
**DECENTRALISATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN RURAL COMMUNITIES. A CASE
STUDY OF MITYANA DISTRICT**

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to examine the relationship between Decentralization and economic growth in Rural communities. Mityana district is located in central Uganda and been decentralized in a way that it has a one municipality, four town councils and three divisions and ten sub counties. The objectives were to examine the impact of decentralization on employment in Mityana District, to analyze the effect of decentralization on household income in Mityana District, to evaluate the impact of decentralization on security in Mityana District. The study used a cross section design of a sample size 60 respondents from a population of 66.

The study population comprised of mainly the departments of the local governments including administration 15, Finance 21, Planning, 02, Education 05, Health 02, Procurement 02, Natural resources 03 Secretaries 10. Primary data which was collected using administered questionnaires to get information from civil servants at all levels from the district, municipality, divisions, and counties and sub counties who cannot directly participate. The findings of the study shown that only 3% = (2) disagreed to the construction of markets as an impact of decentralization on household income and 97% = (58) agreed to it. None disagreed to the provision of employment and 100% = (100) agreed that decentralization impacts household income through the provision of employment. 11.6% = (7) disagreed that decentralization places a high degree of power on responsibility of taxes assigned to local authorities well as 88.3% = (53) agreed to the statement. 6.6% = (4) disagreed to the equal distribution of income in form of development and equalization grants as an impact on household income and 93.3% = (56) agreed to it. It was recommended that the state minister and the minister for local government advise the president that he should decentralize only when the key factors are met.

Key words: decentralisation, economic development and rural communities

Background of the study.

In step with Bardhan (2005), decentralization is a manner to diffuse social and political tensions and make certain local cultural and political autonomy, here he argues that generalizing approximately the relationship among decentralization and struggle is impossible, this debate has in large part been performed how and what functions of presidency need to be decentralized to the local stage on the way to alleviate battle (Ninsiima et al., 2023). The modern-day decentralization reform was formally launched in October 1992 thru a presidential policy assertion. It was first enshrined within the nearby authorities (Resistance Councils) Statute of 1993 and later in the constitution of 1995 and the neighborhood Governments Act of 1997 (Christopher et al., 2022). The local Governments gadget is shaped by way of a five-tier pyramidal structure which consists of the village (LC1), Parish (LC2), Sub- County (LC3), County (LC four), and District (LC 5) in rural areas, and villages (LC1), Ward or Parish (LC2), Municipal division, metropolis, or city division (LC3), Municipality (LC4), and town (LC5) in city regions (religion et al., 2023). The concept of decentralization states that, federalism whether or not political or financial is the basis of decentralization, Dicey provides a doctrine in his regard: decentralization is a born of political groups' desire to a union over to finish harmony. Decentralization has four kinds particularly, political, spatial, administrative and market decentralization (Dikshit (1975).

Conceptual attitude become evolved based totally on applicable literatures of decentralization which consist of; political decentralization, fiscal decentralization and administrative decentralization which became further broken down into; devolution, de-attention, delegation, and divestment/privatization (Emily et al., 2023). Financial improvement in rural regions turned into tested with the buildup of capital stock, technological advances, market surplus of agriculture, and situations in overseas exchange (Allan et al., 2023). The intervening variables have been natural assets, political freedom, human assets, and monetary systems. those principles shaped the idea of the have a look at. consistent with the previous population census, Mityana District decentralization has turn out to be the order of the day in which a district with most effective 329,860 human beings. It's been decentralized to the extent that it has one Municipality, 3 divisions, four metropolis councils, 1 city board and 10 sub counties. Uganda added the decentralization coverage in 1997 under the neighborhood authorities Act of 1997 that has considering the fact that gone through 4 amendments (Collins et al., 2023). The policy inherently decentralizes service shipping establishments and different governance I order to improve get admission to to services for the agricultural bad (Mangheni, Ephraim Nkonya, 2011).

