
**YOUTH LIVELIHOOD PROGRAM TO SOCIAL WELLBEING OF COMMUNITY
A CASE STUDY OF MITYANA DISTRICT.**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to assess the impact of youth live hood program on the social well-being of the community in Mityana District. The specific objectives of the study were to assess the impact of YLP to find out the likely cause of failures and challenges of YLP and to examine what can be done to improve the social well-being of the community in Mityana District. The findings indicated that there were some challenges facing YLP though with a lot of impact to social well-being of the community. Generally, the research was so beneficial to me since it helped me get exposed to the community as I learnt a lot from it through, I faced some challenges like limited funds for transport facilities during visiting the community. Analysis of study revealed 18.9% and 39.2 % of the respondents being strongly agreeing and agreeing respectively that accessibility of protection policies like PWD's, SAGE for elders can improve the social well-being of the community in Mityana District. While 20.3 % were not sure, 16.2% and 5.4% were disagreeing and strongly disagreeing with Aharimpisya (2013) who asserted that source of well-being must be addressed by appropriate policies. Youth groups should be selected without fear or favor or depending on political support as it is done, as in so unqualified groups are given money and at the end fail to refund it.

Key words: youth livelihood program, social wellbeing and community

Background of the study.

Pius. B (2015), the Youth Livelihood Program (YLP) is a sliding scale government program of Uganda that targets poor and unemployed youth in all districts of the country, YLP is a demand-driven community-based program that is implemented under the leadership of the central government and local government (Nelson &

Christopher, 2022).

Mayuge LG (2018), Mayuge was among the pioneer districts to benefit from the program during the 2013/14 financial year with 76 project interest groups approved and funded. YLP contributes to self-employment and improving the well-being of youth. The program is based on the principles of demand, youth active participation and ownership, gender sensitivity and equity promotion, public-private partnership and environmental integrity among others (Rashid et al., 2023).

Recently, the Ministry produced a report: "The state of problematic youth projects". Highlighting a number of young businesses where a lot of money was misused (Godfrey et al., 2023). The media was flooded with stories about the fund's fraud. For example, Namutumba and Apac district authorities are failing to recover about two hundred and twenty million shillings and three hundred and fifty-two million shillings paid to youth groups and Moses respectively. K (2019), the YLP was designed by the government and implemented by MGLSD in the 2013/2014 financial year to respond to the existing challenges of youth unemployment but has not been budgeted since its inception, Mityana district was among the pioneer districts to benefit from the livelihood program youth and helped a number of young people to change their lives and status," said Honza Anna Maria (Allan et al., 2023).

Problem statement

As a district leader, I interacted with several youth groups and organized meetings for them (the youth), which they shared with the program coordinators at the sub-county and district levels.

In discussion with them, it was vividly seen that the program has created little impact on the unemployed youth of the country due to many challenges such as corruption, lack of sufficient training, presence of ghost groups, sharing of money by group members, lack of common understanding and low supervision of groups by technocrats , among other obstacles, all lead me to conclude that the programme, although a good initiative, needs to be reviewed and designed if it is to change the

livelihood/economic status of the youth (Kazaara et al., 2023). For example, in Gulu, a total of 356 million shillings meant for approved youth groups was withdrawn by the district treasury at one time, which was supposed to be distributed to the youth groups, but was misappropriated, while in Sironko, a total of 6 million shillings was defrauded. OC CIID who got it from a young group,” said James Ategeka District C/person Bunyangabo (2018).

However, according to Pio Bigiriman (2017), Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development, he said: “The evaluation report shows that of all the projects that used YLP funds, 15% were rated as successful and few had problems picking up (MacLean et al., 2012). It also shows that 34% reported higher earnings, 43% started saving in their group accounts, while 30% reported positive multiplier effects on the social status of recipients. has enabled many young people to acquire vocational skills for self-employment and start income-generating businesses, thereby transforming people’s well-being’ (Oromo et al., 2023)

Therefore, the researcher is compelled to examine the impact of the youth livelihood program on the social welfare of the community.

