
Relationship between Party Engagement Programs and Women Participation in Political Processes in Uganda. A case of Pakwach District Local Government.

Ocan Richard

Metropolitan International University, Uganda.

Abstract

The research paper was about the relationship that exists between party engagement program and women participation in political processes in Uganda: A case of Pakwach District Local Government. The objective of the research paper was to examine the relationship between Party engagement program and women participation in political processes of Uganda, a case of Pakwach District Local Government. The study employed a descriptive survey research design based on quantitative and qualitative research approaches. The research considered a sample size of 195 respondents who were selected to participate in the study. The respondents were selected using stratified and simple random sampling procedures. Data collection Instruments used involved questionnaire survey and interview methods. A quantitative data/surveys /questionnaires were administered to a sample of women involved in the political process; In-depth interviews conducted with key informants, including CSOs, party officials, women political leaders and community members. A total of 195 questionnaires were sent out and all were returned to the researcher. The study concluded that party engagement programs and women participation in political process have a statistically moderate and significant relationship. Finally, based on the conclusion; it was recommended that Overly, the relationship between Party engagement programs and Women participation in political process indicated that the two variables having a statistically positive moderate and significant relationship as such party engagement programs are paramount and determine women participation in political process as such should be strengthened to increase confidence, build capacity of women to enhance their skills and expertise to participate in the Political Process.

Key words: Party Engagement Programs, Women Participation, Political Processes, Pakwach District Local Government.

Introduction

Women's participation in politics is a crucial aspect of democratic governance and social progress (Ramadhan et al., 2023). It serves as a barometer for measuring inclusivity and gender equality in a nation's political environment. In Uganda, as in many other countries around the world, women's participation in the political process has been a matter of concern, particularly in relation to multi-party politics (Sharon et al., 2023). Uganda has therefore put in place measures to promote women's political participation, including constitutional provisions, gender quotas and affirmative action policies. However, there remains a gap between policy implementation and the actual representation and involvement of women in the political arena. By examining the experiences and perspectives of women in Pakwach District Local Government, this research seeks to shed light on the factors that contribute to the current state of women's participation and identify potential strategies for improvement (K. Faridah et al., 2023).

Received: 11.02.2024

Accepted: 17.02.2024

Published on: 29.02.2024

According to Kate Millett (1970), woman refers to "an adult female human being". Therefore, women's participation in the multi-party-political process is an important indicator of gender equality and democracy in any society (N. Faridah et al., 2023). However, the level of women's participation in Uganda's multiparty political system remains an area of concern. This research paper focused on Pakwach District Local Government, a district in the West Nile sub-region, Uganda to examine the relationship between the party engagement program and women's participation in political processes and identify potential strategies to enhance their involvement (Moses et al., 2023).

The study examined party engagement programs and women's participation in political processes in Uganda using a case study of Pakwach District Local Government. In this study, party involvement program was perceived as the independent variable and women's participation was perceived as the dependent variable (Rashid et al., 2023). Party engagement programs were measured by civic education, capacity building, party media, party ideology and interest, while women's participation was measured by electoral participation, proportion of women competing for leadership positions, equal opportunities in leadership, proportion of electoral seats held by women and leadership positions held by women.

The research paper reviewed other scholars who have written about women's participation in political processes in Uganda to compare the study. Therefore, it was organized according to the study objective of the research, which is to examine the relationship between party engagement programs and women's participation in political processes in Pakwach District Local Government (Winny et al., 2023).

This research study was guided by feminist theory, which has emerged as a diverse and evolving body of thought over several decades, with contributions from many scholars and activists. It is difficult to attribute its origins to a single year or individual, as feminist ideas and activism have a complex and multifaceted history. However, feminist theory began to gain ground in the late 18th and early 19th centuries during the first wave of feminism. The main goal of this theory is to raise the level of women to the level of men, especially in line with political leadership and ensure the protection of women's rights and give them the opportunity to contribute ideas and also actively compete with men (Zowena et al., 2023).

