

**THE GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND POVERTY ERADICATION AMONG WOMEN IN
UGANDA: A CASE STUDY OF KAWEMPE DIVISION, KAMPALA**

1 Kyakuwa Victo, 2 Akampurira Sarah, 3 Turyatunga Micheal

1, 2, 3 Metropolitan International University

ABSTRACT

This Study Was Carried Out to examine government policies and poverty eradication among women in Uganda: case study of Kawempe division, Kampala. To examine the extent to which poverty is prevalent among the people of Kawempe Division. To establish the role played by the government in the fight against poverty in Kawempe division. To find out the challenges faced by the government in the fight against poverty in Kawempe division. The study included both qualitative and quantitative research designs, with a total of eighty participants, and used observational, survey, and interview data gathering methods. Both primary and secondary sources of information were used to gather the data. Formal tables, pie charts, graphs, and narrative prose were used to process and analyze the data. Additionally, it featured summaries of the results, suggestions, and conclusions as well as the way it presented, analyzed, and interpreted of the data.

findings shown that physical factors, including weather, reproduction, and soil depletion, accounts for 85% of the reasons why women in Kawempe live in poverty. The majority of the soils have been overcultivated, and on peaks with steep hills, the soils are frequently swept away. Even though the area's land area was modest in comparison to its population size, people there marry several women, giving birth to numerous children, and land is a scarce resource, so roughly 80% of respondents felt that there was a lack of land. Government and non-government organizations should target women and the youth in their programs to divert them from alcoholism, sports betting and drug abuse and the only way out is by provision of capital and sensitization on how to make a living.

Key words: government policies and poverty eradication

Background of the Study

Mbithi (2015) asserts that in addition to broad-based growth and improved national leadership, reducing poverty also necessitates support for bottom-up strategies that highlight the contributions of the poor and individuals with disabilities in achieving this goal, as well as more responsible resource management (Vincent & Peter, 2023). Furthermore, it calls for equitable growth methods so that programs and policies intended to enhance people's lives now do not endanger those lives or the lives of their offspring in the future. In a nutshell, empowerment entails altering both what we do as well as how we do it.

Poverty has heightened the populace's unhappiness with the ruling class, paving the path for uprisings and other forms of resistance in Kawempe and other parts of the nation. One of Uganda's sub-regions, Kawempe Division, has a population that faces extreme poverty due to factors like the whims of nature, instability, society, and poor government, to name a few. Over two-thirds of Kawempe inhabitants live in extreme poverty, according to census data from 2014, and the government only provides a few basic amenities, such as water provision. The residents of Kawempe village are struggling with severe poverty issues that are accompanied by a sense of helplessness (Christopher & Micheal, 2022). As a result, houses lack protective measures against unforeseen events like famine and sickness. Children attend school, but most of them drop out at the elementary level due to the parent's a failure to pay for secondary school specifications (Kalikula, 2023). This is due to poor setting, far away from completely areas, which causes families to suffer from isolation that includes lack of the availability to knowledge on market, adding value, agricultural methods, etc. Small plots of land, poor disintegration, and the state's meager assistance in the areas of health, education, and agricultural services, amongst other things, are largely to blame for this. Residents of Kawempe, the study region, have experienced this for decades,

and the authorities has not taken any major actions to remedy the issue. The locals are now left with little choice but to get creative with their own design solutions to the problems caused by poverty.

Problem Statement

Children attend school, but most of them drop out at the elementary level due to the parent's a failure to pay for secondary school specifications. This is due to poor setting, far away from completely areas, which causes families to suffer from isolation that includes lack of the availability to knowledge on market, adding value, agricultural methods, etc. (Kalikula, 2023). Small plots of land, poor disintegration, and the state's meager assistance in the areas of health, education, and agricultural services, amongst other things, are largely to blame for this. Residents of Kawempe, the study region, have experienced this for decades, and the authorities has not taken any major actions to remedy the issue. The locals are now left with little choice but to get creative with their own design solutions to the problems caused by poverty. The majority of their initiatives don't specifically target the very poorest people, notably those engaged in modest activities and output. The population have therefore turned to various survival techniques as coping methods to overcome the difficulties of impoverishment. As a result, the investigator was asked to conduct a study on the ways that families in the Kawempe division cope with the challenges of poverty and determine how the government and other development partners may enable them to make improvements on their inventions. In light of this, the study of government policies and the fight against poverty in Uganda, especially in the Kawempe division, is necessary (Musaibah et al., 2023).