Objectives of the study

- 1. To assess the impact of YLP on the social wellbeing of the community in Mityana District.*
- 2. To find out the cause of failures and challenges for YLP in Mityana District.*
- 3. To examine what can be done to improve the social wellbeing of the community in Mityana District.*

Research questions.

- 1. What are the impacts of youth livelihood program on the social wellbeing of the community?*
- 2. What are the challenges and cause of failures for YLP in Mityana district?*
- 3. What can be done to improve the social wellbeing of the community in Mityana District?*

Methodology

Research design

The researcher employed across sectional survey design this was because it was a means of analysis involved a respondent and questionnaire to obtain qualitative or quantitative information in study and also because of its capability in gathering a lot of data at specific point in the time. The design was adopted in order to make an extensive average which was affordable

Research population.

District community development officer of the district and community development officers from town councils and sub counties of Mityana district, sub county chiefs and town clerks ,LC3 chairpersons and mayor, parish chiefs , successful and un successful groups, the district program observers, secretary for community development of Mityana district will form the study population because these are the people with firsthand information of youth livelihood program on social wellbeing of community and the study focused on a target population of 74.

Sample size and composition

A total of 74 respondents were determined by using the table of (krejere and Morgan), the researcher used purposive sampling technique to choose specific respondents basing on their experience familiarly with the subject and their ability to give information readily since the study requires specific information especially on YLP, this sampling technique will help the researcher to economies the little time will have to carry out the research. The researcher selected respondents from different departments of Mityana and these will include District Community Development officer (1), secretary for community development (1) Town clerks and sub county chiefs (3), Lc3 chairperson and mayor (03), CDOs (03), parish chiefs (20), successful groups (20), unsuccessful groups (20) and district program observers (03). The researcher applied stratified sampling to classify respondents and this was because stratified sampling method leads to more efficient statistical estimates.

Table 1 sample size

Departments	populatio n	Sample size	Sampling Technique
DCDO	01	01	Purposive sampling
secretary for	01	01	Purposive sampling
communication	03	03	purposive sampling
development	03	03	Purposive sampling
Town clerk and SAS	25	20	Simple random sampling
L.c,3 chairperson and	25	20	Simple random sampling
mayor	25	20	Simple random sampling
Parish chiefs	03	03	Purposive sampling
Un successful groups	03	03	purposive sampling
Successful groups	89	74	
District program			
observers			
CDOS			
TOTAL			

Sampling techniques.

The researcher used stratified technique to ensure the preventative sample of the target population. Stratified sampling is where the population embraces a number of district categories the frame can be organized by these categories into separate “strata” thus the researcher will select respondents from different levels and departments of Mityana district and from different sub counties of Mityana.

Source data (primary and secondary data)**Primary sources.**

This was the source of information which original specifically for the purpose. The researcher collected fresh data for the first time (original data) from the respondents. The researcher will be able to get impact of YLP on social wellbeing of

the community in that structural questionnaire to the target respondents. Primary data was to be collected through observations, structural questionnaire and semi structure questionnaire and semi structured interviews using checklist of reading questions.

Secondary sources.

This was the source of information which was to be collected for some other purpose. The researcher reviewed literature which other people had conducted earlier but relevant to the researcher's top of the study that will be relevant for instance magazines journals textbooks, reports, newspapers articles were all used as sources.

Data collection methods.

During data collection the researcher used questionnaire, interview guide during the study and observation skills to view some of achieved tangible benefits.

Questionnaire.

A questionnaire was a series of series of questions a sided to individuals to obtain statistically useful information about a given topic. A questionnaire will be composed of questions about the impact of YLP on social wellbeing of the community in LGs; the researcher will set and take formalized questions to be responded.

Interview.

Interviews where be conducted in an open environment and administered by a researcher after appointment by different departments and group members of Mityana district. The researcher conducted a series of interview with community development departments respectively politicians and successful and unsuccessful group members and program observers of Mityana district. The researcher had the interview guide which guided them on how to conduct interviews.

Data analysis

Data collected were carefully edited sorted and coded to eliminate the inconsistencies and errors that would be made during the data collection. After data

processing it was then subjected to descriptive analysis to create meaning of what was collected from the field.

