

**THE IMPACT OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT ON SOCIO ECONOMIC
TRANSFORMATION OF COMMUNITIES IN UGANDA
A CASE STUDY OF MAKUUTU SUB COUNTY BUGWERI DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

This research implemented feminist theories of development such as Liberal radical feminists, Radical feminist movement hypothesis, and Radical feminist theory of development which holds that gender discrimination is generated by trying to lower access for women and girls to rights and liberties and distribution of social assets such as schooling and work opportunities. The study looked at the effect of women empowerment just on social economic transition of Makuutu Sub County. The results show that 47 (83%) of the participants thought that initiatives for community empowerment make a contribution to the economic progress of Makuuku sub county by creating formal jobs and opportunities for consciousness, while 7 (12%) also agreed and 3 (5%) were unsure of the charitable donation. Regarding the second component, women currently provide services related to health care.

29 (51%) people agreed, 12 (21%) strongly agreed, 3 (5%) were unsure, while 8 (14%) and 5 (9%) disagreed. In order to further improve various localities in Uganda, it should be mandated that all women participate in women empowerment programs in their hometowns. This recommendation comes from the achievements of women empowerment initiatives in Makuutu Sub County.

Key words: women empowerment and socio-economic transformation

Background

The emancipation and inclusiveness programs during the past three decades have benefited women,

who make up 49.6% of the worldwide people, more than their male counterparts.

Nonetheless, because men still have disproportionate access to money and power, they continued to be highly expressed among the world's poorest groups (World Data Atlas, 2021).

The 2010 Annual Ministerial Review (AMR 2010) significantly aided in achieving 2010 a turning point for women.

The negotiations to establishing the United Nations organization for gender equality and the advancement of women were in their last stages at the time (UN, 2013).

The 2010 Declaration provided a roadmap for ways to successfully implement treaty obligations on gender equality and other issues, as well as highlighted successes, problems, and compliance gaps. By encouraging unique types of cooperative actions, relationships, and participation of fresh and varied stakeholders, it highlights the transition from dedication to action in numerous critical areas (USAID , 2015).

All around the world, women have already been living longer than males since 1980.

Nonetheless, compared to rich countries, more women and girls still pass away at younger ages than do men and boys across all developing nations.

Over 3.9 million girls and women under 60 go missing every year in poor nations as a result of this "excessive female fatality."

In inter - and intra Africa, female mortality is rising, particularly for child bearing years women and in the nations hardest hit by the HIV/AIDS outbreak (Uganda bureau of statistics, 2017).

Problem statement

Recent decades have seen extensive analysis of the role of social connection in economic reform as a prospective trend for creation of employment opportunities and involvement in giving the idle resource a purpose (UNESCO, 2015).

Empowering women has already been suggested as a means of achieving social and economic change.

Entrepreneurship enables them to take charge of how they spend their time in school, receive support

and information about family health insurance, instantaneously participate in judgment, fully participate in democracy, educate girls, remove gender barriers in the workplace, win land rights, and acquire legal tools.

Specific objectives

- 1. To find out the different women empowerment programs in Makuutu sub county*

Bugweri district.

- 2. To determine how women empowerment programs have contributed to socio economic transformation of Makuutu sub county Bugweri district.*
- 3. To examine the challenges faced by women empowerment programs in Makuutu sub county Bugweri district.*

Research questions

- 1. What are the different women empowerment programs in Makuutu sub county Bugweri district?*
- 2. How have women empowerment programs contributed to socio economic transformation of Makuutu sub county Bugweri district?*
- 3. What are the challenges faced by women empowerment programs in Makuutu sub county Bugweri district?*

Methodology

Research Design

The study employed a descriptive research design in which both qualitative and quantitative techniques were utilized. Quantitative techniques based on methodological principles of description, and use of statistical measurements as experienced by the researcher.

Qualitative methods were emphasized because it revealed real and practical experiences necessary to provide a more profound understanding and analysis of all related aspects

Population and sampling technique

70 people made up the study's target demographic, which included elected officials, sub-county officials, residents of the area, participants in community-based organisations, members of women's rights groups, and L.C. 1 leaders.

The research scientist used this to sample 20 local masses (28.57%) from five parishes using population sampling techniques, 15 political leaders (21.4%) using random sampling with stratification, 10 members of women's organizations (14%) using purposeful sampling, three members of CBOs (3%), 5 sub-county leaders (7%) using purposive sampling, and 18 (26%) L.C. 1 leaders using simple random sampling.

