

**A STUDY ON THE EFFECT OF CORRUPTION PRACTICES ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF GOVERNMENT PROJECT IN UGANDA**

A CASE STUDY OF KOCH GOMA TOWN COUNCI

1 Okello John Kenneth, 2 Namuyonga Rebecca, 3 Akampurira Sarah

1, 2, 3 Metropolitan International University

ABSTRACT.

The study aimed at the effect of corruption practices on the implementation of government project in Uganda and it was guided by the following objectives; To assess the relationship between corruption and implementation of government projects, to analyze the effects of corruption on implementation of government projects and to assess the possible remedies to corruption. The researcher employed a cross-sectional method. Surveys were used to gather data from a sample of a population at a particular time. From the findings, 6% of the respondents especially the local leaders mentioned that public officials should act with integrity in all their dealings with the government and always remember that public resources are intended for the benefit of the public, not for private gain. 12% of the respondents said that if there were suspicious that some form of corruption was taking place, they should report it, not only to them but to an appropriate authority. 8% of the respondents said that people should obey the law and encourage those around them to do the same and treat public resources respectfully. 34% of the respondents said that they should take part in the programs established by the government such that they have access to services delivered. Government should sensitize the general public including the government officials about the danger of corruption and how it affects development, weakened the economy of the country and human development socially and economically.

Key words: corruption practices and government project

Background of the study.

Corruption has to be endemic in Uganda and has now become an accepted way of life, that when someone is appointed or elected to public office. Corruption is a predicament that has entrenched itself in all sectors, both in developed and developing countries. However, research carried out shows that it is more prevalent in the developing countries (Kazaara et al., 2023). Corruption manifests itself in different forms under different environments and contexts and therefore it is impossible to have a universal definition that encompasses all. However, corruption has widely been defined as abuse or misuse of public office and funds for personal gain. According to Kivoi (2012) corruption is motivated by the spirit of private gain at the expense of public interest. (Pdu et al., 2023) adds that where corrupt practices have become entrenched, large-scale corruption co-exists with petty corruption by which officials at almost every level request payment to perform tasks or provide services.

The police are closely followed by tax officials at 44%, Judiciary at 45%, the public sector at 44%, and business executive at 40% according to report filled by Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda. The local government official of Koch Goma Town Council has also involved themselves in evil act of corruption, according to the report got from Councilors, Town clerk and town planner they have failed to account for money for road compensation during road which indicates that corruption is still a problem to development (Paul et al., 2023). In Uganda government projects are controlled by central government authorities who make it too difficult to monitor and it gives chances for corrupt government official to bribes and take bribes.

Statement of the problem

It is undeniable that corruption in Uganda is increasing. Many people would expect reduced public sector corruption. However, public sector corruption in Uganda has continued to worsen in the police, defense units, district service commissions as well as pensions, judiciary and health sectors. The IG integrity survey results indicate

prevalence of unofficial payments to several institutions with the highest percentage of 94.3% to the police, 87.5% to the local defense force, 85.2% to the public service, and 84.8% to the district service commission(Phionah et al., 2023). The inspectorate of Government Report, (2009), stated that though data on reported corruption complaints exist, there's no information on how effective the institution is in enforcing its legally mandated functions in handling the reported corruption complaints given the mandates to enforce leadership code of conduct, investigate and prosecute corruption cases in Uganda (Kazaara et al., 2023). A case study is done in this research on corruption in Koch Goma town council, Nwoya east county Nwoya district.

Specific objectives of the study.

- 1. To assess the relationship between corruption and implementation of government projects.*
- 2. To analyze the effects of corruption on implementation of government projects.*
- 3. To assess the possible remedies to corruption*

Research questions.

- 1. What is the relationship between corruption and implementation of government projects?*
- 2. What are the effects of corruption on implementation of government projects?*
- 3. What are possible remedies to corruption?*

Methodology

Research design

The researcher employed a cross-sectional method. Surveys were used to gather data from a sample of a population at a particular time. According to (Martin, 2005, PP.212) a cross section is economical since the researcher corrected data from a sample at a particular time.

Source of information.

Information was gathered from the field using the questionnaire and interviews. This included both primary and secondary source of information.

Primary data

Primary data was gathered from the local residents and local leaders. The collection of primary data was done through the use interviews which was effective since it involved face to face discussion.

