
Evaluating The Influence of Local Council System on The Implementation of Government Projects in Uganda; A case study of the northern uganda social action fund iii (nusaf 3) in panyimur sub county- Pakwach district

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed at evaluating the influence of local council system on the implementation of government projects in Uganda and it was guided by the following objectives; To examine the challenges faced by local governments in the process of implementation of projects, to assess the key legal mandates for local government influence on the implementation of government projects and to examine the remedies to the challenges faced by the local councils in the implementation of government programmes. The study involved a cross sectional research design. The cross-sectional study design was defined as a type of observational research that analyzes data of variables collected at one given point in time across a sample population or pre-defined subset. The examination's findings, which were shown in the table above, show that the regression model successfully forecasted the variable that was the dependent variable. The regression model's statistical significance was denoted by $F=74.231$ and $P=0.000$, both less than 0.05. The disparity between the regression's initial mean square value of 8.107 and the remainder's mean square value of 0.0565 serves as more evidence for this. This demonstrated the relationship between implementation of government projects and legal mandates. It was concluded that a one percent increase in legal mandates on average led to 0.712 increase in implementation of government projects. The R-squared value (0.637) was greater than the adjusted R-squared value (0.633) because it took into consideration the degrees of freedom

Key words: Local Council System, Implementation and Government Projects

Background to the study

Countries which would wish to improve service delivery and attain citizen empowerment, democracy and citizen involvement in development need to

embrace good governance through practices like decentralizations. The transfer of powers from the central ministries to the local units enhances rapid transformation in the rural areas (Christopher et al., 2022). This includes delinking political and administrative burden on the ministries to the local government, however the success of these is determined by the leadership potentials in political and civil service.

In Uganda, the local government/council system is divided into urban and rural settings. The rural setting comprises of the district council as the overall planning authority in a given district headed by an elected chairperson Local Council V. it is followed by the county administrative unit which is staffed by civil servants and assists the district council in executing and/or coordinating the businesses of sub county councils, hence it monitors the implementation of programmes and resolves disputes within its areas of jurisdiction (Zowena et al., 2023). This is followed by the sub county councils which are structured as exact replicas of the district council with the democratic structure and functions the same but only with a smaller area of jurisdiction. The other councils in the rural setting are the parish and village councils.

The LC system today is consultative forum for local decision making. Elected chairpersons of the council form executive committees at respective levels, and propose policies for their legislative bodies of the council, which formed by the representatives of the people. The decisions are implemented by the civil service staff. The LC system is most clearly structured at the district (LC5) level, where district development plans are made and important policies are decided for the district for the district (Huo, 2022). The actual services are provided by sub county (LC3) level, where the extension officers and community development workers are allocated.

The NUSAF 3 project became operational in 2016 as a successor of NUSAF 2. The goal of NUSAF is to help local communities in the 18 districts of Northern Uganda that have been ravaged by conflicts over the last 20 years (poverty action organization)

Problem statement

Government projects when well managed can play a vital role into changing the welfare of the local target beneficiaries. The local council system directly influences the manner in which a project can be managed especially through policy formulation, resource allocation, taxation among others (Mujabi et al., 2015).

Projects of antiquity have left their mark on society and contributed to positive changes that benefit society in general and improved living conditions for many people (Cleland and Ireland, 2007). Resources where they are widely used, promote community and socio-economic development and promote the welfare and wellbeing of the people. One of the important parts of local government administration is that it gives government legitimacy in the eyes of the people it governs. This can easily translate into good governance and build confidence in local staff to carry out various projects and programmes which affect the society and the people positively (Faith et al., 2023).

The process leading to the decision to carry out a project could be as important as its actual execution. Often the decision to carry out a project conforms more with political considerations than economic rationality. Again, it is important to investigate if such decision follow the bottom- up or top-bottom approach. In case, the efficiency and effectiveness of a project is affected. It is against this background that this research study will be conducted to ascertain the influence of the local council system in the implementation of government projects with focus on the implementation of the Third Northern Uganda Social Action Fund (NUSAF) in Panyimur Sub County, Pakwach district.

Specific objectives

- 1. To examine the challenges faced by local governments in the process of implementation of projects.*
- 2. To assess the key legal mandates for local government influence on the implementation of government projects.*

3. *To examine the remedies to the challenges faced by the local councils in the implementation of government programmes.*

Research questions

1. *What are the challenges that local councils face in the implementation of government projects?*
2. *What are the key legal provisions which mandates local government influence on the implementation of government projects?*
3. *What remedies can be put in place to address the challenges faced by local councils in the implementation of government projects?*

Methodology

Research design

The study involved a cross sectional research design. The cross-sectional study design is defined as a type of observational research that analyzes data of variables collected at one given point in time across a sample population or pre-defined subset. It is also known as cross- sectional analysis, transverse study or prevalence study (Dan Fleetwood; question pro). This design looks at a population at a single point in time (Deakin University). It collects data to make inferences about a population of interest (universe) at one point in time.

