

**POVERTY CONTROL AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN MBARARA CITY: A
CASE STUDY OF KAKOBA DIVISION.**

**1 Ojok Alex, 2 Sarah Akampurira Sarah
1, 2 Metropolitan International University**

ABSTRACT

The study aimed at poverty control and sustainable development in Mbarara city and it was guided by the following objectives; To establish the level of poverty control and sustainable development in Kakoba division, to determine the efficiency and effectiveness of poverty control and sustainable development in Kakiika division and to assess the extent to which poverty has been minimized in Kakoba division. The researcher adopted both qualitative and quantitative, and investigative research for cross-sectional study given the nature of the study. Quantitative research design was used to generate numerical data while qualitative design on the other hand was employed by the researcher to obtain information on how people perceive think and feel based on human and social science. The results indicated that 69.0 of the respondents agreed that poverty has reduced by 40% among the households living in Kakoba followed by 20.2% of the respondents who strongly agreed, 3.6 respondents were not sure, followed by 7.1 respondents who disagreed and lastly 0.1 respondents who strongly disagreed. This implies that the majority of the respondents subscribed that, indeed has reduced by 40% among the households. The results also indicated that 77.4% of the respondents agreed to the statement that poverty government control programs have enabled them acquire new skills of generation money and improve their livelihoods. Followed by 17.9% respondents who strongly greed, 3.6% of the respondents were not sure, 2.3% respondents strongly disagreed and 1.2 disagreed with the assertion. From the results above, poverty should be treated as an individual blame for those who claim to be living in it.

Key words: poverty control and sustainable development

Background of the study

The State of Global Poverty Research states that up to 10% of the world's population lives in poverty, i.e., below the poverty line of less than US\$1.9 per day. Poverty is not evenly distributed around the world. Poverty is considered a state or condition in which people or communities lack essential and financial resources for a minimum standard of living (Vincent & Peter, 2023). This post aims to reveal how poverty is a political construct and social phenomenon or individual mindset. It traces its origins to the writings of Confucius in China, to the Vedic culture of the ancient Greco-Roman world. This idea has since had a colonialist character, especially in Africa, transformed by the bearers of religions and ideologies including Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Confucianism and very often as a result of personal submissions. Mbarara is the second largest city after Kampala city established in 1901 and became a municipality in 1974 with a current total population of 195,013 people and four divisions namely Kakoba, Kamukuzi, Nyamitanga, Biharwe and Kakiika divisions. Africa has been limited to producing only food crops and other raw materials for export at the expense of developing skills for sustainability development in Uganda (Faridah et al., 2023). According to a report released on 11 May 2023, about 30% of Ugandans were poor in 2019/20, a percentage only slightly lower than 31% in 2012/13. This poverty measure used in the World Bank study is based on the revision of the poverty line by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics in 2021. The Acting Commissioner in the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (Christopher & Felex, 2022) described it as an extension of the Ugandan poverty measure to cover life costs in the country in the context of modernizing living standards. It is through this sad note that the researcher intends to address this concept. Thus, it is against this background that the researcher was prompted to examine poverty and sustainable development in Kampala District.

Problem statement

Poverty remains a significant global problem; 30% of Ugandans live in poverty (World Bank, 2023). While the private and public sectors have little direct control over individual

choices, each individual living in poverty is an imperfect human being who often makes poor decisions, the World Bank attributes this to drug abuse, domestic violence, limited earlier exposure, alcoholism, ignorance of the dynamics of world economies due to lack of skills and positive attitudes towards own well-being (Faridah et al., 2023). 50% of Ugandans still remain vulnerable to the risk of falling back into poverty in the next two years. This is due to the unavailability of a productive economy, off-farm opportunities, building resilience, inadequate education and training deny people opportunities for self-development by limiting their access to gainful employment, thereby keeping them in low-paying jobs and low productivity (Ntirandekura & Christopher, 2022). While other groups make more efforts to have enough resources and basic needs, other members of society, despite all the support and opportunities, remain unwilling and resist the fight against poverty through poverty control programs and therefore remain satisfied with their standard of living. Similarly, a World Bank report published on 11 May 2023 states that about 30% of Ugandans were poor in 2019/2020, a percentage only slightly lower than 31% in 2012/13. This study is based on the Uganda Bureau of Statistics 2021 review of the poverty line. Quality education and health training, access to basic services were identified as the most significant challenges, necessary skills to build resilience and opportunities for higher income. This ultimately excludes these persons from making any meaningful contributions to sustainable development. It is against this background, therefore, that the researcher sought to examine poverty control and sustainable development in Uganda. The Acting Commissioner in the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development described this as an extension of Uganda's poverty measurement to cover the cost of living in the country (Godfrey et al., 2023).