Secondary data

Secondary data are existing data that other scholars wrote for the purpose other than that study (O'sullivan and Rassel, 1989). The researcher gathered secondary data from text books, electronic journals, internet, and the records kept by various different people.

Population of the study

According to Marriam Webster population refers to the whole number of people or inhabitants in a country or region or area. The study population was chosen from Koch Goma town council. In particular, rural households comprised the population to the study.

Sample and sampling procedure

The researcher used systematic random procedure of probability sampling. This was used because according to (Majundar, 1996, PP. 150), simple random sampling involves low costs of data collection, and is operationally easy to control.

A total of 50 respondents were sampled by the researcher and these comprised of 45 rural households and 5 Local leaders. Because they could provide detailed information.

Procedure for data collection.

The researcher begun by obtaining an introductory letter from the University; sought permission from the local leaders to allow and acknowledge the researcher conduct

the study, Questionnaires were distributed to the residents and local leaders of Koch Goma town council in printed card copies as a method of data collection.

Data collection instruments

The researcher collected both primary and secondary data. The primary and secondary data will be collected to enable the researcher find answers to the research questions identified in chapter one.

The researcher used questionnaires and interview guide in collecting data from the respondents. Because they provided insights into unexplored dimensions of social problems

Questionnaire: *The questionnaires were completed by literate respondents from among target population. This tool was preferred for such group because it ensures secrecy and anonymity on the parts of respondent. It is also ideal for such group since they are literate and thus takes little time to read, understand and fill the questionnaires. The researcher used questionnaire method in collecting information needed for research and it had twenty items.*

Interview schedules: *The researcher used interview schedules in the study with predetermined questions contained in the questionnaires; interviews are qualitative in depth and semi-structured. They rely on interview guides that list topics or questions. An interview schedules are organized specifically for stakeholders. The technique is appropriate for this group of respondents because it provides the researcher with opportunity to interact freely with the respondents and thus gets additional information like gestures relayed. It also gives room for more probing on the subject matter from the informant. Interview schedule enables the researcher to verify and guide the kind of information necessary for the study.*

Data processing and analysis

Analysis was based on data gathered from the questionnaires filled by the respondents. The questionnaires were read through and comparisons were made between answers

given by each respondent. The answers were keyed in basing on the research questions, then clustered together in order to tabulate or present in graphical manner whichever find fit by the researcher.

The distributed questionnaires were later be collected from the respondent for analysis. The copies were decoded, analyzed, grouped into frequencies and percentages and finally computed using SPSS (Nelson et al., 2022). Tables were used for their presentation for easier understanding and clear illustration.

RESULTS

Table 1: showing gender of respondents.

	Frequency	Percentage
Male	35	70
Female	15	30
Total	50	100

(Source: field research finding)

The data in the table 1 above indicated that the majority of the respondents 70% were male while 30% were female. The finding indicated that both sexes were represented in the investigation thus implying that valid and reliable findings we're obtained since they were not gender biased. The highest number of male respondents was due to the fact that male is so much concerned with the problem is contributing to the implementation of government projects which delayed development process.

Table 2: Age of the respondents.

	Frequency	Percentage
18-25	10	20
26-35	15	30
36-45	20	40
46+	5	10
Total	50	100

(Source: field research finding)

The above table revealed that the respondents with the age 46 and above years of age represented by 10% contributed the lowest number of respondents who took part in the study, followed by 20% that were in the age bracket of 18-25 years of age, 30% between the age of 26-35 years of age, and lastly respondents between the age bracket of 36-45 presented 40% which is the highest percentage as shown in the table above. The highest percentage of respondents with the age group of 36-45. The researcher predominantly targeted person with knowledge and experience of economic development of the Uganda and know how government projects are implemented and it's important to communities.

Table 3: Education level of the respondents.

	Frequency	Percentage
Primary	5	10
Secondary	20	40
Diploma	15	30
Bachelor	10	20
Master	0	00
Total	50	100.

(Source: Field of research Finding)

The table 3 above indicates that 10% of the respondents obtained primary level of education, 40% obtained secondary education, 30% obtained Diploma level of education, 20% obtained Bachelor and 00% obtained Master certificates. The finding implies that the researcher targeted respondents with a knowledgeable, well understanding and focus citizen who knows the danger of corruption practices on the development of communities and nation at large.

Table 4: Marital Status of respondents.