Research tools.

In the course of study, the researcher used tools relevant in gathering the needed information. Pens and paper were used to gather a wide scope of information which would afterwards be sorted and coded so that ambiguous information was removed and only the important ones analyzed.

Study population and target

Study targeted those working in the local government, elected leaders, people from the civil society, the general citizen body, private contractors which implement government project, and others.

Sample size and sampling procedure

A sample is a manageable section of a population but elements of which have common characteristics (Yaya A Japheth, 2014). Also, it refers to any portion of a

population selected for the study on whom the information needed for the study is obtained (Awoniyi, Aderanti and Tayo, 2011) as cited in Yaya. A Japheth, 2014. A sample size on the other hand is defined by Yaya. A Japheth (2014), as a number of elements that can be selected for the research. Mugenda and Mugenda (2003), assert that the main consideration for determining the sample size is the capability to collect in depth data at affordable costs in terms of time, finances and resources Using this, the researcher sampled participants from within the sub county.

Sample size.

Curtis et al. (2000) emphasized that a sampling strategy should: stem right from the conceptual framework; be able to generate a thorough database on the phenomena under study; allow the possibility of drawing clear inferences and credible explanations; be ethical and feasible. As. The sampling strategy will be guided by Krejcie & Morgan's (1970) table as cited by Kabuye, 2015.

Sampling design.

The local government officials were selected depending on the level of offices they held while at the lower level the sample members were picked at random. The researcher used the non-probability sampling design in most cases more so where the respondents involved were many e.g., the beneficiaries of the services. Selective and purposive sampling in the administrative department was used because of their knowledge in this subject matter and Simple random sampling method was used to ensure that each element in the study have equal chances to be included in the sample.

Data analysis

In order to get rid of inconsistencies, the data obtained from the research were subjected to sorting, classifying, coding, and tabulating using descriptive statistics which employed frequencies and percentages with the aid of the Statistical Package for social Sciences (SPSS) program. Quantitative data were analyzed descriptively using measures of central tendency; that is frequencies and percentages (Nelson et al., 2022). For ease of analysis, the researcher analyzed

the data collected in terms of objectives so as to answer the three-study questions.

RESULTS

Challenges face d by local councils while implementing government projects.

Through this objective, the researcher sought to find out the challenges that local councils face in implementing the government projects within their jurisdictions. The respondent's perspectives on the challenges that local councils always encounter in the implementation of government projects. Their responses are presented in the graph as below;

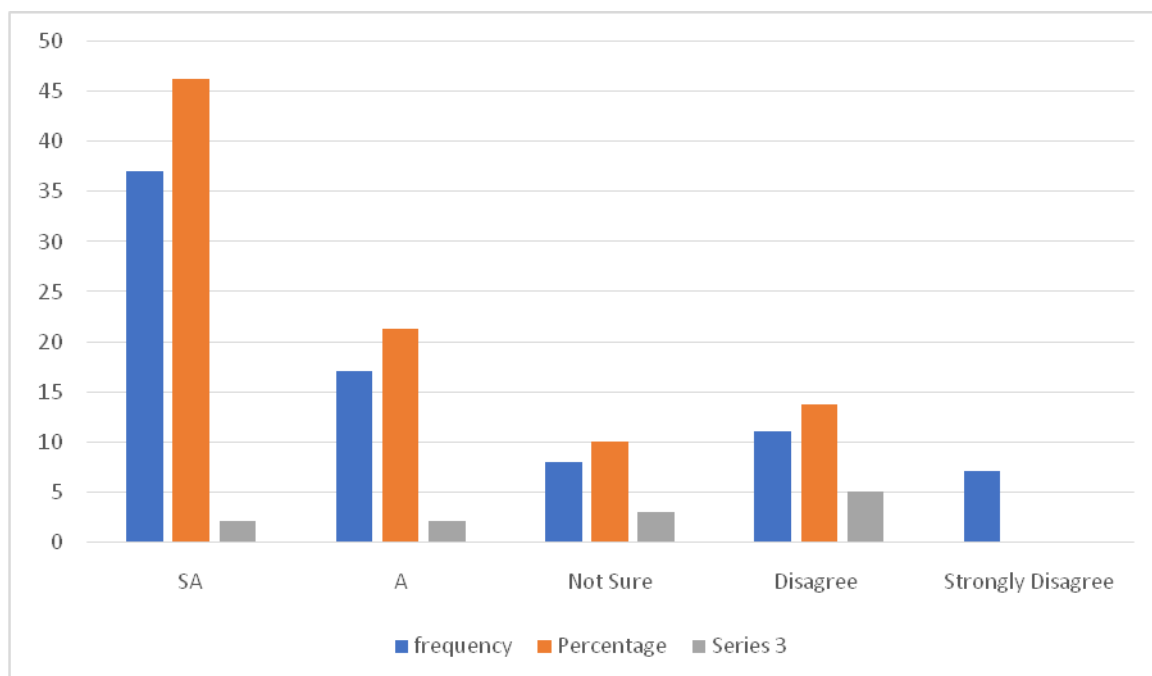
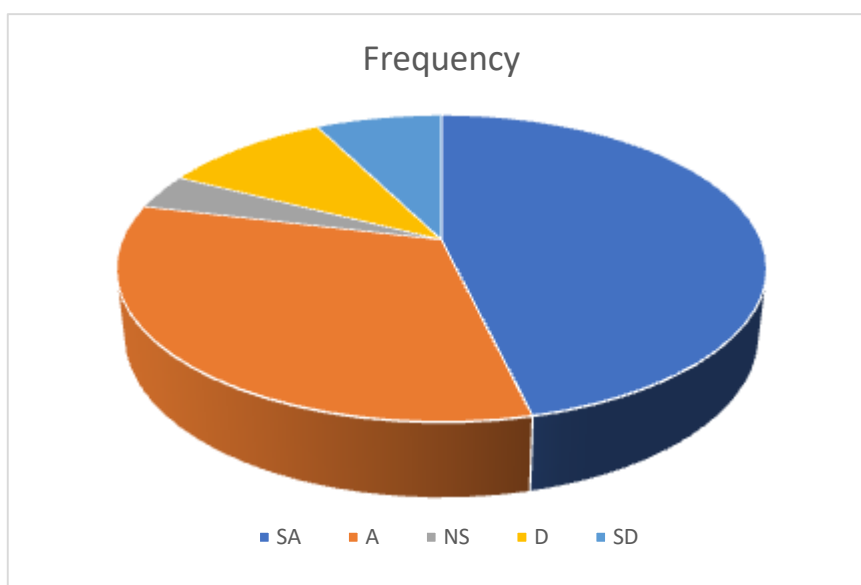