Specific objectives

- 1. To establish the level of poverty control and sustainable development in Kakoba division*

2. *To determine the efficiency and effectiveness of poverty control and sustainable development in Kakiika division*

3. *To assess the extent to which poverty has been minimized in Kakoba division*

Research questions

1. *What is the level of poverty control and sustainable development in Kakoba division?*

2. *What is the efficiency and effectiveness being these programs for suitable development in Kakoba division?*

3. *To what extent does poverty control programs influence sustainable development in Kakoba division?*

Methodology

Research design

The researcher adopted both qualitative and quantitative, and investigative research for cross-sectional study given the nature of the study. Quantitative research design was used to generate numerical data while qualitative design on the other hand was employed by the researcher to obtain information on how people perceive think and feel based on human and social science.

Research methods

Data collection tools

The researcher employed both qualitative and quantitative techniques of data collection through interviews which were structured and unstructured for an in-depth session with the researcher and participants. On the other hand, Questionnaire survey which ask the same questions to large number of participants and Likert scale which measures opinions as numerical data.

Population

The researcher considered the target population of 95 respondents from cream general and technical services limited. These included both top executive directors with a total number of 40 members and 55 employees at various levels of management. this sample

was arrived at by a sample size determination by Morgan and Krejcie (1970) statistical table. According to the researcher this would provide relevant data necessary to draw the conclusion for this study.

Sample size determination

A total sample size of 84 respondents were drawn from the total population of 95. Out of 84 total samples, 36 respondents were executive directors, 48 respondents were employees. This was because the total population of 84 respondents could not be sampled altogether by the researcher given the limitations and time factor, resources and unavailability of some members of staff.

Table 1: Presentation of a sample frame

<i>Category</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Sample size representatives</i>
<i>Executive directors</i>		
<i>Employees</i>		
<i>Total</i>		

From Morgan & Krejcie statistical table (1970)

Sampling techniques

Probability and non-probability sampling

Probability sampling uses simple random sampling that also help to draw a significant conclusion of the total population. The simple random sampling technique is chosen because it produces the most reliable method that provides data that represents the entire group.

Non-probability sampling

This method was applied by the researcher knowledge to select those respondents whom their contributions seem much relevant to this study. Unlike a simple random sampling, this is more purposively to give n information that aims at meeting the study objective

Research Instruments

Questionnaire

A research questionnaire was employed to ensure that the subject under study were fully covered. Self-administered questionnaire was used to gather primary data with both open and closed ended questions to obtain an information from the respondents. Using this technique, it provided information from the employees and directors of cream general and technical services limited. This was adopted as it deemed necessary and permitted participants to respond freely and willingly without biasness and hence making the overall process was made easy in drawing the statistical conclusions.

Interviews

The researcher considered an interview guide to be used as the best instrument for data collection given the nature of the topical problem to address. this also gave chance for interactions between the researcher and the respondents during the interview guide

Data Analysis

Quantitative data was analyzed using mean and standard deviation to analyze the relationship between the two variables and this shall be presented and interpreted by the use of tables, graphs, pie charts using SPSS (Nelson et al., 2022).

