

Civil Society Organization And Its Impact On The Social Economic Transformation Of Communities In Uganda:

Case Study Of Busimbi Division, Mityana District.

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Abstract

The research was carried out to find out the influence of civil society organisation on the social economic transformation of communities in Uganda: case study of Busimbi division, Mityana district. it investigated impacts of Civil Society Organisations on economic transportation of communities, factors that influence community-CSOs relationship in area of advocacy, relationship between civil society organisation and the social economic development. The study employed the use of correlation design to establish the nature of the relationships. The validity and reliability of research instruments was established and data was collected from 30 respondents selected from civil society organisation in Busimbi division, Mityana district using the simple random sampling method. To analyze the data, the Pearson product moment correlation statistical tool was used with the aim of establishing the relationship between civil society organisation and economic transformation of communities. From the findings, 80% of respondent admitted that CSO's contributed to the provision of farm equipment's while 20% disagreed. Respondents revealed that CSO in Agriculture, working in the various communities have helped to provide protective gloves, pans and wellington boot to help in picking shear nuts. This formed the basis of the detailed analysis and conclusions and recommendations. The researcher also confirmed the social capital theory. On the basis of the conclusions made, the researcher recommended that; There should be a strong collaboration among Non-Governmental Organization (CSOs) by coming together to write proposal for grant. This is because most donor funding is huge for one CSO, to manage effectively and efficiently. This therefore helped in soliciting for more funding for the development of all sectors in the District at large and not just some communities hence helped in the development of the whole district.

Background of the study

Civic education defines civil society as an arena outside the family, the state, and the market where people come together to pursue common interests (Alex & Kazaara, 2023). CSI has two interesting features that contrast with other concepts of civil society. First, it aims to avoid the conventional focus on formal and institutionalized civil society organizations (CSOs) by also considering informal coalitions and groups. Second, while civil society is sometimes perceived as an area with positive actions and values, the CSI seeks to assess both positive and negative manifestations of civil society (Winny et al., 2023). This concept subsequently includes not only humanitarian organizations and associations active in environmental protection, but also groups such as skinheads and groups of supporters of aggressive football. Socio-economic transformation how to conceptualize the state of civil society to assess the state of civil society and its impact on the socio-economic transformation we need examines civil society along four main dimensions The structure of civil society (e.g. number of members, extent of giving and volunteering, number and features of umbrella organizations and civil society infrastructure, human and financial resources), the external environment in which civil society exists and operates (e.g. legislative, political, cultural and economic context, the relationship between civil society and the state), as well as the private sector) (Frank et al., 2023); Values practiced and promoted within civil society (e.g. democracy, tolerance or environmental protection) and the impact of activities carried out by civil society actors (e.g. impact of public policy, empowerment of people, satisfaction of social needs). Each of these main dimensions is divided into a set of sub-dimensions, which contain a total of 74 indicators.⁴ These indicators are the core of the CSI and form the basis of the data presented in this report (Racheal et al., 2023). The context of civil society remains elusive, complex and contested. There are different meanings and interpretations, and over time different schools of thought have influenced theoretical debates and empirical research. Civil society is conceived as an arena of unforced collective action around shared interests, goals and values. As a public sphere where citizens and voluntary organizations freely engage, it differs from the state, the family and the market. Of the above-mentioned concepts of civil society, it is worth emphasizing in conclusion that it is a broad spectrum of non-governmental and non-profit organizations, associations, groups of all kinds that operate in public life, express interests and interests. values of their members based on ethical, cultural, political, scientific, religious or philanthropic considerations (World Bank 2006; Kaldor 2003; Carothers 2000). At this point, it should be understood that the concept of civil society was developed by authors and scientists living and working in developed countries, so this concept naturally permeated the reality of the developed world. The concept is seen by scholars, foundations, policy advocates and the CSO community as citizen-oriented, participatory, democratic and holds the promise of taking politics away from the corrupt (Kazaara et al., 2023), bureaucracy and government into the hands of citizens. and people's organizations. However, the concept of civil society is also centrally linked to the current state of democracy and change in the world. It was presented as a beacon of freedom, a fountain for the protection of civil rights and resistance to state repression, a mobilizing platform for society to protect and project essential interests, a persuasive force for state moderation, and an embodiment of people's struggle and citizen power; it was the central force behind political and economic reforms. The activities and even the proliferation of citizen groups have been seen by several scholars as essential to the democratization process and its maintenance. And from the countless studies conducted, it is clear that the middle class has largely paved the way for the proliferation of civil society, especially in promoting democracy (Sharon et al., 2023).

