

INFLUENCE OF LAWS AND TECHNOLOGY ON CORRUPTION PRACTICES IN UGANDA.

A CASE STUDY OF KAWEMPE DIVISION

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Abstract.

Corruption is a direct inability of government institutions to ensure adherence to acceptable ethical norms in both the private and public spheres. Corruption has been in the domain since colonial times. In recent years, corruption has become an issue of major economic, political importance in many countries across the globe especially in developing countries. The aim of this study therefore was to assess the influence of laws and technology on corruption in Uganda, a case study of Kawempe division. The researcher adapted to a quantitative research design. Quantitative research design was used because the researcher carried out research in Kawempe division, in Kampala. A sample size of 35 respondents was selected from all social media users. This was based on in-depth knowledge on corruption reporting and challenges faced in the course of reporting. However, simple random sampling was adopted in selecting 10 leaders from the district to discuss more about corruption. Key findings revealed from the correlation analysis showed strong positive significant relationship between Judiciary (laws) and corruption ($r = 0.458^{**}$, $p = 0.036$) and strong positive significant relationship between technology and corruption ($r = 0.348^{**}$, $p = 0.00$). Findings from the overall model revealed that 45% of the variations in the corruption rates were explained by Judiciary and technology. The findings yielded evidence of the influence of the above as factors leading to high rates of corruption. The regression coefficient (0.228) implied that unit increase in the independent variables (laws and technology) resulted into 0.228 units increase in the corruption rate. The researcher therefore concluded that technological advancement and laws highly influenced corruption and recommended that technological development within Kawempe division should be monitored. The laws put in place by the judiciary must as well be critically implemented so as to expose and punish those that actually practice corruption.

Key words: Laws, Technology and Corruption.

Background of the study

In recent years, corruption has become a major economic and political problem in many countries around the world, especially in developing countries (Jimmy et al., n.d.). In developed countries such as the US, the state uses social media to reduce corruption, a 2018 OECD study found that 2% of foreign bribery cases resulted from prior media reports of alleged corruption (Phionah et al., 2023), making news coverage from social media the most important source of public awareness and the main source of corruption detection (district, n.d.; Raymon et al., 2023). The World Bank defines corruption as the abuse of public power for private gain (Salifu 2008). According to (John et al., 2023), corruption is the direct inability of government institutions to ensure compliance with acceptable ethical norms in both the private and public spheres. Corruption has been in the domain since colonial times (Kazaara, Deus, et al., 2023). In the post-independence period, official corruption persists, as evidenced by the public exposure of high-level scandals such as Goldenberg and Anglo_Leasing. The problem appears to have worsened in the 1980s as a result of the entrenchment of political patronage in the civility of one-party politics (Ronald et al., n.d.). Uganda is severely affected by corruption, harming Ugandans from the individual level to the national level. Its origin has been attributed to the colonial period; corruption was considered one of the country's biggest challenges (Paul et al., 2023). Fighting corruption at this point is therefore

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inevitable and desirable if Ugandan society is to be redeemed from corruption (Alex et al., n.d.; Sheila et al., 2023). One targeted way to fight corruption in Uganda is through the use of social media. Social media in Uganda has enjoyed considerable latitude in this regard with its evolving power structure and changing media environment since 1986. (Kenneth et al., 2023) argue that the rise of social media networks such as Facebook, twitter, in recent increased significantly over time. years that can help in curbing corruption. (Roberts Namara) has variously argued that if any anti-corruption campaign in sub-Saharan Africa is to be successful, certain characteristics should be common in anti-corruption plans, his suggestion on how to control corruption is through social media (Kenneth et al., 2023). As the media in Uganda is growing rapidly, this study is vital to provide information for social media and to further understand the impact of social media and corruption using Kawempe Division as a case study, it is important to understand whether social media acts as a tool in curbing corruption in Uganda (Ariyo et al., 2023).

Statement of the problem

Corruption was considered a disgrace to ethics; in that it undermines the ethical values of a particular society (Ariyo et al., 2023). Michael Nyiregyhaza, his consultant and social media enthusiast, says Ugandans are quick to pick up on social media trends and one way to curb corruption is through the use of social media (Damasus et al., 2023). Therefore, a more symmetrical approach to social media by anti-corruption practitioners is needed (Phionah et al., 2023). This study examines the role of social media in reducing corruption in Uganda and therefore seeks to find out what impact social media has on fighting corruption using a case study of kawempe division in Uganda (Paul et al., 2023).

Objectives of the study

1. To examine the impact of laws on fighting against corruption in Uganda.
2. To establish the impact of technological advancement in the fight against corruption practices in Uganda.

Research questions

1. What is the impact of laws in fighting against corruption in Uganda?
2. What are impacts of technology in fighting against corruption in Uganda

Methodology.

