
**Relationship Between Party Electoral Financing and Women Participation in Political processes in Uganda:
A Case of Pakwach District Local Government**

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Abstract

The study conducted was about the relationship that exists between party electoral financing and women participation in political processes in Uganda: A case of Pakwach District Local Government. The objective of the research paper was to examine the relationship between Party electoral financing and women participation in political processes of Uganda, a case of Pakwach District Local Government. The study employed a descriptive survey research design based on quantitative and qualitative research approaches. The research considered a sample size of 195 respondents who were selected to participate in the study. The respondents were selected using stratified and simple random sampling procedures. Data collection Instruments used involved questionnaire survey and interview methods. A quantitative data/surveys /questionnaires were administered to a sample of women involved in the political process; In-depth interviews conducted with key informants, including CSOs, party officials, women political leaders and community members. A total of 195 questionnaires were sent out and all were returned to the researcher. The study concluded that party electoral financing and women participation in political process have a moderate and significant relationship. Finally, the study recommended that party electoral financing should be enforced to ensure that women participation in political process is moderate and can compete for significantly higher positions as such supporting democratic political process and activities because electoral financing facilitate campaigning materials to female candidates, mobilization of financial resources to support women participation given the high costs associated with elections, solve the Inability to afford nomination fees for different political positions by women and also meet party membership dues to participate in political leadership processes.

Key words: Party electoral financing, women participation, political processes, Pakwach District Local Government.

Introduction

Women's political participation is a key aspect of democratic governance and social progress UN reports (2020). It serves as a barometer for measuring inclusivity and gender equality in a nation's political landscape (Zowena et al., 2023). In Uganda, as in many other countries around the world, women's participation in the political process has been a matter of concern, particularly in the context of the IPU's Multiparty Politics (2020) reports. Uganda has therefore put in place measures to promote women's

political participation, including constitutional provisions, gender quotas and affirmative action policies. However, there remains a gap between policy implementation and the actual representation and involvement of women in the political arena. By examining the experiences and perspectives of women in Pakwach District Local Government, this research seeks to shed light on the factors that contribute to the current state of women's

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participation and identify potential strategies for improvement.

According to Kate Millett (1970), an American feminist writer and activist in her book on "Sexual Politics", a woman refers to "an adult female human being". Therefore, women's participation in the multi-party-political process is an important indicator of gender equality and democracy in any society. However, the level of women's participation in Uganda's multiparty political system remains an area of concern. This research focuses on Pakwach District Local Government, a region in Uganda, to examine the relationship between party electoral funding and women's participation in political processes and to identify potential strategies to enhance their participation.

The study investigated party election financing and women's participation in political processes in Uganda using a case study of Pakwach District Local Government. In this study, party funding was perceived as the independent variable and women's participation was perceived as the dependent variable. Party election funding was measured in terms of candidate nomination fees, campaign finance and fundraising support for candidates, while women's participation was measured by voter turnout, the proportion of women competing for leadership positions, equal leadership opportunities, the proportion of electoral seats held by women and leaders positions held by women.

This research paper reviewed the work done by other scholars who have written about women's participation in political processes in local governments in Uganda to compare the study. Therefore, it is organized according to the study

objective of the research, which is to examine the relationship between the financing of party elections and the participation of women in political processes. The study was guided by feminist theory, which has emerged as a diverse and evolving body of thought over several decades, with contributions from many scholars and activists. It is difficult to attribute its origins to a single year or individual, as feminist ideas and activism have a complex and multifaceted history. However, feminist theory began to gain ground in the late 18th and early 19th centuries during the first wave of feminism.

