniques

Purposive sampling was utilized by the investigator to choose the initial group of participants for this study, which were the administrators of FAL programs. This opened the door for a variety of qualitative inquiry approaches, including generalizing from the data, using many phases of intentional sampling to save both time and cash while obtaining data, and focusing on position demographics to gather certain data indications, between others.

Sample Size

Krejcie and Morgan (2016), defined sample size as the appropriate number of respondents for a particular study. Therefore, the researcher collected data from 30 community women, 15 facilitators and, 9 supervisors. The total number of respondents were fifty-four (54) people who equated chances of being selected.

This sample size calculated using the formula by Yamano (2015).

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where

$N =$ Study population which was the population of Mazuba S\C

$n =$ Sample size

$e =$ Marginal error

Data Collection Methods

The researcher used the following methods to collect data during her study.

Observation Method.

Findings based on women's involvement in practical literacy initiatives for adults were gathered using this methodology.

Because observation provided a true image of the accomplishments and areas of weakness in a comparative manner, the researcher used it as a method of data collecting.

Interview Approach.

Because it allowed the investigator to interact personally with the responder and took advantage of their facial expressions, the researcher thought using interviews to gather data was appropriate.

In terms of time savings, it was inexpensive and provided quick replies in practical scenarios.

Data Analysis

The researcher analyzed data both qualitatively and quantitatively using SPSS (Nelson. K, 2022). Qualitative Data Analysis involved use of descriptive explanations during the study while quantitatively data analysis involved use of figures and frequencies numerically. Thus, the researcher intended to follow the steps below in developing her analysis.

RESULTS

Social Demographic Characteristics

The presentation of the social demographic characteristics is meant to inform the reader about the suitability of the sample with respect to provision of the required information for the study.

Response Rate of the Respondents

The researcher found it fitting to establish whether all the targeted respondents turned up for the study and the findings were that out of the targeted 54 (100%) respondents, all the 54 respondents participated in the study. These findings indicate that the researcher was successful in reaching out to all the targeted respondents.

Gender of the respondents

Table 1: Showing Gender of respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	18	33.3
Female	36	66.7

Total	54	100
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Source: Primary data (2022)

From the table above, the gender of the respondents revealed as only 33.3% of the respondents were males and 66.7% of the respondents were females. This shows that females were the most targeted people in this particular study.

Age Bracket of the respondents

Table 2: Showing the Age bracket of the respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18-25	4	7.4
26-35	25	46.3
36-45	15	27.8
46 above	10	18.5
Total	54	100

Source: Primary data (2022)

From the research findings represented in the table above, majority of the respondents were between the ages of 26-35 with a percentage of 46.3%, followed by the age brackets of 36-45 with 27.8%. Those in the age bracket of 46 above had a percentage of 18.5 and those in the age bracket of 18-25 had the lowest with percentage of 7.4%. This information was authentic.

Marital status of the respondents

Table 3: Showing Marital status of the respondents

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Married	42	77.8
Single	06	11.1
Widowed	04	7.4
Divorced	02	3.7
Total	54	100

Source: Primary data (2022)

Findings in Table 3 above shows that majority of the respondents (77.8%) were married, 11.1% were single, and 7.4% were widowed and then 3.7% were divorced. This implies that the information was collected from responsible people most of whom were married.

Education level of the respondents

The researcher found it necessary to find out the level of education of different respondents in Mazuba Subcounty.

Table 4: Shows the Education Level of the respondents

Education level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No education	28	51.9
Primary	16	29.6
Secondary	7	12.9
Tertiary	3	5.6
Total	54	100

Source: Primary data (2022)

The education levels of the respondents varied as seen in Table 4. The highest proportion of the respondents represented by 51.9% had not attained any level of education, 29.6% respondents had only attained primary level of education, 12.9% had attained secondary level of education and finally and 5.6% respondents had attained tertiary level of education. This implies that the information was collected from the rightful people most of whom were uneducated.

Effects of Women Literacy Levels on socio-economic welfare.

This section shows the findings on the effects of Women Literacy levels on socio-economic welfare in Mazuba Subcounty.

Note: Frequency (F), Percentage (%)

Strongly Agree (1), Agree (2), Not sure (3), Strongly Disagree (4), Disagree (5). n=54

Table: 5: Showing responses about effects of Women Literacy levels on socio-economic welfare.

S/N	Responses	1		2		3		4		5	
	Items	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	FAL programs influence family income levels.	22	40.7	17	31.5	08	14.8	04	7.4	03	5.6
2	FAL programs avail many opportunities for women.	28	51.8	17	31.5	02	3.7	03	5.6	04	7.4

3	FAL Programs financially boosts families.	24	44.4	15	27.8	08	14.8	04	7.4	03	5.6
4	FAL programs enhances self-sustainability through skills development	30	55.6	18	33.3	02	3.7	02	3.7	02	3.7
5	FAL programs minimize cases of domestic violence in families	22	40.7	15	27.8	10	18.5	03	5.6	04	7.4

Source: Field work findings (2022)

According to Table 5's findings, 72.2% of the participants agreed that FAL programs have a significant impact on the levels of family income because families with knowledgeable parents tend to have higher incomes, which influences their social and economic welfare and ultimately motivates the education of their kids. Only 14.8% of participants were not sure, and 13% disagreed. The chart also shows that 83.3% of the people polled believed that FAL programmes provide enough of opportunity for women to flourish in the Mazuba neighborhood. 13% of the participants disapproved while 3.7% were unsure.

