

**CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.A CASE STUDY OF
KAWEMPE DIVISION**

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed at civil society organizations and community development and was guided by the following objectives; To assess the contributions of CSOs towards community development of Uganda, to analyze the relation between CSOs and community development in Uganda and to examine the constraints of CSOs performance in Uganda. The researcher ensured that both qualitative and quantitative data was collected using survey method. For the qualitative data, the collection methods involved mainly interviews while for the quantitative data, a questionnaire was used. Quantitative data was analyzed using mean, Pearson Correlation product moment and regression with the help of the SPSS computer package. From the findings, 12(30%) of the respondents strongly agreed and 16(40%) agreed respectively that CSOs contribute towards community development in Kawempe division the crime rate participate in global governance. Accordingly, 8(20%) were not sure, 4(10%) disagreed and none strongly disagreed to the idea. The table then shows that 14(30%) of the respondents strongly agreed that CSOs participate in monitoring government compliance with human rights treaties, 20(60%) agreed, 1(2%) they were not sure, and non-strongly agreed to the idea. Developing effective links and trust-based relationships with policymakers, the media and other stakeholders is necessary for CSOs to engage fully with policy processes. CSOs can do this by making the most of existing links, by getting to know other actors, and working through existing networks and coalitions.

Key words: civil society organizations and community development

Background to the Study

Community development is a process that leads to change in many aspects of community living which include social, economic, cultural as well as environmental (Ramadhan et al., 2023). It is about continual improvement, first with the help of change agents and later, by the people themselves to bring about change in their lives, which ultimately improve their quality of life. Thus, the focus of community development process is the people's involvement (hereafter the word 'community' will be used) whereby the community members come together to

take action collectively to meet their shared goal(s) or to generate solutions overcoming a shared problems (Davids et al., 2023).

There is a general trend in research policy and practice toward broader stakeholder engagement in technical and scientific projects. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) are critically discussed as important actors who can realize the promise of participative research, responsive to the real world. Moreover, as scientific research often claims to provide societal benefits, or to generate social goods, its evaluation would seem to

Received: 04.10.2023

Accepted: 07.10.2023

Published on: 30.10.2023

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require a component with insight into facets of ‘the social’, broadly understood (Zowena et al., 2023).

There is, however, no straightforward approach to understanding CSO roles nor consensus on the definition of CSOs in research. Between CSOs, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), charities, business advocacy organizations and other types of organization, it is not immediately clear if and how they resolve into distinct and mutually exclusive groups (Faridah et al., 2023). It is unclear what typical behaviors and interests they may manifest, and what affect this might have on research or research policy (Shamim et al., 2023). Not least owing to these clarities, the theoretical benefits and disadvantages of participation are matters of dispute and ongoing investigation. Despite some efforts the perceived gap between may remain or indeed a split be reinforced between scientific researchers and those engaged with civil society. This was perhaps evidenced on a European level with the controversial scrapping of the Bureau of European Policy Advisors (BEPA) and Anne Glover as Chief Scientific Advisor, which followed a ‘war of letters’ between scientific researchers and a consortium of Non-Government Organizations(NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) (Ramadhan et al., 2023).

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as a development alternative emerged in the 1970s and 1980s following the failure of state-led development approaches in promoting inclusive development. The World Economic Forum defines CSOs as ‘the area outside

the family, market and state’ and includes civil society actors who differ in terms of their objectives, structure and organization, membership requirements as well as geographical coverage while VanDyck defines CSOs as ‘an ecosystem of organized and organic social and cultural relations existing in the space between the state, business (Alex & Kazaara, 2023), and family, which builds on indigenous and external knowledge, values, traditions, and principles to foster collaboration and the achievement of specific goals by and among citizens and other stakeholders.’ (Ramadhan et al., 2023)

Statement to the problem

Civil society organizations (CSOs) in Uganda as a third pillar of inclusive development date back to pre-colonial and post-independence Uganda, although accelerated momentum is witnessed from the 1990s onwards (Isaac et al., 2023). During the heyday of state intervention in the 1950s and 60s, both the colonial and post-independence governments used a set of laws to encourage as well as regulate the efforts of CSOs. CSOs, particularly those in agriculture and other formal sectors of the economy, were seen as critical in the task of mobilizing citizens to foster economic production, promote a sense of nationalism and drive economic transformation (Christopher, Muhindo, et al., 2022). Although a lot of focus has been put in studying the contribution of CSOs towards community development in Uganda, little has been done to analyze the constraints to community development in the country. Therefore, the researcher is intrigued to analyze the constraints of community development in

Uganda. Using Kawempe division as a case study

(Ntirandekura & Christopher, 2022).

Objectives of the Study

1. To assess the contributions of CSOs towards community development of Uganda
2. To analyze the relation between CSOs and community development in Uganda.
3. To examine the constraints of CSOs performance in Uganda.