The main objective of this theory is to raise the level of women to the level of men, especially in line with political leadership and ensure the protection of women's rights and give them the opportunity to contribute ideas and also actively compete with men. According to Bryson (2003:33), a central feature of feminist theory is the notion that women and their situations are central to political analysis. The interest of this important feminist theory lies in questioning the fact that men seem to have more power and privilege than women and how this can be changed (Gracious, 2023). Gender relations in politics brings insight into the different roles in relationships, values, attitudes and behaviors society assigns to men and women. Feminism around the world has characterized gender relations as a matter of subordination and inequality (Waylen, 1996:6). Women and men have different roles where women are supposed to take care of the household and men are supposed to engage in aggressive work to provide for the family. This patriarchal act or situation limits women's participation in decision-making, those who break into political positions are discriminated

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against and unable to compete with existing male participants (Clark 1991:70-75).

According to Alison Jagger (1994)⁶, she argued that the subordination of women is central to patriarchy, which is the root cause of oppression. He further argues that to explain gender relations one needs to know the mechanisms of patriarchal relations and the division of labor between women and men in society. Gender in politics has two sides, one is the participation or representation of women and the other is interest in women's issues. According to Muhumuza (2015) a study on election financing and its impact on female candidates. Research has found

that limited access to financial resources disproportionately affects women (Racheal et al., 2023), as they often face challenges in mobilizing funds for their campaigns. This lack of financial support limits women's ability to effectively compete in elections and reduces their chances of success in politics. Election financing is therefore another crucial factor that affects women's participation in political processes. Research papers have examined the relationship between campaign finance and women's political representation in local governments in Uganda.

Statement of the problem

According to UWOPA (2023) data published on the website (www.uwopa.go.ug) on female members of parliament for the 11th Parliament of Uganda based on the result of the 2021 general election, Uganda has a total of 189 female members. parliament out of 529 and 14 of them are directly elected through an open competitive non-affirmative action process that shows limited representation of women (Zowena et al., 2023). Similarly, data available from the Pakwach District Clerk's office, resulting from the 2021 general elections, indicates that Pakwach District Local Government has a total of 10 sub-local governments in the district. Political representation in the district consisted of 185 male and female councilors in the entire district, of which 86 councilors were elected on the basis of affirmative action and none were elected in an open selection process. In addition, there are 10 Lower County/City Council Chairmen (LC.3) in the 10 lower local governments, with no single female chairperson managing lower local government units in Pakwach District Local Government (Council Office Data, 2023 Pakwach District Local Government) (Kazaara et al., 2023). However, this data shows the gaps that exist between men and women in the multi-party-political process in Pakwach District Local Government.

Study Objective

The objective was to examine the relationship between party electoral financing and women participation in political processes at Pakwach District Local Government, Uganda.

Study Hypothesis

Party electoral financing is significantly related to women participation in political processes at Pakwach District Local Government, Uganda.

Methodology

In the context of this study, the researcher used a descriptive survey research design based on quantitative and qualitative research approaches. The reason of choosing this design was that, the researcher focused on the links

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among a smaller number of attributes across a sample of cases depending on the resources available and the size of the target population. The researcher quantified social phenomena particularly issues conducted and problems that are prevalent in the society. The researcher collected the information that can describe and help the researcher in understanding social life. The design was based on both qualitative and quantitative approaches where data collection is done based on questionnaires and interview guides. This is intended to explore more detailed information and the aspects which remain unrevealed during quantitative analysis, qualitative data was collected. This data/information was collected through key informant interviews technique. It is a useful technique which provides more useful and in-depth knowledge in less time and limited cost. The study populations included a sample