Qualitative data analysis was done using research instruments such as interview guides, questionnaires and research surveys. This technique of qualitative data analysis has been chosen because it saves time and it is not very expensive. Quantitative data was analyzed using mean and standard deviation to analyze the relationship between the two variables and this was presented and interpreted by the use of tables, graphs, pie charts using SPSS (Nelson et al., 2022).

RESULTS

Income levels of respondents

It was also found useful to categorize respondents according to income levels in order to capture specific issues respective to income differences. Below is an analysis of income levels.

Table 1 Income levels of respondents

Monthly (UGX)	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
100,000-200,000	16	21.6	21.6	21.6
300,000-490,000	38	51.4	51.4	73.0
500,000-690,000	10	13.5	13.5	86.5
700,000 & above	10	13.5	13.5	100
Total	74	100	100	

Source: Primary Data (2018)

Table 1 reveals 21.6% of the respondents earn Ugandan shillings between 100,000-290,000 monthly, 51.4% between 300,000- 490,000 ,13.5% 500,000 - 690,000 and 13.5% earn 700,000 and above. This signifies that data was obtained from all classes of income earners and therefore avoided segregation basing to income levels.

The impact of YLP on the social well-being of the community in Mityana District.

In this section, the researcher aimed at establishing the impact of youth livelihood program on the social wellbeing of the community in Mityana District as shown in the results below.

Contributes towards self-employment and improvement in the welfare of the youth hence poverty eradication.

Table 2 Contributes towards self-employment and improvement in the welfare of the youth hence poverty eradication.

	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Valid %</i>	<i>Cumulative %</i>
<i>Strong agree</i>	32	43.2	43.2	43.2
<i>agree</i>	36	48.6	48.6	91.8
<i>Not sure</i>	02	2.7	2.7	94.5
<i>Disagree</i>	03	4.1	4.1	98.6
<i>Strongly disagree</i>	01	1.4	1.4	100.0
<i>Total</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>100.0</i>	<i>100.0</i>	

Source: Primary Data (2018)

Analysis of table 2 reveals that 43.2% of the respondents strongly agreeing that YLP contributes to wards self-employment and improvement in the welfare of the youth hence poverty eradication ,48.6% which forms the highest number of the respondents agreeing ,2.7% being not sure 4.1% disagreeing and 1.4 strongly disagreeing. Therefore, the highest number of respondents that agreed is in line with Bigirimana (2017) assertion that YLP contributes towards self-employment and improvement in the welfare of the youth.

Creates vocational skills for self-employment and star income generating enterprises.

Table 3 creates vocational skills for self-employment and star income generating enterprises.

	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Valid %</i>	<i>Cumulative %</i>
<i>Strongly agree</i>	18	24.3	24.3	24.3
<i>Agree</i>	26	35.1	35.1	59.4
<i>Valid Disagree</i>	14	19.0	19.0	86.5
<i>Strongly disagree</i>	10	13.5	13.5	100.0
<i>Total</i>	74	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary Data (2018)

From table 3 above 24.3% of the respondents were in strong agreement that YLP creates vocational skills for self-employment and start income generating enterprises. 35.1% agreed while 8.1 were not sure and 19.0% and 13.5% were disagreeing and strongly disagreeing respectively.

Therefore, the biggest percentage of the respondents was agreeing with Jannat Mukwaya.

Increased earnings and improvement in standards of living.

Never the less, during the study, it was found out that YLP had created a lot of impact non youth groups 70% of the respondents agreed that the program had changed their standards of living and also increased their earnings. We receive funds which do invest in productive enterprises and at the end of the year we share the interests shared that are used in their families which changes their standards of living through availing the base necessities of the family like food, constructing of rentals, paying of fees and scholastic materials to their kids.

Making of savings in youth groups leading to multiplier effects in social status of the beneficiaries.