Research Questions

1. What are the contributions of CSOs towards community development in Uganda?
2. Examine the relation between CSOs and community development in Uganda?
3. What are the constraints of CSOs performance in Uganda?

Methodology

Research Design

A cross sectional survey design was used in the study based on both quantitative and qualitative research approaches, because according to Kotharin (2004) cross sectional research describes an existing relationship between variables. It is also encouraged by Amin (2005) for studies that involve collecting data from a large population. This design was appropriate because it involves analysis of respondents across a wide spectrum; a cross-sectional survey design acts as the best design to decipher the required study findings and also use of qualitative methods helps one yield more information (Vessels &Huitt, 2005).

Population of Study

A population included categories of people like religious leaders, politicians, traders, policy makers, community members and other opinion leaders all totaling an approximate of 40 participants.

Sample Size

The table developed by Krejcie and Morgan in 1970 (Amin, 2005) for determining sample size was used by the researcher to determine sample size. The number of subjects from each category of respondents was determined using this table.

The sample size was 10 respondents based on Krejcie and Morgan (1970) sampling guidelines.

Sampling Techniques

Sampling techniques refer to the procedure a researcher uses to select the needed study sample (Amin, 2005). The researcher employed convenience sampling and purposive sampling. This produced representative samples of the population which were heterogeneous but relevant with respect to the characteristics of interest. Purposive sampling is selecting the respondents of the study for a particular purpose.

Data Collection Methods

The researcher ensured that both qualitative and quantitative data was collected using survey method. For the qualitative data, the collection methods involved mainly interviews while for the quantitative data, a questionnaire was used.

Questionnaire survey

A set of questionnaires written on paper was administered to the respondents to get information from the respondents concerning the study. They were administered to respondents who were able to read and write; the respondents who possessed the information to answer the questions or items and willingly answered the questions honestly and it was thought to be less expensive for data collection (Amin, 2005). The respondents recorded their answers within closely defined and provided alternatives. The questionnaires were administered by personally delivering them to teachers of the schools

Interviewing Guide

The interview method was employed to generate qualitative data using an interview guide. The information obtained was used to support the quantitatively generated data. In this method, on appointment, the researcher interviewed respondents face to face to obtain in-depth information on the contribution of CSOs towards community development. The interviews were structured to comprise a set of question items on which the researcher wished to draw data from the respondents. Interview guides was administered on the respondents.

Data Analysis

The term analysis (processing for some researchers) involves a number of closely related operations, which are performed with the purpose of summarizing the data and organizing these in such a manner that they answer the research question(s) or hypotheses if they exist (Amin, 2005). Thus, in the process of analysis, relationships or differences supporting or conflicting with original or new hypotheses should be subjected to statistical tests of significance to determine if real differences exist.

Quantitative Analysis

Quantitative data was analyzed using mean, Pearson Correlation product moment and regression with the help of the SPSS computer package (Nelson et al., 2022). Mean was used to show the level of agreement and disagreement among responses, Pearson Correlation product moment was used to establish the relationship between two variables and regression was used to ascertain the overall relationship between the independent and dependent variables (Nelson et al., 2023).

Qualitative Analysis

The researcher analyzed the work basing on descriptions made by the respondents. Qualitative data analysis was presented in a narrative form on the different questions posed to the respondents. The data from interviews of key

informants and from open ended questions was analyzed by listing down all respondents' views under each question or category. The tally mark method was then used to group similar views expressed by more than one respondent. Tables were constructed from the totals of tally marks. Then the researcher organized statements and responses to generate useful conclusions and interpretations on the research objectives (Sekaran, 2003).

RESULTS

The contribution of CSOs towards community development in Kawempe division.

Table 1: The contribution of CSOs towards community development in Kawempe division.

RESPONSE	SA		A		UD		D		DS		TOTAL	
	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%	F	%
participating in global governance processes	12	30.0	16	40.0	8	20.0	4	10.0	0.0	0.0	40	100
monitoring government compliance with human rights treaties	14	30.0	20	60.0	5	8.0	1	2.0	0.0	0.0	40	100
advocate/campaigner	19	45.0	20	50.0	1	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	40	100
building active citizenship	11	30.0	13	35.0	9	20.0	6	15.0	0.0	0.0	40	100
service providers	12	35.0	20	60.0	8	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	40	100

Source: primary Data, 2019

According to the table, 12(30%) of the respondents strongly agreed and 16(40%) agreed respectively that CSOs contribute towards community development in Kawempe division the crime rate participate in global governance. Accordingly, 8(20%) were not sure, 4(10%) disagreed and none strongly disagreed to the idea (Kazaara et al., 2023). The table then shows that 14(30%) of the respondents strongly agreed that CSOs participate in monitoring government compliance with human rights treaties, 20(60%) agreed, 1(2%) they were not sure, and non-strongly agreed to the idea. Through the verbal interview, most of the respondents agreed that CSOs participate in monitoring government compliance with human rights treaties hence developing human rights (Flavia et al., 2023).