Party electoral financing		SD	D	N	A	SA	TOTAL
Political parties get adequate funding to support democratic political process and activities	F	11	28	37	84	35	195
	%	5.6	14.4	19	43.1	17.9	100
Political parties provide campaigning materials to female candidates	F	22	43	56	49	25	195
	%	11.3	22.1	28.7	25.1	12.8	100
Parties mobilize financial resources to support women participation given the costs associated with elections	F	10	44	46	69	26	195
	%	5.1	22.6	23.6	35.4	13.3	100
Nomination fees for different political positions are affordable to women	F	25	57	48	49	15	194
	%	12.8	29.2	24.6	25.1	7.7	99.5
Party Membership dues are affordable to women to participate in women political leadership	F	10	52	47	66	20	195
	%	5.1	26.7	24.1	33.8	10.3	100
Parties promote their female candidates through fundraising programs	F	33	66	43	33	20	195
	%	16.9	33.8	22.1	16.9	10.3	100
Political parties pay nomination fees for their female candidates	F	43	51	45	32	24	195
	%	22.1	26.2	23.1	16.4	12.3	100
The monetary cost for elective campaigns propels women away from politics	F	9	28	35	55	66	193
	%	4.6	14.4	17.9	28.2	33.8	99
Political parties co-create and run women outreach campaigns with female from within the party	F	22	50	48	47	28	195
	%	11.3	25.6	24.6	24.1	14.4	100

size of 195 people involved in multiparty political process in Pakwach District Local Government. Data was analyzed inform of tables, frequencies and percentages using SPSS & STATA (Nelson et al., 2022)

RESULTS

Results on Party electoral financing

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Source: Primary Data (2023)

Results in the table shows majority (61%) of the respondents were in agreement that Political parties get adequate funding to support democratic political process and activities, 19% were not sure and 20% were in disagreement. This implies that Political parties get adequate funding to support democratic political process and activities.

Majority (37.9%) of the teachers were in agreement that Political parties provide campaigning materials to female candidates, 33.4 % were in disagreement while 28.7% were n not sure. This means that Political parties provide campaigning materials to female candidates

Majority (48.7%) of the respondents were in agreement that Parties mobilize financial resources to support women participation given the costs associated with elections, 27.7% were in disagreement while 23.6% were Not sure. This implies that Parties mobilize financial resources to support women participation given the costs associated with elections. Simple majority (58.4%) were in disagreement that Nomination fees for different political positions are affordable to women, 32.8% were in agreement and 24.6% were not sure. This means that nomination fees for different political positions are not affordable to women. Simple majority (44.1%) were in agreement that Party Membership dues are affordable to women to participate in women political leadership, 31.8% were in disagreement while 24.1% were not sure. This implies that Party Membership dues are affordable to women to participate in women political leadership. Majority (50.7%) were in disagreement that Parties promote their female candidates through fundraising programs, 27.2% were in agreement while 22.1% were not sure. This means that Parties do not promote their female candidates through fundraising programs. Majority (48.3) of the respondents were in disagreement that Political parties pay nomination fees for their female candidates, 28.7% were in agreement and 23.1% were not sure. This therefore implies that Political parties don't pay nomination fees for their female candidates, Majority (62%) of the respondents were in agreement that the monetary cost for elective campaigns propels women away from politics, 19% were in disagreement while 17.9% were Not sure. This implies that that the monetary cost for elective campaigns propels women away from politics.

Lastly to find out if Political parties co-create and run women outreach campaigns with female from within the party; majority 38.5% were in agreement, 36.9% were in disagreement and 24.6% were not sure. This implies that Political parties co-create and run women outreach campaigns with female from within the party.

Table 2 below shows Pearson product moment correlation between Party electoral financing and women participation in political process

Variables Computed index		Party electoral financing	Women participation in political process
Party electoral financing	Pearson Correlation	1	.444**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000

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	N	192	188
Women participation in political process	Pearson Correlation	.444**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	188	191

Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Results in Table above show the Pearson product moment correlation was applied to establish the relationship between Party electoral financing and Women participation in political process and the results indicate that the two variables has a statistically positive moderate and significant relationship ($r=.444^{**}$, $p<0.000$) (Nelson et al., 2023). These results imply that Party electoral financing influences Women participation in political process and therefore the stated hypothesis is rejected. This connotes that surely party electoral financing determines women participation

Women participation in Political processes at Pakwach District Local Government		SD	D	NS	A	SA	TOTAL
Women participate in voting of electoral positions	F	2	1	9	55	125	192
	%	1	0.5	4.6	28.2	64.1	98.4
Majority of candidates that vied for leadership positions were women	F	27	72	43	35	16	193
	%	13.8	36.9	22.1	17.9	8.2	99
There exist equal opportunities of political leadership for women in Pakwach District	F	30	47	15	68	32	192
	%	15.4	24.1	7.7	34.9	16.4	98.5
Senior position in political offices are held by women in Pakwach District	F	59	54	26	35	19	193
	%	30.3	27.7	13.3	17.9	9.7	99
High proportion of electoral seats are held by Women in Pakwach District	F	53	64	23	29	24	193
	%	27.2	32.8	11.8	14.9	12.3	99

in electoral process.

