
**THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION IN
ENTEBBE MUNICIPALITY: A CASE STUDY OF ENTEBBE FOUNDATION AGAINST
CORRUPTION**

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ABSTRACT

The study was about the role of Civil Society Organizations in the fight against corruption in Entebbe Municipality, Wakiso district, with a case of Entebbe Foundation Against Corruption and study was guided by the following specific objectives; To identify the effectiveness of Civil Society Organizations in fighting corruption, To identify the challenges faced by the Civil Society Organizations in fighting corruption and To establish the possible solutions to the problems of corruption in Entebbe municipality, Wakiso district. The study adopted a case study design with both qualitative and quantitative approaches. A sample size of 60 respondents was taken and this was purposively and randomly chosen and interview and questionnaire methods were used. The study established that, why corruption is at its peak in Uganda, because of the current laws and legal institution that are so weak to prevent the corruption cases, at the same time punish the corrupt officials, such as ant-corruption courts are full of corrupted officials, influenced by the government and corruption victims. The findings of the study indicated that 10 (31.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that deployment of smart technology shall act as a solution to problems of corruption within Entebbe Municipality, 13 (40.6%) as well agreed, 7 (21.9%) respondents were not sure. Only 2 (6.2%) of the respondents disagreed, and finally none of the 32 respondents strongly disagreed. Therefore, the chance of realizing reduction in the corruption tendencies is myths. The study recommended that. the civil society organization together with government should use the media as a platform to education and make the public aware of the government activities, resources also issues related to corruption, so all

people will be attracted and fully involved in monitoring the progressing towards the fight against corruption.

Key words: *civil society organizations and corruption*

Background to the Study

The term corruption comes from the Latin word “corrupts” which means to destroy. It is an abuse of power in decision making by manipulating facts in a given position. It involves more than one person, the giver and the recipient (John et al., 2023). Both parties get their human attitude towards ethics, morality, tradition, law and civic virtues distorted and in so doing destroy their ethics and integrity and corrupt themselves and a system.

Corruption is often described as either ‘grand’ or ‘Petty’s’ (petty corruption is also described as ‘administrative’). Grand corruption typically takes place at the top levels of the public sphere and the senior management levels of business, where policies and rules are formulated and executive decisions are made (Kazaara et al., 2023). It also often involves large sums of money (political corruption is another common term that may be used to refer to grand corruption more generally or specifically to the negative influence of money in political campaigns and political parties.

Entebbe Foundation Against Corruption is officially recognized in Wakiso district, Uganda, although often restricted in practice (Pdu et al., 2023). Despite this, it is quite vibrant and, according to Freedom House 2012, it takes active part in testifying on legislation before Parliament and frequently campaigns to influence government policy. The nature of corruption in Wakiso district, Uganda is a subject of some debate (John et al., 2023). Despite fairly elaborate formal control mechanisms, corruption continues to be a major problem. Anticorruption agencies are understaffed and underfinanced, which greatly curbs their practical capacity to

enforce legislative measures to combat corruption (Global Integrity: Uganda Country Report, 2008.)

Entebbe Foundation Against Corruption formed originally to increase the impact of the small and scattered anti-corruption efforts made to that point (Paul et al., 2023). Organizers realized that the “root causes “of corruption were not being addressed, and that an effective response required increased citizen pressure on government through a better-coordinated effort. Entebbe Foundation Against Corruption has sought over the course of several years to shine the spotlight on various aspects of corruption in sectors like health policy and education, as well as broader.

Statement of the Problem

Ideally, Corruption is largely committed and practiced by political leaders, bureaucrats and the business people in well placed positions in administration, the anti-Corruption Coalition has made numerous efforts in the fight to reduce corruption tendencies in particular, increased citizen pressure on government through a better-coordinated efforts (Mark et al., 2023). That is public awareness, monitoring of public services, denouncing bribery, exposing corrupt cases. However, corruption tendencies remain very high because of the government interference into the efforts of fighting corruption, limited internal democracy, inadequate funds, and limited capacity to engage in state policy monitoring and evaluation plus fear and less courage to confront the government. Therefore, this calls for more efforts by the civil society organizations to get involved in networking, mobilization of necessary funds to facilitate their activities and their determination to confront the government in fight against corruption (Oromo et al., 2023). It is against the background that this study was carried out to establish the effectiveness of the civil society organizations in the fight against corruption in Entebbe municipality, Wakiso district.