RESULTS

Table 2: Characteristics of Respondents by (Gender and Age)					
Gender of Respondents		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Gender	Female	37	43.0	44.0	44.0
	Male	47	54.7	56.0	100.0
	Total	84	97.7	100.0	
Age of the respondents					
Age	Less than 30 years	1	1.2	1.2	11.2
	Between 30 -40 years	3	3.5	3.6	4.8

	Between 40-50 years	16	18.6	58.3	123.8
	Between 50-60 years	49	57.0	19.0	82.1
	60 years and above	15	17.4	17.9	100.0
	Total	84	97.7	100.0	
	Total	86	100.0		

Primary data 2023

The results in table 2 indicates that out of 84 respondents, female took the majority by 56.0% aged between 40-50 years who participated in an interview and filling the questionnaire guides, 44.0% of the respondents were males aged between 30-40 years. This implies that the characteristics of the respondents indicates that majority of the youth aged below thirty are always busy struggling to survive to the extent that even sacrificing for an interview and responding to questionnaire was not possible for them as the reason to why we see most respondents appeared to be elders, those aged between 50-60 years did not participate and those aged above sixty years equally never had the same chance.

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Table 3: Indicators of Poverty Controls

Category of poverty controls		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
My household incomes and livelihood has improved by 40%	Strongly Agree	17	19.8	20.2	20.2
	Agree	58	67.4	69.0	89.3
	Not Sure	3	3.5	3.6	92.9
	Disagree	6	7.0	7.1	100.0
	Strongly Disagree	0	0.1	0.1	

<i>Poverty control programs has enabled me gain enough skills on generating more incomes</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	15	17.4	17.9	17.9
	<i>Agree</i>	65	75.6	77.4	95.2
	<i>Not Sure</i>	3	3.5	3.6	98.8
	<i>Disagree</i>	1	1.2	1.2	100.0
	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	2	2.3	2.3	
		84	97.7	100	
<i>Poverty control programs has enabled my children to access better and quality education</i>	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	7	8.1	8.3	8.3
	<i>Agree</i>	58	67.4	69.0	77.4
	<i>Not Sure</i>	13	15.1	15.5	92.9
	<i>Disagree</i>	6	7.0	7.1	100.0
	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	0	0.1	0.1	
	<i>Total</i>	84	97.7	100.0	
<i>My income and livelihood have reduced</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>	1	1.2	1.2	1.2
	<i>Agree</i>	20	23.3	23.8	25.0
	<i>Not Sure</i>	6	7.0	7.1	32.1
	<i>Disagree</i>	54	62.8	64.3	96.4
	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	3	3.5	3.6	100.0
	<i>Total</i>	84	97.7	100.0	
<i>There are inefficient and ineffective government poverty control programs in Kakoba division</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>	2	2.3	2.4	2.4
	<i>Agree</i>	6	7.0	7.1	9.5
	<i>Not Sure</i>	3	3.5	3.6	13.1
	<i>Disagree</i>	61	70.9	72.6	85.7
	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	12	14.0	14.3	100.0
	<i>Total</i>	84	97.7	100.0	

Missing	System	2	2.3		
Total		86	100.0		

Primary data 2023.

Table 3. The results indicate that 69.0 of the respondents agreed that poverty has reduced by 40% among the households living in Kakoba followed by 20.2% of the respondents who strongly agreed, 3.6 respondents were not sure, followed by 7.1 respondents who disagreed and lastly 0.1 respondents who strongly disagreed. This implies that the majority of the respondents subscribed that, indeed has reduced by 40% among the households.

The results also indicate that 77.4% of the respondents agreed to the statement that poverty government control programs have enabled them acquire new skills of generation money and improve their livelihoods. Followed by 17.9% respondents who strongly greed, 3.6% of the respondents were not sure, 2.3% respondents strongly disagreed and 1.2 disagreed with the assertion. This implies that as poverty controls and other development programs may favor some members of Kakoba division, some household members do not benefit as express by variations from different respondents.

The SPSS results indicated that 69.0% of the respondents agreed that the poverty control programs have enable them offer quality education to their children, 15.5% of the respondents were not sure whether this is true, 8.3% of the respondents strongly greed with the statement and 7.1% of the respondents disagreed and 0.1% strongly disagreed indicting that majority of the respondents are making positive usage of the poverty government initiative control programs, however through the interviews, some respondents expressed their disorientations to this programs by indicating that they provide education to their children using their own efforts not necessarily involving government programs for their livelihoods and standards of living.