<i>Marital Status</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Single</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>40</i>
<i>Married</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>100.0</i>

(Source: Field research finding)

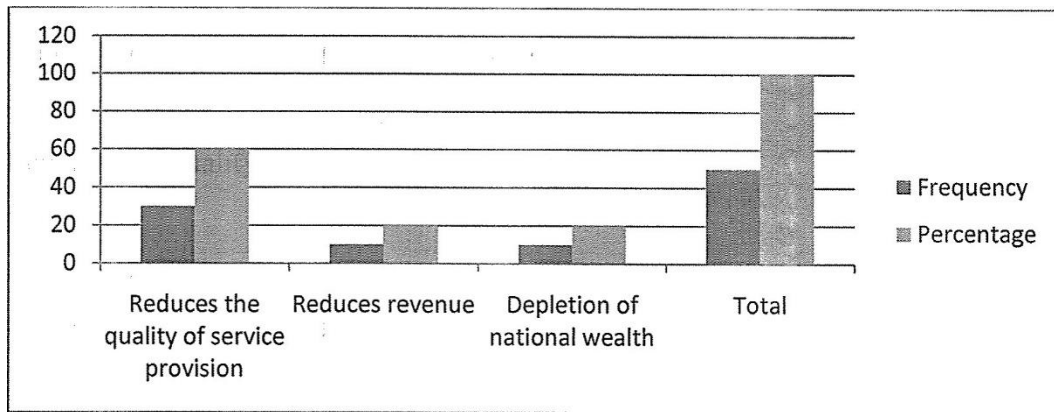
The study finding in the table 4 above shows that 40% of respondents are singles and 60% of respondents are married. These implied that the majority are married couples.
Corruption practices and implementation of government projects.

A total number of 50 respondents agreed that corruption affects service delivery and further said that this is mainly as a result of diverting funds that would have been meant for provision of services such as education, health facilities and transport.

Table 5: showing the effects of corruption practices on implementation of government projects.

<i>Effects of corruption on government projects</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
<i>Reduces the quality-of-service provision</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>Reduces revenue</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Depletion of national wealth</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>20</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>100</i>

Graph 1: showing the effects of corruption on service delivery.



Source: Primary data

From the above findings, 60% of the respondents agreed that corruption has affected service provision through reducing the quality-of-service delivery as stressed by a respondent.

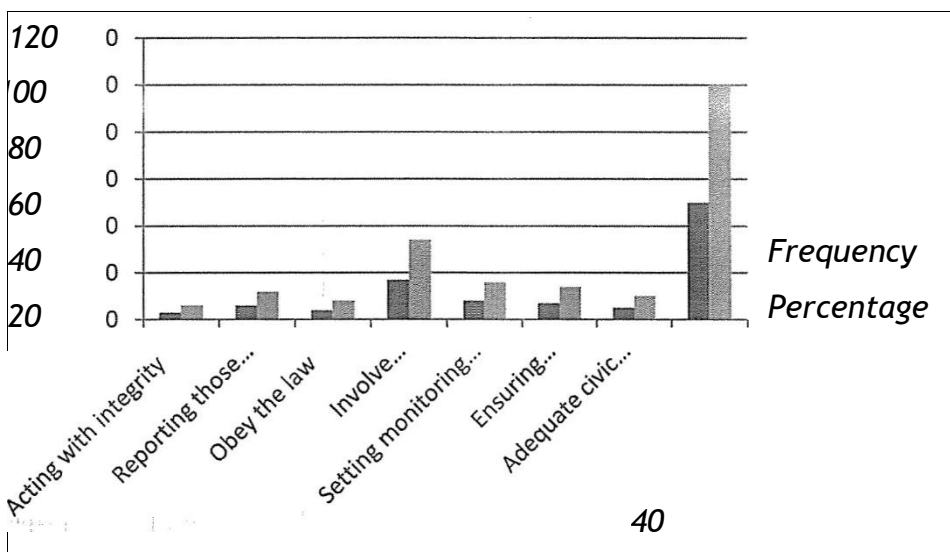
Li addition, a ratio of 10:10 respondents mentioned that corruption affects service delivery through reducing tax revenue and depletion of natural resources respectively. Furthermore, they stressed that it compromises the ability to collect tax because most public officials are bribed by those who do not want to pay tax thus less is contributed to the tax base hence inadequate provision of services like roads, education facilities in rural areas and depletes national wealth where scarce resources are diverted to high profile uneconomic projects at the expense of building schools, hospitals, roads in rural areas.