Sampling Method

Table 1 showing sample size and sampling technique

<i>Respondent</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Sampling technique</i>
<i>Politicians</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Purposive random sampling</i>
<i>Sub county administrators</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Purposive</i>

<i>Women groups</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Simple random sampling</i>
<i>CBOs members</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>Simple random sampling</i>
<i>Local masses</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>Simple random sampling</i>
<i>L.C 1 Leaders</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>Simple random sampling</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>70</i>	

Procedures for data collection

Questionnaires.

Locals and other responders were given a set of self-administered questionnaires.

Information on the issue was only generally gathered through this way.

This tool or instrument's goal was to give respondents a chance to express their perceptions, experiences, and opinions about the study's topic in more detail.

This approach required participants who could comprehend words to complete surveys since it required them to provide personal answers to the questions. The forms were also transcribed into languages that could comprehend words.

Data analysis

Using SPSS (Nelson K, 2022) the altered data was examined both numerically and subjectively as follows:

For easier interpretation, statistical approach was aggregated and analytical summaries, such as tables

displaying percentages and frequency distributions, were employed.

However, the answers provided by participants that are pertinent to the research issue were identified through the analysis of the qualitative data.

Such data was primarily examined by elaborating on the information gathered from the scene, under which the investigator was able to quote comments from participants.

RESULTS

Instrument return rate

The researcher administered 70 questionnaires to the respondents. During data collection, a researcher collected 57 (81%) questionnaires as a response rate. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (1999) a response rate of 50% is adequate for analysis and reporting, a response rate of

60% is good and a response rate of 70% and above is excellent. However, on the collection of data a researcher obtained an excellent response rate.

Table 2 showing return response rate

Participants	Questionnaires administered		Questionnaire returned	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Sub county administrators	5	7	4	80
CBOs members	2	3	2	100
Women groups	10	14	8	80
Politicians	15	21	12	80

<i>L.C. 1 leaders</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>83</i>
<i>Local masses</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>80</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>57</i>	<i>81</i>

Source: primary source 2022

From table 2, the study 's response rate was excellent basing on (Mugenda and Mugenda 1999). This response rate was realized since the researcher personally collected the questionnaires herself from the respondent and build confidence with the respondents on the purpose of the study.

Respondents' demographic data

The researcher sought to get an insight on the respondents 'characteristics. These characteristics include gender, age group, marital status and education back ground.

Gender distribution of respondents

The researcher sought to establish the gender of the respondents for effective understanding of the respondents and to avoid miss interpretation of the results by the error of gender. This is represented in table 3 below.

Table 3 showing gender of respondents

<i>Gender</i>	<i>Sub county administrators</i>		<i>Politicians</i>		<i>Local masses</i>		<i>L.C.1 Leaders</i>		<i>Members of different women groups in the sub county</i>		<i>Members of CBOs in Makuutu</i>	
	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>f</i>	<i>%</i>
<i>Male</i>	3	75	7	58	5	31	9	60	-		-	
<i>Female</i>	1	25	5	42	11	69	6	40	8	100	2	100
<i>Total</i>	4	100	12	100	16	100	15	100	8	100	2	100

Source: primary source 2022

According to table 3, there was a higher percentage of female responses amongst local masses—11 (69%) compared to 5 (31%]; between members of various women's groups in the subcounty—8 (100%)—and among CBOs in the Makuutu subcounty.

This finding may be explained by the types of groups, particularly women's groups and community-based groups, where female sex predominates over male sex.

Nonetheless, 3 (75%) of the sub-county managers' comments were men, compared to 1 (25%) women. Moreover, legislators reported a high male answer rate (7 out of 58) and a low female response rate (42%).

Last but not least, the survey discovered that the majority of L.C. 1 Leaders in the Makuutu sub county were men, with 9.

Response on the age group

The researcher sought to establish the age group of the administrators, members of different women groups in the sub county Members of CBOs in Makuutu Sub County, L.C.1 Leaders, Local masses and Politicians. The results are shown table 4 below.

Table 4 showing age gap of respondents

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
25-29	1	2
30-34	3	5
35-39	7	12
40- 44	9	16
45-49	12	21
50-54	16	28
55-above	9	16
Total	57	100

Source: Primary Source 2022

From table 4, respondents 'age group shows that majority of the respondents were between 50-54 years representing 28% response rate, 21% between 45-49, 16% between 40-44 and 55-above, 12% between 35-39 years, 5% between 30-34 years and 2% were between 25-29.