The results indicate that 64.3% disagreed to the statement that their incomes and livelihoods has reduced, 23.3 respondents only subscribed to the statement, 7.0 respondents were not sure with the statement that their livelihoods have reduced, 3.6% of the respondents strongly disagreed and finally 1.2 Strongly agreed. This result implies that majority of respondents were not contented with their livelihoods and income has been significantly affected by any government poverty control programs in Kakoba division. The results indicate that 72.6% of respondents disagreed that there are inefficient and effective government control programs, followed by 14.3% of respondents who strongly disagreed, 7.1% of respondents agreed, 3.6% of respondents were not sure and finally 2.4% of the respondents strongly agreed. This according to the respondents during an online telephone interview were due to other factors that contributes significantly to the levels of poverty. Few highlighted for the purposes of acknowledging to the readers were, Low capacity, limited skills due to low level of education, lack of personal sacrifices, low savings and investments, individual mindsets and laziness and negativity among others towards sufficient resources and basics of life.

**Table 4: The Influence of poverty between male and Female
Mean and Standard deviation**

Gender of respondents	Mean Deviation	N	Std. Deviation
Male	4.0000	37	.78174
Female	4.0426	47	.55000
Total	4.0238	84	.65815

Primary data 2023.

Note: the means are based on a five-point Likert scales; where, (1=Strongly Agree 2 Agree 3 Not Sure 4 Disagree 5 Strongly Disagree).

The results from the table 4 above indicate that, both male and female experience equal poverty (male 4.0000), (Female 4.0426). this implies that both gender is living the same and experiencing the same level of poverty, as males hit by extreme poverty, female equally experience the same. However, the standard deviation of 0.78174 suggests that there are those who disagreed that poverty among male is not equal, a standard deviation of 0.55000 also suggest that some respondents did not agree to the claim that poverty among females are equal.

Table 5: Correlations results			
Category		Poverty	Sustainable development
<i>The influence of poverty on sustainable growth</i>	<i>Pearson Correlation</i>	1	-.056
	<i>Sig. (2-tailed)</i>		.615
	<i>N</i>	84	84
<i>The relationship between poverty and sustainable development</i>	<i>Pearson Correlation</i>	-.056	1
	<i>Sig. (2-tailed)</i>	.615	
	<i>N</i>	84	84

Dependent variable: sustainable development.

Case Processing Summary			
	Cases		
	Included	Excluded	Total

	N	Percent	N	Percent	N	Percent
the influence of poverty on sustainable development * The sex of the respondents	84	97.7%	2	2.3%	86	100.0%

***Correlations is significant at the 0.01 (2-tailed). Correlations based of spearman's rho. Sig.(2-tailed) N=84*

The results in table 5 indicates that's there is a positive relationship between poverty control and sustainable development ($r= 0.615$). The relationship is significant at 1% this implies that proper control of poverty through government programs leads to minimizations of poverty and improvement in sustainable development among the poor households living in Kakoba division. Therefore, it is concluded that individual mindset, capacity skills and supportive government poverty control programs may lead to an improved livelihoods and income among the household levels. However, other variables may intervene before the writer draw this conclusion such as, efficiency and effectiveness of these programs that encompasses both the beneficiaries and other macro factors of which if not earlier on address will trigger more poverty among the household living in Kakoba division.

Conclusions

The correlation coefficient results indicated that there was a significant relationship between poverty control sustainable development. ($r=0.615$) the correlation was significant at the 0.01 percent confident level (two tailed). However, a standard deviation of -0.56% indicted that there were some respondents who did not agree with the same statement. The deviations in the response implies that though some members of the households do not benefit from the poverty control programs, few individuals have

improved their livelihoods as a result from such programs. The results from the respondents clearly indicated that neither individual household members nor government is blamed for high level of poverty and low sustainable development among the households rather this is should be treated as an individual responsibility to mobilize and organized the both tangible and intangible economic resources so as to generate more income

Recommendations

From the results above, poverty should be treated as an individual blame for those who claim to be living in it. This is because according to the findings, it revealed that every household and members of the society take a key party to play on improving their livelihoods and contributing to the sustainable development. This implies that either individual nor government is to blame rather a combination of factors into play as highlighted in the previous chapters ranging from personality concepts and individual mindsets

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