The table indicates that 19(45%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 20(50%) agreed, 1(5%) were no sure, while non-disagreed or strongly disagreed that CSOs are advocates in Kawempe division. In the verbal interview, most of the respondents agreed on that, CSOs build active citizenship in Kawempe division in particular; this therefore contributes to community development in the area. The table shows that 11(30%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 13(35%) agreed, 9(20) were not sure, 6(15%) disagreed, while none strongly disagreed to the idea. The findings from the

Received: 04.10.2023

Accepted: 07.10.2023

Published on: 30.10.2023

research indicated in the table above that 12(35%) of the respondents strongly agreed that CSOs provides services to communities, 20(60%) agreed, 8(15%) were not sure, and none disagreed or strongly disagreed the idea. The respondents agreed that CSOs greatly help in developing communities (Zowena et al., 2023).

Relationship between CSOs and community development in Kawempe division.**Table 2: Relationship between CSOs and community development in Kawempe division Kampala Uganda.**

Response	Frequency	percentage
Yes	32	85.0
No	3	5.0
Not sure	5	10.0
Total	40	100.0

Source: Primary data, 2019

From the table above, the study revealed from the respondents that indeed CSOs have contributed to community development in Kawempe division as majority 32(85.0%) of the 40 respondents agreed that CSOs contributes to community development although 3(5%) of the respondents did not see any contribution of CSOs towards community development in Kawempe division in particular, according to the study findings, also that 5(10%) of the respondents were not sure of whether CSOs contributes to community development in Kawempe division in particular but instead said that to a larger extent (Akankwasa et al., 2022). However, basing on the most of the study respondents as eluded in the table above, the study therefore established that there is a positive relationship of CSOs and community development in Kawempe division as was revealed by majority 32(85%) of the covered respondents during data collection process.

Constraints of CSOs performance.

Poverty (Do more than 40% of people live on \$2 per day?) Uganda's successes in poverty reduction have been widely acknowledged. Thus, consumption poverty has decreased from 56% of the population living below the poverty line (approximately \$1 per day) in 1992 to an estimated 35% in 2000 (Christopher, Moses, et al., 2022). Despite this, Uganda remains among the poorest countries in the world²⁴, and, among the poor, many live well below the poverty line for many years. Further, the overall proportion of poor people increased from 35% (or 7.7. million people) in 2000 to 38% in 2003 (CPRC, 2005). This limits the performance of CSOs in developing communities particularly Kawempe division (Godfrey et al., 2023).

Financial constraint. Many of the CSOs struggle to raise enough revenue to implement civic activities. In old CSOs common sources of revenue are membership subscription fees as well as commissions from the provision of services to members, especially by those CSOs involved in trade. With the exception of UMA (Alex & Kazaara, 2023), which

has a large membership of private companies operating in the manufacturing industry of Uganda, many of the other old CSOs struggle to raise enough revenue.¹³⁰ In part, this stems from failure to properly account for the collected revenue, which attenuates the membership base and the commitment of members to make future contributions. New CSOs rely mostly on external donor financing, and devote very little or no effort to raising funding domestically (Racheal et al., 2023). Considering that most of the donor financing shifts with changes in programmatic focus, some new CSOs occasionally find themselves underfunded and have to scale back their operations.

Conclusions

The study concluded that the CSOs greatly contribute towards community development in Kawempe division. It was noted that CSOs engagement in decision making contribute to community development. There is widespread agreement on the vital role that CSOs can play in influencing policies and practices to make them pro-poor. More and more CSOs are recognizing the need to understand policy processes better and use evidence to engage with them more effectively, and are seeking support to do this.

Recommendations

Greater networking would help with policy influence. Developing effective links and trust-based relationships with policymakers, the media and other stakeholders is necessary for CSOs to engage fully with policy processes. CSOs can do this by making the most of existing links, by getting to know other actors, and working through existing networks and coalitions. They also need to identify key personalities who can help, and generate new linkages and partnerships with likeminded individuals and organizations.

The formation and activity of civil society organizations (CSOs) at local and regional level it's possible through: development simulative environment for civil society development, stimulating grass/root organizations, shearing power between different sectors, enhancing networking as umbrella for CSO. for strengthening national networks of Civil Society Organizations and setting its' role in the national processes of rural development it's necessary: to build trust between the members of Networks, ensuring exchange the best practices, connecting common interests of stakeholders, minoring the work techniques and practices and ensuring high level of transparency.

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