Response on Educational level

Table 5 showing respondent's education level

<i>Educational level</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage %</i>
<i>Secondary</i>	15	26.3
<i>Certificate</i>	19	33.3
<i>Diploma</i>	8	14.1
<i>Degree</i>	11	19.3
<i>Masters and above</i>	4	7
<i>Total</i>	57	100

Source: primary source 2022

From table 5 above, majority of the respondents were certificate holders with 19 (33.3%) response rate, 15 (26.3%) secondary leavers, 11 (19.3%) with a degree, 8 (14.1%) with a diploma response while 4 (7%) holding masters and above. This high response rate of secondary level might be related to the local masses, L.C.C1 leaders, members of different women groups in Makuutu Sub County and members of community-based organization in Makuutu Sub County.

Responses on Marital Status

The marital status of the respondents was analyzed and findings presented in Table 6

Table 6 presenting marital status of respondents

<i>Marital status</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Married</i>	40	70
<i>Single</i>	14	24.5
<i>Divorced</i>	1	2
<i>Widowed</i>	2	3.5
<i>Total</i>	57	100

Source: primary source 2022

The study found out that majority of the respondents were married with a response rate of 40 (70%), 14 (24.5%) single 1 (2%) divorced while 2 (3.5%) widowed.

Responses on experience at the work place

The researcher sought to examine the experience of respondents at their work place. The findings are presented in table 7 below.

Table 7 showing working experience of respondents

<i>Year</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
1-2	5	9
3-5	10	17

6-10	16	28
More than 10 years	26	46
Total	57	100

Source: primary source 2022

The study found out that majority of the respondents 26 (46%) were between 10 and above with years of experience at their current jobs, followed by 16 (28%) 6-10 years of job experience, 10 (17%) 3-5 years and 5 (9%) between 1 – 2 years of job experience.

Representation of findings on research questions

What are the different women empowerment programs in

Makuutu sub county Bugweri district?

Different women empowerment programs in Makuutu sub county

Table 8 showing women empowerments programs are found in this sub county to empower women

Statement	Aim of the program
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<i>Brac Uganda</i>	<i>Financial support to women</i>
<i>Yamba Mewino Akese</i>	<i>It is a relief program for members who are faced with</i>
<i>Women market associations</i>	<i>For women market vendors</i>
<i>Pride micro finance groups</i>	<i>It provides women with financial support.</i>
<i>Nakavule women group</i>	<i>It for savings</i>
<i>Village farmers groups</i>	<i>They guide farmers on farming technologies and practices</i>
<i>Suubi group</i>	<i>Women social and economic support</i>
<i>Makuutu women community Sacco</i>	<i>Savings and financial support to women</i>
<i>Twekembe</i>	<i>Women social and economic support</i>

Source: Primary source 2022

Table 8 shows that the majority of respondents noted that the Makuutu Sub County had women initiatives established to achieve various goals.

Brac Uganda, Yamba Mewino Akese, Women Market Organizations, Pride Micro Finance Organizations, Nakavule Women Association, Village Agricultural Groups, Makuutu Women Cooperative Sacco, Suubi Group, and Twekembe are a few of the programs on this list.

All of these initiatives were discovered to be in place in every subcounty, and occasionally they are distinguished by the names of the villages.

How have women empowerment programs contributed to socio economic transformation of Makuutu sub county Bugweri district?

Contribution of women empowerment programs to socio economic transformation of

Makuutu Sub County

This was the second research question and the researcher sought to examine the contribution of women empowerment programs to the socio-economic transformation of Makuutu sub county Bugweri district. The results of the study findings are presented in table 9 below.

Table 9 showing the contributions of women empowerment programs to the socio economic transformation of communities

Statement	Strongly agree		Agree		Not sure		Disagree		Strongly disagree	
	agree								disagree	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Provision of formal jobs and self-employment	47	83	7	12	3	5				
Women have participated in the provision of health care services	12	21	29	51	3	5	8	14	5	9

Women empowerment programs contribute to the preservation of nature	6	11	11	19	24	42	12	21	4	7
Women empowerment programs help in the provision of food and animal husbandry	15	26	29	51	2	3	10	18	1	2
Women business enterprises help in the paying of government taxes.	57	10								
Women's empowerment leads to Economic and Political Stability in the sub county	41	72	15	26	1	2				
Women empowerment groups are fighting against child marriage	37	65	15	26			5	9		

Source: Primary source 2022

It is evidenced from table 9, above that 47 (83%) of the respondents strongly agreed that women empowerment programs contribute to socio economic transformation of Makuuku sub county through the provision of formal jobs and self-employment, 7 (12%) also agreed while 3 (5%)

we're not sure of the contribution. On the second contribution; women already participate in the provision of health care services 12 (21%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 29 (51%) agreed, 3 (5%) were not sure while 8 (14%) disagree and 5 (9%) strongly disagreed.