Specific Objectives

- 1. To examine the extent to which poverty is prevalent among the people of Kawempe Division.*

2. *To establish the role played by the government in the fight against poverty in Kawempe division.*
3. *To find out the challenges faced by the government in the fight against poverty in Kawempe division.*

Research Questions

1. *To what extent is poverty prevalent among the people of Kawempe Division?*
2. *What role is played by the government in the fight against poverty in Kawempe Division?*
3. *What are the challenges faced by the government in the fight against poverty in Kawempe Division?*

Methodology

Research Design

Due to the extensive information supplied regarding the role performed by administration in reducing poverty, this study utilized a case study research methodology using both quantitative and qualitative approaches. Utilizing data from the survey responses, the method of quantitative analysis was utilized to quantify occurrences in order to characterize the existing situation and explore the connections between the function of government and poverty reduction. Through the use of conversations and documentation, the qualitative method was employed to lay out the findings as well as clarify the events.

Sampling Framework

Due to the restricted time, money, and other considerations in Kawempe division, it would not be rational to survey or investigate the entire population. Therefore, selecting was used to facilitate the research while enhancing the study, as shown in the following sections. Purposive sampling strategies were utilized by the investigator to guarantee that only predefined and selected participants were contacted, resulting in the collection of knowledge that was sufficient, accurate, and meaningful.

Sampling Size

The sampling size of respondents was chosen and this was arrived at as seen below;

Table 1: Sample size

Category	Population	Sample size
<i>Town Council officials</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Community leaders</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Community members</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>35</i>
TOTAL	60	50

Source; Krejcie, Robert V., Morgan, Daryle W., "Determining Sample Size for Research (1970).

Sampling Techniques

Technique of random sampling, in which the number of participants was predetermined beforehand the investigation was impartially undertaken. The entire population of the Kawempe division was divided by the number of villages in the town council to arrive at a sample size of fifty participants. As a result, fifty participants in all were found, and they were all chosen at random from the distributed surveys. This occurred when stratification random sampling was used. Random sampling conducted systematically was then utilized. The real number of samples was later applied to this. The next step was to collect the quantitative data, which entailed editing, coding, and tabulating the information gathered.

Sample procedure

To find participants in various categories, stratified random sampling was then used. Before it was utilized to gather data in the field, this sampling data collecting tool had been tested on a small number of university students to ascertain its efficacy and effectiveness. Prior information was provided to the chosen participants in order to obtain their agreement before they were completely participated in the research.

Data analysis

Both quantitative and qualitative methods were used to gather and analyze the data. The investigator examined and processed data using SPSS (Nelson et al., 2022). Both during and after data collection, analysis was done. Depending on the simplicity and needs of the data that was obtained, it was afterwards processed and displayed via tables and statistics. Data consistency and accuracy checks have been performed in accordance with the study's goals.

RESULTS

The extent to which poverty is prevalent among the people

Table 1: poverty among women in Kawempe Division

	No. of respondents		No. Of Respondents		No. Of Respondents		Total of respondents
1. Physical environment	Yes	Yes %	No	No%		Not decide	
Physical	76		96	56	- 9	d %	172
/ terrain	146	44	17	10	17	- 5	172
Weather	124	85	31	18		10	172
Poor/exhausted soils		72					
2. Shortage of resources							
Shortage of	138	80	17	10	17	10	172
land	124	72	34	34	14	8	172
Land size	112	65	60	60	-	-	172
Land hiring							
3. Population							
High population	115	67	57	33	-	-	172
Rapid population	03	02	80	46	89	52	172
5. Social values and beliefs	148	86	22	13	02	1	172
Polygamy	117	68	22	13	33	9	172
	96	56	67	39	09	6	172

Early marriages							
Extended families							

Source, field data, 2022

Additionally, findings show that physical factors, including weather, reproduction, and soil depletion, accounts for 85% of the reasons why women in Kawempe live in poverty. The majority of the soils have been overcultivated, and on peaks with steep hills, the soils are frequently swept away. Even though the area's land area is modest in comparison to its population size, people there marry several women, giving birth to numerous children, and land is a scarce resource, so roughly 80% of respondents felt that there was a lack of land.

Table 2: Main crops grown commonly practiced by the Women under some Associations

Crops	Community members(women)		NGOs		Opinion leaders		CDs		LCs	
Cocoa	85	85%	10	62%		35	40	100%	10	83.3%
Coffee	95	95%	12	75%		40	4	100%	9	75%
Tobacco	90	90%	5	31.7%		30	4	100%	11	91.6%
Others	100	100%	14	87.5%		37	3	75%	12	100%
Total	100			16		40		4		12

Source: primary data, 2022

The information on the above shows the nature of agricultural activities the local population participated in to fight against poverty among women in Kawempe.