Table 1. Source: Field data 2022

From the bar graph above, it is revealed that 46.25 of the respondents strongly agreed followed by 21.25 % who agreed that local councils indeed encounter enormous challenges when it comes to the formulation and implementation of government programmes and projects. Those who were of the view that there are multiple challenges that local councils face in terms of project implementation accounted for approximately 67% of the total sample size. This therefore mean s that the multiplicity of challenges met by the local councils greatly impact on the quality and nature of the results from the implemented projects.

Table 2: The legal provisions that mandates local councils influence on the implementation of government projects

In order to come up with a concrete result, the researcher asked the respondents whether the available government laws, policies and instruments were supportive enough in the implementation of government projects by the local councils and their responses were as stipulated in the pie chart below:



From the pie chart, it can be deduced that majority of the respondents concurred with the notion that the government policies impact on the manner in which local councils implement public projects in their localities. It is evidenced that 37 respondents which account for 46.25% strongly agreed with the notion, whereas 26 (32.5%) agreed with the notion though 3.75% (3) were not sure of the government policies dictating project implementation. However, those on the opposite who had a different view that government policies, laws and regulations did not have a direct influence on the implementation of public projects, in this case the NUSAF III project had a combined percentage of (14) 17.5%. Those on the affirmative summed up to 78.75% of the total respondents hence it shows that indeed such instruments have a direct control on the implementation of projects.

Relationship between legal mandates and implementation of government projects.

Table 1: Model summary for Coupon discounts and implementation of government projects

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.814	.637	.633	.27449
a. Predictors: (Constant), legal mandates				

Source; Primary data, 2022

Keeping others constant, a one percent increase in legal mandates would on average lead to 0.712 increase in implementation of government projects. The R-squared value (0.637) is greater than the adjusted R-squared value (0.633) because it takes into consideration the degrees of freedom

Table 2: ANOVA values for legal mandates and implementation of government projects

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	8.107	1	8.607	74.231	.000
	Residual	8.063	46	.0565		
	Total	16.17	47			
a. Dependent Variable: implementation of government projects						
b. Predictors: (Constant), legal mandates						

Source; Primary Data, 2022

The examination's findings, which are shown in the table above, show that the regression model successfully forecasts the variable that is the dependent variable. The regression model's statistical significance is denoted by $F=74.231$ and $P=0.000$, both less than 0.05. The disparity between the regression's initial mean square value of 8.107 and the remainder's mean square value of 0.0565

serves as more evidence for this. This demonstrates the relationship between implementation of government projects and legal mandates.

Conclusion

It was concluded that a one percent increase in legal mandates on average led to 0.712 increase in implementation of government projects. The R-squared value (0.637) was greater than the adjusted R-squared value (0.633) because it took into consideration the degrees of freedom

Recommendation

The government should engage local people in its projects as well as providing enough funds which will enable successful implementation of its projects

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