In addition, the study discovered that 6 (11%) respondents highly agreed that economic revolution is

accomplished through to the ecological preservation undertaken by decent work groups, while 11 (19%) still supported and 24 (42%) were unsure. However, 12 (21%) disagreed and 4 (7%) firmly agreed.

In terms of the supply of foodstuffs and animal husbandry, 15 (26%) of the participants responded agreed, 29 (51%) of the participants agreed, 2 (3%) were unsure, but 10 (18%) and 1 (2%) disapproved.

The study looked more closely at the participation of women groups in paying government fees and taxes, and the findings revealed that 57 participants, or 100%, agreed.

The survey also looked at the efforts made by women's groups to maintain the stability of politics and the economy in the subcounty, and the findings revealed that the overwhelming of respondents—41 (72%) strongly agreed, 15 (26%) also agreed, and only 1 (2%) were unsure of the significance.

Finally, the study discovered that 37 (65%) of participants believed that women's economic organizations are working to prevent forced marriages, 15 (26%) also agreed, and 5 (9%) disagreed.

What are the challenges faced by women empowerment programs in Makuutu sub county Bugweri district?

Challenges faced by women empowerment programs in Makuutu Sub County

This was the third research question of the study and the researcher sought to identify the challenges faced by the different women empowerment programs in Makuutu sub county Bugweri district. The study findings about these challenges are presented in table 10 below.

Table 10 showing the challenges faced by women empowerment programs

Statement	Strongly agree		Agree		Not sure		disagree		Strongly disagree	
	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
Selective abortion and female infanticide	29	51	11	19	3	5	4	7	10	18

<i>Domestic violence</i>	41	72	5	9	9	16	2	3		
<i>Inadequate Nutrition</i>	12	21	9	16	17	30	17	30	2	3
<i>Child Marriages</i>	28	49	11	19.2	7	12.3	9	16	2	3.5
<i>Disparity in education</i>	19	33	14	25	11	19	5	9	8	14
<i>Cultural beliefs</i>	21	37	18	32	3	5	12	21	3	5
<i>Sexual harassment</i>	52	91	5	8						
<i>Un stable economic conditions</i>	57	100								
<i>Low status in the family</i>	41	72	13	23	3	5				

Source: Primary source 2022

The third issue being studied revealed that 57 (100%) participants strongly believed that uncertain economic situations provide a challenge to programs aimed at empowering women.

The study examined further issues, and the majority of the participants agreed with the other findings.

The poor status in their households is a difficulty for women's economic programs, according to 41 (72%) strongly agreeing; 13 (23%) also agreed; and 3 (5%) were unsure.

Regarding family violence

41 (72%) respondents strongly agreed with the challenge, compared to 5 (9%) who agreed but were unsure and 9 (16%) who disagreed. 52 (91%) of the participants agreed that gender discrimination affects women and girls, and 5 (8%) also agreed with the challenge.

Moreover, 29 (51%) respondents to the research agreed with the statement that selective abortion and In the Makuutu sub county, 11 (19%), 3 (5%) were unsure, 4 (7%) disagreed, and 10 (18%) strongly

disagreed that female infanticide was another issue facing female empowerment groups.

Nevertheless, the majority Child marriage is another issue that 's empowerment organizations must deal with, according to 28 (49%) strongly agreeing, 11 (19.2%) agreeing, 7 (12.3%) unsure, 9 (16%) disagreeing, and 2 (3.5%) severely disagreeing.

Also, 21 (37%) strongly concurred that cultural views present additional difficulty for organizations that support women.

Conclusion

The entire research project can be concluded based on the study's findings.

The study questions served as the foundation for the findings.

The study's main conclusion was the existence of initiatives for female equality in the Makuutu subcounty and Bugweri district.

The majority of those who responded noted various traditional male joint initiatives in various villages throughout the sub county, and the large percentage of these groups had mutual objectives they had set out to accomplish. Some of these groups shared identical names, though there existed a distinction that came about as a result of adding the village name to the program.

These initiatives include pride microfinance and women's groups, where each community added its name to set them apart from similar groups in other villages.

Recommendations of the study

1. *Since the findings of the study has revealed that there are many women empowerment programs in Makuutu sub county, there is need to identify government empowerment programs in Makuutu Sub County.*
2. *From the contributions of women empowerment programs in Makuutu Sub County, it should be made mandatory for every woman to participate in the women empowerment programs in their places of residence for further transformation of different localities in Uganda.*

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