The crops date back to the colonialist era; they are not traded or consumed locally; they are only sold on global markets. The majority of the participants claimed that these crops were not beneficial to them, citing factors including the inconsistency of local and global coffee and cocoa prices. One participant commented that the price of a kilogram of coffee today is 1,600/= (one thousand six hundred), which is too little for the amount of work we do throughout the year. According to the UNDP, poverty is defined as the inability to afford basic necessities when looking at family income and spending in monetary terms. The results of the investigation do show that the majority of households in Kawempe Division had low levels of income, which is a sign of poverty.

Table 3: Crops sold by women and their prices in Kawempe Division

Crops	Prices at home	Prices in other places	other	Exploited cash
Coffee	1,600/=	2,700/=		1,100/=
Cocoa	2500=	4500=		2000/=
Tobacco	1000= to 3500=	3000= to 7000=		4000=
Others				500/=

Source: Field data, 2022

The prices shown in the above table highlight some of the major economic crops that served as a significant source of exploitation of children for the majority of families in the area. They also show the commercial interactions of crops and sales, as well as the loss (money cheated) the farmers encounter in the exchange of money in the Kawempe division the neighborhood. In response to questions on how they sell their crops, more than 86% of the people who responded (women) stated that the buyers profited greatly from their labor and that each kilogram of crop sold resulted in a loss to the buyer of

at least \$500. Some people said that the prices they were given were opposed to those in other places. Some of the weighing devices they used reportedly had their calibrations altered.

Table 4: Institutional Development

	No. of respondents		No. of respondents			
		Yes %		No.	Total	Activity
Micro finance	72	42	100	58	172	Financing traders Lending groups Lending individuals
Money lenders	114	66	58	34	172	Lend to the majority of people for various activities
Extension service by government and NGOs	34	22	138	80	172	Agriculture and veterinary awareness demonstration
Self-help programs	139	81	33	19	172	Group heeling each for greater production Lending/saving in groups

Source: Field data, 2022

According to the results of the interview and observation, community-based self-help programs were a part of the local population's efforts in the villages and Kawempe division to combat poverty, which primarily affected women. Based on the UNDP's

Human Hunger Index, we discovered that poverty is the lack of access to life, knowledge, and living.

Construction of feeder roads, health facilities, schools, and group excavation for great seasonal produce are examples of neighborhood self-help activities. LCs and elders are typically responsible for organizing for such chores; 81% of respondents thought that self-help organizations are the only option to survive in a society with limited access to technological advances, followed by hand harrowing.

The government has been implementing measures aimed at reducing poverty amongst our people, mostly women, for the past 19 years. The poverty rate has significantly decreased as a result of these efforts, dropping from 56% in 1992 to 38% in 2003. To guarantee that all Ugandans escape poverty and remain there, there is still more to be done. The Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP), an umbrella for tackling the main concerns of poverty, was created and introduced in 1997. New problems occurred during the execution phase, and the PE AP underwent its first change in 2000 as a result.

According to the study, roughly 72 percent of Uganda's population is engaged in farming operations. This is because Uganda is home to fertile soils, abundant rainfall, and an array of significant natural assets that have assisted in Uganda's economy remain relatively stable. This raises the question of whether government policy has promoted local people to engage in agricultural activities. Despite this, 20% of Ugandans live in impoverishment and 21% still lack access to potable water. Kagambe (2018) went on to say that the government has attempted to provide farmers with free saplings of maize and other crops as well as equipment like wheelbarrows, watering cans, and sprinklers for their gardens.

Table 5 Showing sources of money for the people in Kawempe Division

	No. of respondents	Yes %	No. of respondents	No %	No. of respondents	Undecided %	Total respondents
Cooperative societies	114	66	29	17	17	17	172
Friends	88	51	55	32	29	17	172
Microfinance	110	64	33	19	29	17	172
Formal institutions, banks	80	46	89	52	03	02	172
Rich people	138	80	08	05	26	15	172

Source: Field data, 2022

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Conclusion

The researcher concluded that the poverty rate has significantly decreased as a result of these efforts, dropping from 56% in 1992 to 38% in 2003. To guarantee that all Ugandans escape poverty and remain there, there is still more to be done. The Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP), an umbrella for tackling the main concerns of poverty,

was created and introduced in 1997. New problems occurred during the execution phase, and the PE AP underwent its first change in 2000 as a result.

Recommendation

Government and non-government organizations should target women and the youth in their programs to divert them from alcoholism, sports betting and drug abuse and the only way out is by provision of capital and sensitization on how to make a living.

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