Table 4 making of savings in youth groups leading to multiplier effects in social status of the beneficiaries

	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Valid %</i>	<i>Cumulative %</i>
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<i>Strongly agree</i>	13	17.6	17.6	17.6
<i>Agree</i>	22	29.7	29.7	47.3
<i>Not sure</i>	07	9.4	9.4	56.7
<i>Valid disagree</i>	21	28.4	28.4	85.1
<i>Strongly disagree</i>	11	14.9	14.9	100.0
<i>Total</i>	74	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary Data (2018)

In the table 4 above 17.6% of the respondents were in strong agreement that YLP leads to making of savings in youth groups which leads to multipliers effects in social status of the beneficiaries while 29.7% and 9.4% were agreed and not sure respectively. 28.4% and 14.9% were disagreeing and strongly disagreeing respectively with Pius Bigirimana (2017) assertion that cited the same.

The cause of failures and challenges of YLP in Mityana District.

Lack of feasibility study on the viable projects where to invest money.

Never the less during the study, it was found out that YLP do fail in its performance due to lack of feasibility study on viable projects where to invest money .72.3% of the respondents interviewed agreed that the program fails as a result of the above case. They argued that money is invested in projects which are risky like poultry and any outbreak of diseases causes total loss to the group yet if enough feasibility study is carried out such risky enterprises could not be invested in. Most of the unsuccessful groups interviewed failed as a result of investing in risky projects of poultry and others of catering which are seasonal.

Lack of proper training, monitoring and accountability mechanisms.

Table 5 lack of proper training, monitoring and accountability mechanisms

	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Valid %</i>	<i>Cumulative %</i>
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<i>Strongly agree</i>	20	27.0	27.0	27.0
<i>Agree</i>	26	35.1	35.1	62.1
<i>Not sure</i>	07	9.5	9.5	71.6
<i>Valid disagree</i>	12	16.2	16.2	87.8
<i>Strongly disagree</i>	09	12.2	12.2	100.0
<i>Total</i>	74	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary Data (2018)

In table 5 above 27% of the respondents were in strong agreement that YLP do fail as due to lack of proper training, monitoring and accountability mechanisms as also 35.1% were in agreement with the same, while 9.5%, 16.2% and 12.2% were not sure, disagreeing and biggest number was contended with daily monitor quote of Jannat Mukwaya on 18th April 2016.

Corruption, misuse of money and illiterate of members who lack knowledge on how to use money.

From the respondents interviewed, 87.6% of all agreed that YLP is failing due to high corruption in it. They reported that to be selected as a successful group to receive the funds you first negotiate with program coordinators for their portions mainly people reported were the CDOs and sub county chiefs who practice mainly the game. In addition, the respondents agreed that the actual money you sign for is not the one you receive in cash, i.e., if total grant is 12 million you will receive 9 million when 3 are for them yet the group will have to pay back a total of 12 million, as the result a number of groups end up failing to pay back the total grant.

Changes in climate conditions and diseases which lead to losses.

Table 6 changes in climate conditions and diseases which lead to losses

	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Valid %</i>	<i>Cumulative %</i>
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<i>Strongly agree</i>	22	29.7	29.7	29.7
<i>Agree</i>	34	46.2	46	75.7
<i>Not sure</i>	7	9.5	9.5	85.2
<i>Valid disagree</i>	5	6.8	6.8	92.0
<i>Strongly disagree</i>	6	8.0	8.0	100.0
<i>Total</i>	74	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary Data

Analysis of the table 6 reveals 29.7% of the respondents being in strong agreement that YLP has a challenge of changes in climatic conditions and diseases which lead to losses for the groups as also 46% agreed on the same. While 9.5 were not sure and 6.8% and 8.0% were disagreeing and strongly disagreeing respectively to the matter.

The largest percentage of respondents agreed and therefore relate well with Mugabi (2016) argument that 36% of the youth groups went in for agriculture enterprises and struggled for worst drought therefore the changes in climate and diseases made them do make losses at the end.

What can be done to improve the social well-being of the community in Mityana District?

In this objective, the respondents were asked to give their views on what can be done to improve the social well-being of the community in Mityana District.

Availing of goods and services to satisfy the material needs of human beings.