Problem Statement

Consistent with maintain Cass, Infotopia (2006), Oxford college, united kingdom. Decentralization is any manner in which authority is sent all through a larger institution, it indicates a higher authority given to lower-stage functionaries, in impact has a long way reaching implications for the fields of management, organizational conduct and authorities (Moses et al., 2022). Decentralization in line with sustain, has brought approximately poor carrier shipping which is brought by inadequate finances allotted to the lower devices which ultimately has improved corruption most of the officials in government since the finances dispensed to them by

way of their heads of nation have a tendency to be little, limited sources, loss of commitment, terrible responsiveness, confined availability of statistics, vulnerable institutional potential and neighborhood authorities selection making citizen participation and local responsibility is likewise a trouble (Christopher et al., 2022). Decentralization must be practiced only where it is inevitable because in the end it ends in wastage of government resources for the reason that units are created un-necessarily even earlier than soliciting for price range that are going to maintain and keep them, which finances should rather be allocated to important services like fitness, education and industrialization.

Objectives of the study

- To examine the impact of decentralization on employment in Mityana District.
- To analyze the effect of decentralization on house hold income in Mityana District.
- To evaluate the impact of decentralization on security in Mityana District.

Research questions

- What is the impact of decentralization on employment in Mityana District?
- What is the impact of decentralization on house hold income in Mityana District?
- What is the impact of decentralization on security in Mityana District?

SECTION THREE

Methodology

Research design

The study used a case study research design which constituted of qualitative and quantitative data collection methods. This case study design captured Crowell J.W (2003) etal and Kreijic and Morgan 1970. Qualitative research was used in recording descriptions of the elements of the study in a form which is not numerical for instance the strategies to improve house hold income as a paramount indicator of economic development in Mityana district

Quantitative research design was used to capture details of the study which can be expressed in numerical terms like percentages, population and sample size.

Study population.

The study population comprised of mainly the departments of the local governments including administration 15, Finance 21, Planning, 02, Education 05, Health 02, Procurement 02, Natural resources 03 Secretaries 10.

Sampling design

According to Creswell et al (2003), research can either be probability and non-probability sampling design depending on the nature of the population of study. Non probability sampling was used to select constituencies which were highly decentralized. The research also used cluster sampling to group respondents in various groups (clusters) that is to say the leaders both political and non-political in various decentralized units of Mityana district.

Determination of the sample size.

The researcher sample size is 66 respondents, out of 80. The sample size was determined by Krejic and Morgan 1970. Below is a table to simplify the process of determining the sample size of the population, Krejic and Morgan (1970) came up with a table using sample size formula for finite population.

N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S
10	10	100	80	280	162	800	260	2800	338
15	14	110	86	290	165	850	265	3000	341
20	19	120	92	300	169	900	269	3500	346
25	24	130	97	320	175	950	274	4000	351
30	28	140	103	340	181	1000	278	4500	354
35	32	150	108	360	186	1100	285	5000	357
40	36	160	113	380	191	1200	291	6000	361
45	40	170	118	400	196	1300	297	7000	364
50	44	180	123	420	201	1400	302	8000	367
55	48	190	127	440	205	1500	306	9000	368
60	52	200	132	460	210	1600	310	10000	370
65	56	210	136	480	214	1700	313	15000	375
70	59	220	140	500	217	1800	317	20000	377

75	63	230	144	550	226	1900	320	30000	379
80	66	240	148	600	234	2000	322	40000	380
85	70	250	152	650	242	2200	327	50000	381
90	73	260	155	700	248	2400	331	75000	382
95	76	270	159	750	254	2600	335	1000000	384

Note: N population size S is sample size

N=80 S=66

Data collection methods

The researcher used primary data which was collected using administered questionnaires to get information from civil servants at all levels from the district, municipality, divisions, and counties and sub counties who cannot directly participate.

Validation of data collection instruments.

The study used a number of research instruments including questionnaires and observation.

Data collection instruments

Questionnaires.

This research used self- administered questionnaires for respondents. This was distributed among the respondents, here questionnaires are easy to analyze and quantify. They were used since the study focused on opinions, feelings and attitude of respondents.