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Problem statement.

The World Bank (2006) argues that the past two decades have seen the proliferation of civil society organizations that have made great strides in improving the interaction between social and economic systems, ensuring democratic, participatory and decision-making processes in societies around the world. , but especially in the developing world Uganda Specifically (F. Christopher et al., 2022) presents communities, the private sector and civil society as three separate areas of development that operate independently of each other. It is further argued that civil society has been well recognized as an important third sector whose strengths have positively influenced the state and the market and is an important agent in promoting transparency, accountability, responsibility and openness (Paul & Kazaara, 2023). The only difference between the view of the World Bank and the other scholars mentioned above is that the World Bank points out that civil society has ensured democratic, participatory and decision-making processes around the world, while other scholars believe that civil society is an agent based on transparency, responsibilities and accountabilities. Several scholars recognize functions believed to be desirable in all societies, which include: protection of citizens' lives, property, and liberties; monitoring the activities of the state, the central government and the state apparatus; advocacy through the expression of citizens' interests; socialization through practicing the values and attitudes of democracy (Faith et al., 2023); mediation and facilitation between communities and citizens; building communities through voluntary interactions that build bonds between members of society and by providing services in the social service sector (F. Christopher et al., 2022). Despite its increased importance and value, civil society in the developing world lags behind its counterparts in the developed world in terms of fulfilling its expected functions and providing checks and balances to central government. Basic descriptive information about civil society, its size, scope, domestic sources of monetary and material support, and the political framework within which it operates does not appear to be available in an organized manner in Uganda (Edgar & Moses, 2023). . The starting point of this study was to find out and compare the reality of civil society in Uganda with the concept of civil society organization in the development and transformation of the socio-economic transformation of Busimbi Division Mityana.

Specific objectives

1. To examine the impacts of Civil Society Organisations on economic transportation of communities
2. To find out factors that influence community-CSOs relationship in area of advocacy
3. To find out the relationship between civil society organisation and the social economic development.

Methodology

The Researcher adapted a quantitative research design with involvement of the study which included the factors responsible for teenage pregnancy, implications of teenage pregnancy and ways how teenage pregnancy could be prevented in Mityana District. The Study was conducted in Mityana District Busimbi Division (L. Nafiu et al., 2013). The choice of the study area was because the researcher fluently spoke all the languages used in the study area and more so the researcher understands the study area properly which made data collection easy and concrete. The researcher intended to use secondary data through reading books, Newspapers, Publications, articles and Magazines related to the topic in order to get data that is concrete (Abdi et al., 2020). The targeted population was on 200 people and 100 teachers and 49 stake holders. The researcher used sampling technique to get a sample.

To select the respondents, Purposive sampling method was used to help the researcher get detailed information for the evaluation of the study and for the inclusion of only those respondents who hold vital information that the researcher needs

Table 1: Sample Size

Respondents	Sample Size	Percentage
leaders	20	66.6%
Staff	10	33.3%
Total	30	100

Source: Field data (2023)

The sample size for the study comprised of 10 staff and management of Civil Society Organization which was selected purposively, that was 5 each from the five CSO’s, 20 opinion leaders from the 3 selected communities. The research was purposively selected 25 staff and management because they had an in-depth knowledge and information about the research topic and also community opinion leaders because they also have in-depth knowledge about the topic and also because they are also the first point of contact in the communities and large number of communities in the district (L. A. Nafiu, 2012). This choice of tool was used due to the fact that the targeted population is literate and therefore capable of filling-in the questionnaires. It gave the respondents adequate time to give well thought out answers (Olanrewaju et al., 2021). Questionnaires were also self-administered and provided quick means of collecting data from a large population’s sample. This involved, tabulation of the collected data. A quantitative method was used in computation of percentages and totals (L. A. Nafiu et al., 2017). Tables were used to present and summarize data for easy interpretation and display of information. Data was analyzed inform of tables, frequencies and percentages using SPSS & STATA (Nelson et al., 2022).