Objectives of the Study

The study was guided by the following specific objectives;

- To identify the effectiveness of Civil Society Organizations in fighting corruption in Entebbe municipality.*
- To identify the challenges faced by the Civil Society Organizations in fighting corruption in Entebbe municipality.*
- To establish the possible solutions to the problems of corruption in Entebbe municipality.*

Research Questions

- How effective are Civil Society Organizations in fighting against corruption in Entebbe municipality?*
- What are the challenges faced by the Civil Society Organizations in fighting corruption in Entebbe municipality?*
- What are the possible solutions to the problems of corruption in Entebbe municipality?*

Methodology

Research Design

The study adopted the Descriptive research design. The design therefore aimed at examining the role of Civil Society Organizations in the fight against corruption and such, the concept of corruption is well conceptualized and the findings are presented in chapter four.

The study also adopted the use of both qualitative and quantitative research design. According to Taylor, B. C. (2002), qualitative approach helps the researcher to gather an in-depth understanding of human behavior and the reasons that govern such behavior which is vital for this research since it focus on the development of personal trait i.e. the effectiveness of Civil Society Organizations in fighting

corruption. The qualitative research design focused on describing the challenges faced by the Civil Society Organizations in fighting corruption.

Study Population

Creswell (2008) describes a study population as the total members of a defined class of people, objects, places or events selected because they are relevant to your research question. The study comprised of a targeted population of 90 respondents and 60 was accessed and these included local community members, employees of civil society organization, local government servants and politicians. These are perceived to be the stakeholders and beneficiaries in the fight against in corruption. Thereby enabling the collection of reliable information for the study. The study population is presented in table 1 below.

Table 1: Showing the Study population

Source	Targeted Population	Accessible Population
Local community members	35	25
Opinion leaders	10	5
Politician	15	10
Civil servants of local government	15	10
Employees of CSOs	15	10
Total	90	60

Source: primary Data, 2022

Sample Size and Sampling Techniques

Sample size

A sample is a section of the population chosen to represent the whole population. The essence of sampling is to obtain data from a smaller particular sample which in turn increases efficiency by allowing generalizations to deduce about the population without necessarily having to examine every member (Silverman, 2001). The selection of the sample size for the study was done using a sample size determination table developed by Morgan and Krejcie (1970). This table was

scientifically designed such that the bigger the population size, the bigger the corresponding sample size as shown in table 2 below.

Sampling techniques

There are two sampling techniques that was employed in determining the sample size for study. These included purposive sampling and simple random sampling. For this study however, purposive sampling was used to select the 25 Local community members and 5 Local leaders. This technique is preferred because according to Trochim, (2002), it selects samples without bias from the accessible population. A Simple random sampling technique was employed in the study to select 10 Local government civil servants, 10 Politicians and 10 CSO employees. This technique was preferred because according to William (2008), It also ensures that each member of the target population has equal and independent chance of being included in the sample.

Table 2: Showing the Sample Size Determination Table

Category	Sample size	Technique
Local community members	25	Simple Random Sampling
Opinion leaders	5	Purposive Sampling
Local government civil servants	10	Purposive Sampling
Politicians	10	Purposive Sampling
CSO employees	10	Simple random Sampling
Total	60	

Source: Researcher conceptualization and Morgan and Krejcie (1970)

Data Sources

The study used both primary data and secondary data

Primary Data Sources

This is the original data that is not processed and presented anywhere for research purpose. This source of data involved visiting of the field and collecting data through variable tools (Miller: 2008). This data was obtained from the source. This was used where one required specific information which does not exist elsewhere or

in another form. The researcher collected primary data through going to the field and following the systematic and established procedures as suggested by Fowler (1988), by the use of Questionnaires and Interview guides. This was done through following Simple random and purposive sampling techniques where the respondents were first selected and then approached.