Table 3 below shows results on Women participation in Political processes at Pakwach District Local Government

Source: Primary Data (2023)

Results in table above show that majority (92.3%) of the respondents were in agreement that Women participate in voting of electoral positions, 1.5% were in disagreement while 4.6% were not sure. This implies that majority agree that women participate in voting of electoral positions. Majority (50.7%) of the respondents were in disagreement that Majority of candidates that vied for leadership positions were women, 26.1% were in agreement while 22.1% were tot sure. This implies that Majority of candidates that vied for leadership positions were women (Zowena et al.,

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2023). Overwhelming majority (51.3%) of the respondents were in agreement there exist equal opportunities of political leadership for women in Pakwach District, 7.7% were not sure while 39.5% were in a disagreement. This implies that majority of the respondents agreed that there exist equal opportunities of political leadership for women in Pakwach District. Overwhelming majority (58%) were in disagreement that Senior position in political offices are held by women in Pakwach District, 27.6% were in agreement while 13.3% were not sure. This therefore implies that most senior positions in political offices are not held by women in Pakwach District. Majority (60%) of the respondents were in disagreement that High proportion of electoral seats are held by Women in Pakwach District, 27.2% were in agreement while 11.8% were not sure. This means that High proportions of electoral seats are not held by Women in Pakwach District.

Discussion of Findings

Party electoral financing and Women participation in political process have a moderate and significant relationship and this connotes that surely party electoral financing determines women participation in electoral process because without Party electoral financing; there shall be inadequate funding to support democratic political process and activities, campaigning materials to female candidates, mobilization of financial resources to support women participation given the high costs associated with elections, Inability to afford nomination fees for different political positions by women and meet party membership dues to participate in political leadership processes. According to Muhumuza (2015), the studies on electoral financing and its impact on women candidates. Accordingly, Mbabazi and Anguyo (2018), discuss the role of money politics in shaping women's participation. Their study reveals that the high cost of political campaigns in Uganda creates barriers for women, who often lack the financial resources necessary to engage in competitive elections.

Conclusions

The study concluded that majority of the respondents were in agreement that Political parties get adequate funding to support democratic political process and activities, provide campaigning materials to female candidates, mobilize financial resources to support women participation given the costs associated with elections, nomination fees for different political positions are not affordable to women, party membership dues are affordable to women to participate in women political leadership, parties do not promote their female candidates through fundraising programs, political parties do not pay nomination fees for their female candidates, this implies that that the monetary cost for elective campaigns propels women away from politics, political parties co-create and run women outreach campaigns with female from within the party (Sharon et al., 2023).

Lastly the study concluded that; Party electoral financing and Women participation in political process have a moderate and significant relationship and this connotes that surely party electoral financing determines women participation in electoral process because without Party electoral financing; there shall be inadequate funding to support democratic political process and activities, campaigning materials to female candidates, mobilization of financial resources to support women participation given the high costs associated with elections, Inability to afford

nomination fees for different political positions by women and meet party membership dues to participate in political leadership processes.

Recommendations

It was recommended that Party electoral financing should be enforced to ensure that Women participation in political process is moderate and can compete for significantly higher positions as such supporting democratic political process and activities because electoral financing facilitate campaigning materials to female candidates, mobilization of financial resources to support women participation given the high costs associated with elections, solve the Inability to afford nomination fees for different political positions by women and also meet party membership dues to participate in political leadership processes.

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