Remedies to corruption

Table 6: showing the remedies to corruption

Remedies to corruption	Frequency	Percentage
Acting with integrity	3	6
Reporting those who are corrupt to the appropriate authority	6	12

<i>Obey the law</i>	4	8
<i>Involve participation of the locals</i>	17	34
<i>Setting monitoring teams for service delivery</i>	8	16
<i>Ensuring accountability and transparency</i>	7	14
<i>Adequate civic competence</i>	5	10
Total	50	100

Graph 2: showing the remedies to corruption

Source: Primary data

From the above findings, 6% Of the respondents especially the local leaders mentioned that public officials should act with integrity in all their dealings with the government and always remember that public resources are intended for the benefit of the public, not for private gain.

12% of the respondents said that if there are suspicious that some form of corruption is taking place, they should report it, not only to them but to an appropriate authority. 8% of the respondents said that people should obey the law and encourage those around them to do the same and treat public resources respectfully.

34% of the respondents said that they should take part in the programs established by the government such that they have access to services delivered. Furthermore, they agreed that the public officials should make them understand the benefit of the programme, and it's out of this spearheading this programme hence ensuring accountability and transparency.

From the table above, 10% of the respondents emphasized on an adequate civic competence that will make their situation stronger. They further said that they treat the provision of services as a gift or favor from the government, they see it as their right and therefore settle for anything and thus have to know how much money has passed to their local leaders for schools or roads

14% of the respondents agreed that public officials have to use their good influence to push for increased accountability and transparency in the local government they are working in and further focused on establishment of monitoring teams to ensure the appropriate delivery of services. In addition, 8% of the respondents emphasized on enforcement of the law in which the government has to put in place a legal and institutional framework designed to fight against corruption. These laws should be strengthened and implemented in a good manner to support and promote accountability.

Strategy to overcome corruption in Koch Goma Town Council.

Uganda loses around \$300 Million dollars annually to poor execution of government projects; corruption is the main driver and the government of Uganda in an attempt to combat corruption they have come up with the following strategy as below;

End impunity; effective law enforcement is essential to ensure the corrupt public official of Koch Goma are punished by the court of law and break the cycle of impunity, or freedom from punishment or loss.

Successful enforcement approaches are supported by strong legal framework, laws enforcement branches and an independent and effective court system.

Reform public administration and finance management; Reforms focusing on improving financial management and strengthening the role of auditing agencies is one of the tools to control corruption in Koch Goma Town Council and the entire Nwoya District corruption free environment. One of the Reforms is the disclosure of budget information which prevents waste and misappropriation of resources.

Conclusion

In conclusion there is a lot of corruption practices in government systems, Uganda government lost USD 1Billion every year and the people promoting corruption are top government officials and people holding high position in public offices. Koch Goma Town Council as a government body also copy want happened in other sectors meaning Uganda government have a lot of work to do to fight corruption. NAADS, NUSAF, RURAL ICT projects all failed to meet the set target due to evil practice of corruption. Operation wealth Creation program is also not performing its role in Nwoya District in the area of Koch Goma Town council.

Uganda experience multiple grand corruption scandals involving high ranking officials every year as summarized below;

2009 More than 212 billion was lost in UMEME scandal as government's contributing to subsidize the electricity.

2010 Mismanagement and corruption cases against the former boss of NFA boss Damian Akankwasa causing financial loss of 20 billion shillings.

2010 Posta Uganda's cash scandal involving \$1.2million mismanagement by top officials of the company.

2010 Disappearance of shillings 2.3 billion shillings payment from Posta Corporation Kenya to Posta Uganda.

2009 NAADS scandal involving 2.7billions.

2010 The Uganda National Identity Card project scandal worth 185 billion shillings German firm Muhlbauer High Tech international-thrice as much as neighboring countries in East Africa.

2012 SHs22 billion lost in the OPM scandal meant for facilitation of PRDP and NUSAF II projects in Northern Uganda.

The summary above indicates that Uganda corruption level has gone too high, government should take a serious action to fight such evil crimes by empowering judiciary systems, Citizens, Civil society organizations, strengthening government Anti-Corruption bodies to monitor, audit and following of government projects closely with proper accountability.

Recommendation

Government should sensitize the general public including the government officials about the danger of corruption and how it affects development, weakened the economy of the country and human development socially and economically. Involving all stake holders, general Public (citizens), civil society organizations in fight against corruption by reporting any forms of corruption to the responsible people and offices.

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