Data analysis

Qualitative data analysis was interpreted and presented by statistical package social sciences (SPSS) (Nelson et al., 2022).

SECTION THREE

RESULTS

Findings on the impact of decentralization on employment opportunities

Table: 1 Frequencies, percentage of decentralization on employment opportunities

Impact of decentralization on employment opportunities	F%	SD	D	A	SA

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Foster economic growth	%	2.2%	2.2%	5%	92%
	F	1	1	3	55
Improvement in quality, transparency and accountability	%	8.3%	17%	33%	42%
	F	5	10	20	25
Improvement in production efficiency	%	2%	8%	50%	40%
	F	1	5	30	24
Easy decision making	%			33%	67%
	F	0	0	20	40
Reduction of burden on top executives	%	3%	5%	37%	55%
	F	2	3	22	33

Source: Primary data 2020

Table 1 above shows that 4.4% = (2) cumulatively disagreed, 97% = (58) agreed that decentralization impacts employment opportunities through the fostering of economic growth. 25% = (15) disagreed to improvement in quality, transparency and accountability and 75% = (45) agreed to the statement. 10% = (6) disagreed to improvement in production efficiency, 90% = (54) agreed that employment opportunities improved production efficiency. 0% disagreed to easy decision making, 100% of the respondents agreed to the statement (Mark et al., 2023).

Findings on the impact of decentralization on household income

Table 2 Frequencies, percentage of the impact of decentralization on household income.

Impact of decentralization on household income	F%	SD	D	A	SA
Construction of markets where citizens sell their produce.	F	0	2	13	45
	%		3%	22%	75%
Provision of employment	F	0	0	27	33
	%			45%	55%

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Infrastructure development	F	0	4	30	26
	%		7%	50%	43%
High degree of power on responsibility of taxes assigned to local authorities	F	1	6	23	30
	%	1.6%	10%	38.3%	50%
Equal distribution of income inform of development and equalization grants	F	1	3	36	20
	%	1.6%	5%	60%	33.3%

Source: Primary data 2020

Table 2 above shows that only 3% = (2) disagreed to the construction of markets as an impact of decentralization on household income and 97% = (58) agreed to it. None disagreed to the provision of employment and 100% = (100) agreed that decentralization impacts household income through the provision of employment. 11.6% = (7) disagreed that decentralization places a high degree of power on responsibility of taxes assigned to local authorities well as 88.3% = (53) agreed to the statement. 6.6% = (4) disagreed to the equal distribution of income in form of development and equalization grants as an impact on household income and 93.3% =(56) agreed to it.

Findings on the impact of decentralization on security

Table 3 Frequencies, percentage of the impact of decentralization on security.

Impact of decentralization on security	F%	SD	D	A	SA
Improve on local government administration	F	0%	3%	25%	72%
	%	0	2	15	43
Creation of employment under security	F	7%	2%	33%	58%
	%	4	1	20	35
Reduction in the rate of crime	F	0%	0%	10%	90%
	%	0	0	6	54

Source: Primary data 2020

Table 3 above shows that only 3.3% =(n2) disagreed to improvement on local government administration, whereas 97 % =(58) agreed to the statement. 9% =(5) disagreed to the creation of employment under security and 91% =(55) agreed to the statement. 0% disagreed to the reduction in crime rate well as 100% =(60) agreed that decentralization led to a reduction in the rate of crime (Oliver et al., 2023).

Conclusions

Guided by the findings of this study on decentralization and economic development, the following conclusions have been drawn;

Decentralization to a larger extent contributed to the economic development of Mityana district through the creation of employment opportunities, improvement in household income and security in the region.

Recommendations

The government should decentralize only when the key factors are met by a certain area for example high population growth rate of about 130,000 people, economic growth and development where an area can meet all its costs and the region should be highly industrialized.

The government should also decentralize a region only when it is too huge for the civil servants to handle and deliver services efficiently and effectively and on condition that the taxes levied inform of revenue can sustain the activities of that area without external borrowings which puts the country into the burden of financing public debts (Faith et al., 2023).

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