Table 7 availing of goods and services to satisfy the material needs of human beings

	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Valid %</i>	<i>Cumulative %</i>
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<i>Strong agree</i>	30	40.5	40.5	4.5
<i>Agree</i>	39	52.7	52.7	93.2
<i>Not sure</i>	2	2.7	2.7	95.9
<i>Valid disagree</i>	2	2.7	2.7	98.6
<i>Strongly disagree</i>	1	1.4	1.4	100.0
Total	74	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary Data (2018)

The study results from table 7 reveals 40.5% and 52.7% were in strongly agreeing and agreeing respectively that the social well-being of the community can be improved through availing of goods and services to satisfy the material needs of human beings .2.7% were not sure and 2.7% and 1.4% were disagreeing and strongly disagreeing respectively. The largest percentage of the respondents agreed and therefore relate well with Dianah (2019) argument that the social well-being of the community can be improved through availing of foods and services to satisfy the material needs of the human beings.

Accessibility of protection policies

Table 8 accessibility of protection policies

	Frequency	%	Valid %	Cumulative %
<i>Strongly agree</i>	14	18.9	18.9	18.9
<i>Agree</i>	29	39.2	39.2	58.1
<i>Not sure</i>	15	20.3	20.3	78.4
<i>Valid disagree</i>	12	16.2	16.2	94.6
<i>Strongly disagree</i>	4	5.4	5.4	100.0
Total	74	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary Data (2018)

Analysis of table 8 reveals 18.9% and 39.2 % of the respondents being strongly

agreeing and agreeing respectively that accessibility of protection policies like PWD's, SAGE for elders can improve the social well-being of the community in Mityana District. While 20.3 % were not sure, 16.2% and 5.4% were disagreeing and strongly disagreeing with *Aharimpisya (2013)* who asserted that source of well-being must be addressed by appropriate policies.

Free expression of individual rights and basic needs

Table 10 free expression of individual rights and basic needs

	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Valid %</i>	<i>Cumulative %</i>
<i>Strongly agree</i>	39	52.7	52.7	52.7
<i>Agree</i>	22	29.7	29.7	82.4
<i>Not sure</i>	03	4.1	4.8	86.5
<i>Valid disagree</i>	7	9.4	9.4	95.9
<i>Strongly disagree</i>	03	4.1	4.1	100.0
<i>Total</i>	74	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary Data (2018)

Analysis of the table 10 reveals 52.7% of the respondents strongly agreeing that free expression of individual rights and basic needs can change or improve the social well-being of the communities in Mityana District with also 29.7% also agreeing making the biggest number of respondents agreeing with *Aharimpisya (2013)*. While 4.1% were not sure, 9.4% and 4.1% were disagreeing and strongly disagreeing respectively.

Creating equal opportunities to every one

Table 11 creating equal opportunities to every one

	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>Valid %</i>	<i>Cumulative %</i>
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<i>Strongly agree</i>	3	4.1	4.1	4.1
<i>Agree</i>	14	18.9	18.9	23.0
<i>Not sure</i>	8	10.8	10.8	33.8
<i>Valid disagree</i>	20	27.0	27.0	60.8
<i>Strongly disagree</i>	29	39.2	39.2	100
<i>Total</i>	74	100.0	100.0	

Source: Primary Data (2018)

As presented in table 11 above, 4.1% of the respondents in the study strongly agreed that creating equal opportunities to every one improves the social wellbeing of the community .18.9 % agreed, 10.8% were not sure while 27.0% and 39.2% disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively. The majority of the respondents as represented in the percentages did not agree and therefore are not in the line with Isabel (2017) assertion that creating equal opportunities to every one improves the social well-being of the community.

Conclusion

Social well-being of the community being fundamental in society, the government is crucial in ensuring that service delivery is ensured as social well-being of community depends on availing of goods and services and protection of human rights and other policies in society. Therefore, the government needs to revise its policies.

Recommendations

There is need for YLP to be harnessed by strict rules and regulations so as to curb corruption practices by different officials that interfere with the program.

Youth groups should be selected without fear or favor or depending on political support as it is done, as in so unqualified groups are given money and at the end fail to refund it.

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