The Researcher adapted to a quantitative research design. Quantitative research design was used because the researcher carried out research in Kawempe division, in Kampala. The choice of the study area was because the researcher used all the languages used in the study area and more so the researcher understood all the study area properly which made data collection easy and concrete. The researcher adopted both primary and secondary sources of information. Primary sources of information included using questionnaires to collect data and secondary source of information included use of articles related to the study, publications and books. The population study consisted of the youth, reporters, anticorruption agency in Uganda and local district commissioners of Kawempe division. A sample size of 35 respondents was selected from all social media users. This was based on in depth knowledge on corruption reporting and challenges faced in the course of reporting. However, simple random sampling was adopted in selecting 10 leaders from the district to discuss more about corruption. The researcher developed both primarily and secondary sources of information and data. In collecting Primary Data, the researcher used questionnaires as tools for collecting data. For

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Secondary Data, publications by re known authors in this field for example magazines, articles, books and News Papers will be used by the researcher to gather information that is required. Data analysis was conducted in SPSS and all results were presented in a tabular (Nelson et al., 2022). Frequencies and percentages were reported at univariate level, correlation and regression analysis were considered for further analysis.

Results.

Table 1: Role played by the media in curbing corruption

Role	Mean
Investigation	3.9
Reporting	4.5
Whistle blowing	3.9
Policy advocacy	3.3
Recovery	3.1
Agenda setting	3.8

The table above showed that the media to a large extent (mean 4.5) played the role of reporting in the fight against corruption. Results show that social media also to a larger extent of mean (3.9) played the role of whistle blowing, agenda setting in that order (mean 3.8) and policy advocacy (mean 3.3) (Damasus et al., 2023)

Table 2: Shows the influence of technology on corruption.

		Technology.	Corruption
Technology	Pearson Correlation	1	.458**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.036
	N	35	35
Corruption	Pearson Correlation	.458**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.036	
	N	52	35

**. Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The correlation analysis showed strong positive significant relationship between technology and corruption ($r = 0.458^{**}$, $p = 0.036$). The significance value ($p = 0.036$) was less than the critical p value of 0.05 hence the researcher failed to reject the null hypothesis.

Table 3: Shows the influence of Judiciary on corruption.

		Judiciary (laws)	Corruption
Judiciary(laws)	Pearson Correlation	1	.348**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	35	35

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Corruption	Pearson Correlation	.348**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	52	35

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

The correlation analysis showed strong positive significant relationship between Judiciary (laws) and corruption ($r = 0.348^{**}$, $p = 0.00$) (Nelson et al., 2023). The significance value ($p = 0.036$) was less than the critical p value of 0.05 hence the researcher failed to reject the null hypothesis.

Model Estimation.

Table 4: Shows the model estimation.

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.228 ^a	.45	.44	1.15921

Findings from the overall model revealed that 45% of the variations in the corruption rates were explained by Judiciary and technology. The yielded evidence of the influence of the above as factors leading to high rates of corruption. The regression coefficient (0.228) implied that unit increase in the independent variables (laws and technology) resulted into 0.228 units increase in the corruption rate.

Summary of findings

The purpose of the study was to establish the role played by social media in curbing corruption in Uganda. The objectives of the study were to examine the roles of social media in curbing corruption in Uganda, to establish the challenges faced by the media in curbing corruption practices in Uganda and to establish the strategies used by the media in curbing corruption practices in Uganda. The population of the study consisted of youths, reporters, anti-corruption team kawempe constituency.

It was found out that social media has a greater role in curbing corruption in Uganda for example by acting as a watchdog, informing, setting agenda and educating the masses. It was also found out that insecurity to reporters was the most important challenge faced by social media practitioners in the fight against corruption.

Discussions

The role of social media in the fight against corruption. It was found out that social media encourages transparency by providing a protected platform for individuals who have experienced corruption to report (Kazaara, Charles, et al., 2023), it was also found out that social media reporting on corruption influences how societies demand accountability, by raising public awareness, shaping public opinion and generating public pressure in order for corruption to be death with. The findings also show that social media act as a control lever against corruption through its work and the pressure they apply. Absence of corruption reporting department prove that fighting corruption has not received adequate attention (Kazaara, Deus, et al., 2023). However, it was noted that media plays

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the biggest role in reporting corruption, this is done by informing. Finding further showed that media plays a greater job in agenda setting.

Conclusion

The findings therefore, implies that fighting corruption is a major challenge in Uganda and it is majorly caused by judiciary (laws) and technological advancements. Fighting corruption requires combined efforts from the public, government and media. Social media alone cannot succeed in fighting corruption but other methods should also be adopted in the fight against corruption for example through power of the people method, creating pathways that give citizens relevant tools to engage and participate in their government, set anti-corruption policies through adopting clear and strong policies about avoiding corruption in all areas of business.

Recommendation

It can be recommended from the existing discussion and conclusion that;

To the government, there should be more emphasis on the use of social media and training of officials on how to use it.

The government (anti-corruption unit) should take appropriate recognition of social media competence and achievements in the fight against corruption.

Since security is the most challenge faced by social media in the fight against corruption, there is need for providing adequate security to investigative journalists.

Training is paramount to successful coverage of corruption stories.

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