When asked if the FAL Programs help families in terms of money, 72.2% of those surveyed said they did, 14.8% said they weren't sure, and 13% said they didn't. 88.9% of the participants agreed, 3.7% disapproved, and 7.4% expressed not sure how FAL programs improve sustainable living through developing abilities. By participating in empowering instruction like mat weaving, making clothes, and beauty salons, among various other endeavors, women in areas like Mazuba Subcounty attest to the fact that FAL programs help enhance self-sustainability. Then, when it came to the claim that FAL programmes reduce instances of violence against women in families, 68.5% of the participants agreed on, 18.5% were unsure, and 13% disapproved.

The extent to which FAL programs improve women's socio-economic wellbeing in Mazuba Subcounty.

Note: Frequency (F), Percentage (%)

Strongly Agree (1), Agree (2), Not sure (3), Strongly Disagree (4), Disagree (5). n=54

Table: 6 Showing responses about the extent to which FAL programs improve women's socio-economic wellbeing in Mazuba Subcounty.

S/N	Responses	1		2		3		4		5	
	Items	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	FAL programs enrich women with development skills for sustainability	30	55.6	18	33.3	02	3.7	02	3.7	02	3.7
2	FAL programs act as change agents for Development among women.	28	51.9	15	27.7	04	7.4	03	5.6	04	7.4
3	FAL fosters the Development of self-esteem among women.	28	51.9	20	37.0	02	3.7	02	3.7	02	3.7
4	FAL programs Contribute to one's health.	20	37.0	15	27.8	12	22.2	04	7.4	03	5.6
5	FAL programs prosper women's Agricultural practices.	18	33.3	15	27.8	12	22.2	06	11.1	03	5.6

Source: Field work findings (2022)

According to Table 6's conclusions, 88.9% of the people surveyed agreed that FAL initiatives give women the opportunity to gain sustainable livelihood skills; 3.7% disagreed, and 7.4% were unsure. Regarding the assertion that FAL courses work as an improvement agent for improvement amongst women, 79.6% of the participants agreed with it; 7.4% disagreed with it; and 13% were unsure. 88.9% of the people polled agreed that FAL programs help women develop their sense of self-worth, 3.7% of participants weren't sure, and 7.4% disagreed.

When asked about how FAL programs affect a person's health, participants were additionally asked. Of those surveyed, 64.8% agreed, 22.2% disagreed, and 13% were unsure. Respondents were also asked if FAL programs do prosper women's Agricultural practices, 61.1% of the respondents agreed, 22.2% of the respondents were not sure while 16.7% disagreed.

Strategies to Enhance Functional Adult Literacy Programs in Mazuba.

This section provides the findings on the strategies that can help in enhancing FAL programs in Mazuba Subcounty.

Note: Frequency (F), Percentage (%)

Strongly Agree (1), Agree (2), Not sure (3), Strongly Disagree (4), Disagree (5). n=54

Table 7: Showing responses about the Strategies to Enhance Functional Adult Literacy programs in Mazuba

S/N	Responses	1		2		3		4		5	
		F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
1	Communities need to be sensitized about the usefulness of FAL programs.	20	37.0	18	33.3	08	14.8	05	9.3	03	5.6
2	Female gender needs to be sensitized about their rights to create self-awareness about FAL programs.	26	48.1	16	29.6	06	11.1	03	5.6	03	5.6
3	Need to provide enough training materials.	30	55.5	12	22.2	05	9.3	03	5.6	04	7.4
4	Motivation to FAL facilitators through incentives is needed	28	51.9	12	22.2	08	14.8	04	7.4	02	3.7
5	Allocation an appropriate budget to facilitate FAL trainings	26	48.1	14	25.9	08	14.8	03	5.6	03	5.6
6	Need to open up more FAL training centers with enough structures and Trainers.	26	48.1	12	22.2	10	18.5	03	5.6	03	5.6

Source: Field work findings (2022)

According to the results in Table 7, 70.3% of the participants believed that community members needed to be made aware of the value of FAL programs, while 14.8% disapproved and 14.9% were unsure. Regarding the necessity of educating women about their rights in order to increase self-

awareness of FAL initiatives as another solution, 77.7% of the people surveyed agreed, 11.1% were unsure, and 11.2% disagreed.

In terms of the need to providing sufficient instructional resources as a way to improve FAL programs, 77.7% of the people polled agreed, 9.3% were unsure, and 13% disapproved.

Regarding the idea of motivating FAL moderators with rewards, 74.1% of the poll participants agreed, while 14.8% were unsure.

Respondents were also asked whether allocation of an appropriate budget to facilitate FAL trainings would be a good strategy to enhance FAL programs, 74% of the respondents agreed, 14.8% of the respondents were not sure while 11.2% disagreed.

Respondents were also asked about the aspect of, need to open up more FAL training centers with enough structures and Trainers, 70.3% of the respondents agreed, 18.5% of the respondents were not sure while 11.2% disagreed.

Conclusions

The study found that the socioeconomic well-being of families in Mazuba Subcounty is significantly impacted by women's literacy levels. According to the overwhelming majority of participants, women's educational attainment have an impact on socioeconomic status in a number of ways, including by increasing household revenue levels, opening up more possibilities for women, strengthening families financially, enhancing sustainable growth through skill development, and reducing violence against women in households, among other benefits.

Recommendations

The researcher suggested that government should Train enough Instructors/Facilitators and always engage them into periodic seminars and refresher session to put them into better positions while inculcating the FAL skills to learners.

The Instructors/Facilitators Literacy should ensure learners regularity in training session by checking their attendance and Enrollment during such sessions.

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