RESULTS

CSOs Provision of Educational Infrastructure

Table 1: Provision of educational infrastructure

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	28	93.3
No	2	6.7
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field survey. 2023

CSOs privilege the individual level through a sustained focus on training activities within non-formal as well as formal education. With respect to teacher training, CSOs are widely engaged in training principals, strengthening the capacities of school inspectors, and strengthening parent teacher associations and school management committees (T. Christopher, 2022). A special session devoted to the involvement of civil society in Education for All (during the 46th session of the International Conference on Education in 2000) (UNESCO, 2001b: 13-14). The table 1 above shows that, 93.3% of the respondents indicate that, CSO’s have contributed to enhance provision of educational infrastructure. It was realized that, most of the schools built in the communities were initiated and built by the CSOs in the District. The CSOs mobilized community members to build

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nursery and primary school blocks and construct furniture to ensure that, all children are enrolled in school. Offices and bungalows were built for teachers to accommodate them in the communities (Ntirandekura & Friday, 2022).

CSOs Contribution to Provision of Scholarships.**Table 2: Provision of scholarship**

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	30	100.0
No	0	0.0
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The responses from all the respondents revealed that, CSOs have provided scholarship to brilliant students from the basic level up to tertiary and even outside the country to further their studies. Currently, three students have been given scholarship to study in China, Greece and the Netherlands, one in Makerere University at faculty of Science and Technology, and more than hundred students in Secondary and Basic level. All these beneficiaries are from the Busimbi Division, Mityana District, and their access to education will contribute to development when done with their studies (Suzan & Kazaara, 2023).

CSOs Contribution to Payment of School Fees.**Table 3: Payment of scholarship fees**

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	29	96.7
No	1	3.3
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2023

From the table above, 96.7% of the respondents agreed that CSO's contribute to payment of school fees' while 3.3% of the respondents disagreed. It was realized that, some CSOs have operating in the District have taken the burden of paying students' school fees. Almost all the members of the communities in the District testified to the fact that, they no longer pay their wards' school fees, making it easy for all their children to be enrolled and stay in school (Mark et al., 2023). Hence school enrollment has increased especially with the girl child (Oromo et al., 2023). This has reduced school- dropout among the youth in the District.

CSOs Contribution to Provision of Educational Supplies**Table 4: Provision of Educational supplies**

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	28	93.3
No	2	6.7
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2023

From the table above, 93.3% of respondents admitted to the fact that CSO's 'contribute to the provision of educational supplies while 6.7% respondent answered disagreed. It was revealed that some of the CSOs provide text books, exercise books, school uniform, pencils eraser among others to teachers and students to facilitate quality teaching and learning in the communities in order to improve upon the standard of education in the District, hence increasing the literacy rate (Anthony et al., 2023).

CSOs Contribution to Health by Paying Hospital Bills

Table 5: Payment of hospital bills

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	30	0.0
No	0	100.0
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2023

From the table above, none of the respondents admitted to CSO's contribution to payment of hospital bills. It was revealed that currently, there is no CSO in the District that pay the hospital bills of patients in the District in relating to health. According to the respondents, it is only the National Health Insurance Scheme staffs that move around the communities to register and renew cards registered under the scheme.

CSOs Contribution to Organizing Health Education

Table 6: Organizing of health education

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	30	100.0
No	0	0.0
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) has, since 1994, provided 22 new health centers with nurses' quarters, and also rehabilitated 22 existing centers in the Upper West Region. Consequently, 84% of the region's population now has reasonable access to health facilities as compared to 50% in the early 90s (Daily Graphic, 1997). Every day, 4,000 children die from diseases caused by unsafe water and sanitation; mainly from diseases like diarrhea, cholera and dysentery (GLAAS, 2010). They can however be easily prevented through water, sanitation and hygiene projects. The simple act of washing hands with soap and potable water coupled with hygiene education provided by CSOs has been able to reduce diarrhea diseases by 40%.

CSOs Contribution to Agriculture in Provision of irrigational Facilities to Communities

Table 7: Provision of irrigation

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	28	93.3
No	2	6.7
Total	30	100.0

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Source: Field Survey, 2015

From the table above, 93.3% of the respondents approved that CSO’s contribute to agriculture by providing irrigational equipments while 6.7% disapproved. It was revealed that most of the CSOs working in the various communities have provided dams for dry season irrigational farming of vegetables and maCSO plantation. This has helped provide vegetables like beans leaves, tomatoes, paper, drafted maCSO seedlings among others and fruits like maCSOs for local consumption all year round in the District.