Secondary Data Sources

Secondary data is the one obtained from sources which already exist about the role of Civil Society Organizations in the fight against corruption in the society. This was obtained from a number of reports and publications from various documents like publications, reports, Textbooks, internet and several related data bases. There was reviewed for policies and initiatives.

Data Collection Methods

In this study, the researcher used a questionnaire, interviews and Documentary Review method for gathering primary data. The tools were mostly preferred because they are the best in determining the affective domain of the respondents. As noted by Somekh, and Lewin, (2005). Said, they are the best tools for getting views, perceptions, feeling and attitudes of respondents.

Questionnaire

The study employed a questionnaire method and targeted the available respondents who supplied with both open and closed ended questionnaires while the responses were recorded spontaneously after all this method allows facts and opinions which were obtained since it is a flexible and versatile method of collecting data. Data was collected by the use of questionnaires as a way of eliciting information from the respondents. This is thought to be the best method since the questionnaires are easily spread among the respondent within a short time.

Data Analysis

Quantitative Data Analysis

The responses of the subjects were categorized in frequency counts and score tables and varying percentages were calculated. Interpretations and conclusions depended on the number of occurrence of each item. This was done according to the developed themes for the analysis using E-views (Nelson et al., 2023).

Qualitative Data Analysis

Field notes were written, grouped into themes and sub-themes and work will be edited at the end of each working day to ensure accuracy in recording and consistency in information given by respondents. Themes, in respect to the study variables were identified and put in coding categories. A scheme of analysis was worked out following the coding categories, using content analysis, quotations and the most occurring ideas on every question using SPSS (Nelson et al., 2022).

RESULTS

The Effectiveness of CSOS in Fighting Corruption in Entebbe Municipality.

To identify how effective Civil Society organizations with specific regards to Entebbe Foundation Against Corruption has been performing in respect to fighting corruption in Entebbe Municipality, respondents were asked a series of questions using both the questionnaires as well as the interview guides that were constructed purposively to obtain information from them. The results obtained specifically for this objective were presented as below;

Watch Dog.

The Table below shows results as to how effective CSOs are in acting as “watch-dogs” in their struggle to fight corruption.

Table 1 Showing Results for Watch Dog.

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative
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				<i>percentage</i>
<i>Strongly agree</i>	10	31.3%	31.3%	31.3%
<i>Agree</i>	13	40.6%	40.6%	71.9%
<i>Not sure</i>	7	21.9%	21.9%	93.8%
<i>Disagree</i>	2	6.2%	6.2%	100%
<i>Strongly disagree</i>	-	-	-	
<i>Total</i>	32	100%	100%	

Source: field data 2022

The table above revealed that 10 (31.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that CSOs are so effective in acting as “watch-dogs” in their quest to fight corruption within Entebbe Municipality, 13 (40.6%) likewise agreed so, those who were not sure were 7 (21.9%). However, 2 (6.2%) of the respondents disagreed. None of the respondents strongly disagreed that CSOs does not effectively acts as watch-dogs infighting corruption. According to the qualitative data obtained through interview method, one local government civil servant stated that, “Traditionally, Entebbe Foundation Against Corruption has effectively performed its main role as corruption watchdog. It exposes corruption cases and criticizes corrupt officials and institutions, including judiciary. It identifies corruption-prone areas within the legal and administrative system. This identification is not less important than that of public authorities or private sector organizations, because of its different sources and different perspectives”.

Possible Solutions to the Problems of Corruption in Entebbe Municipality.

This was the last objective which was seeking to establish possible solutions to the challenges corruption within Entebbe Municipality. The respondents were asked a good number of questions in regard to this objective. The results obtained were presented as below;

Deploying smart technology

Table 2 Showing Results for Deployment of Smart Technology

	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Valid percentage</i>	<i>Cumulative percentage</i>
<i>Strongly agree</i>	10	31.3%	31.3%	31.3%
<i>Agree</i>	13	40.6%	40.6%	71.9%
<i>Not sure</i>	7	21.9%	21.9%	93.8%
<i>Disagree</i>	2	6.2%	6.2%	100%
<i>Strongly disagree</i>	-	-	-	
<i>Total</i>	32	100%	100%	

Source: field data 2022

The data presented in the above table indicates that 10 (31.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that deployment of smart technology shall act as a solution to problems of corruption within Entebbe Municipality, 13 (40.6%) as well agreed, 7 (21.9%) respondents were not sure. Only 2 (6.2%) of the respondents disagreed, and finally none of the 32 respondents strongly disagreed.

Creating transparency and openness in government spending

Table 3 Showing Results of Creating Transparency and Openness in Government Spending

	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Valid percentage</i>	<i>Cumulative percentage</i>
<i>Strongly agree</i>	16	50%	50%	50%
<i>Agree</i>	9	28.1%	28.1%	78.1%
<i>Not sure</i>	5	15.6%	15.6%	93.7%
<i>Disagree</i>	2	6.3%	6.3%	100%
<i>Strongly disagree</i>	-	-	-	
<i>Total</i>	32	100%	100%	

Source: field data 2018.

From the table as shown above, it was indicated that 16 (50%) of the respondents strongly agreed that to solve the challenge of corruption within Entebbe Municipality, Entebbe Foundation Against Corruption should advocate for transparency and openness in government spending. 9 (28.1%) agreed, 5 (15.6%) were not sure of the strategy whereas only 2 (6.3%) disagreed, none of them strongly disagreed.

Paying civil servants well

Table 4 Showing Results of Paying Civil Servants Well

	Frequency	Percentage	Valid percentage	Cumulative percentage
Strongly agree	8	25%	25%	25%
Agree	5	15.6%	15.6%	40.6%
Not sure	16	50%	50%	90.6%
Disagree	2	6.3%	6.3%	96.9%
Strongly disagree	1	3.1%	3.1%	100%
Total	32	100%	100%	

Source: field data 2022

The findings as presented in table above indicates that majority of the respondents 16 (50%) presented their view of not being sure whether paying civil servants well and in time shall be a solution to fight corruption within Entebbe Municipality. However, 8 (25%) of the respondents strongly agreed to the contention that when civil servants are paid well, corruption cases will reduce drastically, 5 (15.6%) as well agreed so. Respondents who disagreed were 2 (6.3%), and finally those who strongly disagreed was only 1 (3.1%).

Elimination of laws and programs that breed corruption***Table 5 Showing results of Elimination of Laws and Programs that Breed Corruption***

	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Valid percentage</i>	<i>Cumulative percentage</i>
<i>Strongly agree</i>	20	62.5%	62.5%	62.5%
<i>Agree</i>	10	31.3%	31.3%	93.8%
<i>Not sure</i>	2	6.2%	6.2%	100%
<i>Disagree</i>	-	-	-	
<i>Strongly disagree</i>	-	-	-	
<i>Total</i>	32	100%	100%	

Source: field data 2022

The findings as presented in the above table indicates that majority of the respondents 20 (62.5%) strongly agreed that corruption to some extent exist as a result of laws and programs that breeds it and therefore to fight corruption within Entebbe Municipality, such laws and programs should be eliminated. 10 (31.3%) as well agreed to support the strategy. Those who were not sure were only 2 thus composing a total percentage of 6.2%. None of the respondents neither disagreed nor strongly disagreed to the contention.

Conclusion

Corruption is described as the illegitimate use of public power to benefit a private interest. It occurs through means that are illegitimate, immoral, or incompatible with ethical standards. It often results from patronage and is associated with bribery. Civil Society being the aggregate of nongovernmental and not-for-profit organizations and institutions that manifest the interests and will of citizens have a key role to play in fighting and supporting anti-corruption and promoting transparency by raising awareness of all economic and political actors.

Recommendations

The government should provide Ugandans with more political space to undertake their own development initiatives. People at all levels of society are more prepared to pursue their own development activities rather than wait for government and external actors to provide services, relief and welfare support. Improved infrastructure (roads, electricity, IT, communications, water, market access) provides more development opportunities to poor people and their communities.

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