4.6.8 CSOs Contribution to Provision of Fertilizer

Table 4.10: Provision of Fertilizer

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	27	90.0
No	3	10.0
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2023

From the table above, 90% of respondents established that CSO’s contribute to the provision of fertilizer while 10%

disagreed. It was revealed that the CSOs in Agriculture working in the various communities help farmers by linking them to the Mityana Rural bank to buy them fertilizers at a reduced price. Further discussions also revealed that, women who farm up to five hectors and more are the most beneficiaries of this project. According to the women, majority of them have been able to save money from this initiative and have become proud owners of more than five hectors of farm land which in the past was impossible. “I could not afford even one bag of fertilizer to apply on my maize farm said one women but now, I can get up to four or more bags”. The few people who disagreed to this were some old community opinion leaders and some men who are not beneficiaries to the project.

CSOs Contribution to Provision of Farming Equipment

Table 8: Provision of Farming equipment

	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	24	80.0
No	6	20.0
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2023

From the table above, 80% of respondent admitted that CSO’s contribute to the provision of farm equipment’s while 20% disagreed. Respondents revealed that CSO in Agriculture, working in the various communities have helped to provide protective gloves, pans and wellington boot to help in picking shear nuts. They also helped farmers by linking them to tractor operators’ associations to plough for them at a reduced price. This initiative has helped the farmers to farm on a larger scale and has reduced the stress involved in getting tractors for ploughing.

CSOs Contribution to Good Governance

Table 9: Assisting in good governance

	Frequency	Percentage
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Yes	29	96.7
No	1	3.3
Total	30	100.0

Source: Field Survey, 2023

The ways in which civil society can contribute to good governance include the following: Building state capability through Participatory policy and budget formulation, delivering basic services and providing training to public service providers such as health workers. Delivering civic education and raising citizens' awareness about national policies, and their rights and responsibilities (e.g. voting rights, democratic freedoms), Safety, security and access to justice: civil service organizations can raise citizens' awareness about rights and services so that official security and justice institutions are more accessible and effective. CSO's can also build state accountability, influencing standard setting (e.g. lobbying for legislation on transparency, adherence to international commitments on human rights) Carrying out investigation (e.g. monitoring and evaluating government programme through social audits, citizen report cards or participatory expenditure tracking systems) Demanding answers from the state (e.g. questioning state institutions about progress, parliamentary public hearings) applying sanctions where the state is found to be lacking (e.g. protests, boycotts, strikes or negative publicity).

Conclusion

It is evident from the findings that, the CSOs have contributed to developing the people of the Busimbi Division, Mityana District in Provision of Educational infrastructures and facilities such as school building, exercise books, uniforms, school bags, training and employing of teachers, the CSOs have contributed to about 80% in developing the people of the District. Health education such as HIV/AIDs prevention through condom use, voluntary counseling and testing, how to prevent the spread tuberculosis, gonorrhea, syphilis and infections. In agriculture inputs such as tractors, fertilizer, donkey curt, watering cans, sucks and education on modern farming practices, have being provided to community members to enhance agriculture in the District, Advocating on good governance, they CSOs have contributed to sensitizing the people on their fundamental human rights, empowering women to participate in politics and to help them become economically independent. All these interventions provided by the CSOs operations have impacted positively in the life of the people in almost all aspect of development.

Recommendations

- They should be a strengthened collaboration between partners (Government and CSOs), this will help to prevent duplication of projects in some communities whiles other communities will be lacking some of this project to ensure sustainability, as released from the research that, the CSOs and government sometimes end up implementing the same project in the same community but at different times.
- There should be a strong collaboration among Non-Governmental Organization (CSOs) by coming together to write proposal for grant. This is because most donor funding is huge for one CSO, to manage effectively and efficiently. This will therefore help in soliciting for more funding for the development of all sectors in the District at large and not just some communities hence help in the development of the whole district.
- The Non-Government Organizations (CSOs) should always involve the community members in project identification and implementation in the communities, since community members complain about their involvement, this will make the

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project sustainable because, beneficiaries will feel that, the project is for them, hence their responsibility to protect and maintain the project, community members should also be involved in the identification of projects in the aspect of monitoring and evaluation of the projects in the District.

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