According to Alison Jagger (1994)⁶, she argued that the subordination of women is central to patriarchy, which is the root cause of oppression. He further argues that to explain gender relations one needs to know the mechanisms of patriarchal relations and the division of labor between women and men in society. Gender in politics has two sides, one is the participation or representation of women and the other is interest in women's issues.

According to (Lydia et al., 2023) a study on women leadership training programs in Uganda. Research has found that targeted educational programs significantly increase women's political skills, self-confidence and ability to navigate the political environment. These programs provide women with the necessary knowledge and tools to actively participate in political processes. Party engagement programs such as training and capacity building

Received: 11.02.2024

Accepted: 17.02.2024

Published on: 29.02.2024

initiatives therefore also play a significant role in promoting women's political participation in local government politics.

Finally, the research study examined in this chapter did not specifically focus on the variables as identified in this study (party engagement programs and women's participation in political processes), although related (Gracious, 2023). In view of the above, the study sought to bridge the aforementioned knowledge gaps but examined the relationship between engagement programs and women's participation in political processes with a focus on Pakwach District Local Government.

Statement of problem

Despite efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment, there are persistent barriers to women's meaningful participation in politics, resulting in their limited representation and influence in the political sphere (Ramadhan et al., 2023).

According to UWOPA (2023) data on female members of parliament for the 11th Parliament of Uganda based on the result of the 2021 general election shows that Uganda has a total of 189 female members of parliament out of 529 and only 14 of them are directly elected. through an open competitive process other than an affirmative process that shows limited representation of women (Lydia et al., 2023).

Additionally, there are 10 sub-county/city council chairpersons (LC.3) in the 10 lower local government units of Pakwach District Local Government, with no female chairpersons heading lower local government units in Pakwach District Local Government (Council Office Data, 2023 Pakwach District Local Government). However, these figures indicate the gaps that exist between men and women in the multi-party-political process in Pakwach District Local Government, and even if taken in relative terms, such under-representation of women at various levels of governance results in a democratic deficit (UN WOMEN, 2018). Therefore, this study was designed to examine the relationship between party engagement programs and women's participation in political processes in Pakwach District Local Government, Uganda to provide evidence-based findings that can inform policy makers, government agencies and development partners in designing and implementing gender. -sensitive strategies to increase women's representation and active involvement in the political process.

Study Objective

The objective was to examine the relationship between party engagement programs and women participation in political processes at Pakwach District Local Government, Uganda.

Study Hypothesis

Party engagement programs is significantly related to women participation in political processes at Pakwach District Local Government, Uganda

Methodology

Received: 11.02.2024

Accepted: 17.02.2024

Published on: 29.02.2024

In the context of this study, the researcher used a descriptive survey research design based on quantitative and qualitative research approaches. The reason of choosing this design was that, the researcher focused on the links among a smaller number of attributes across a sample of cases depending on the resources available and the size of the target population. The researcher quantified social phenomena particularly issues conducted and problems that are prevalent in the society. The researcher collected the information that can describe and help the researcher in understanding social life. The design was based on both qualitative and quantitative approaches where data collection is done based on questionnaires and interview guides. The qualitative data revealed when asked how does a Party engagement program affect women participation in political process of Pakwach; a couple of responded and gave following statement(s);

Party engagement programs helps in increase in civic awareness of the need for inclusive women's participation and representation through publications and mobilizations plus financing campaigns as time is always short for all programs and the engagement also build confidence in women and clears their doubt thus creating an open space for competition throughout women participation in the political process; A respondent also quoted that party engagement programs has given enough room for many women to participate in politics using different parties as avenues.

On the aspect of what Party engagement programs strategies that would be adopted to enhance women participation in political process of Pakwach District Local Government; various respondents noted that;

Sensitization of women more on their rights and more on laws and provide for mindset change and fully engage them in District caucus, sub county caucus, women caucus and general assemblies throughout the political process; A respondent noted that women of Pakwach District Local Government need more mobilization in order to understand the benefits of political leadership, there is more need for engagements of women leaders on multiparty system by Pakwach District Local Government. This is intended to explore more detailed information and the aspects which remain unrevealed during quantitative analysis, qualitative data was collected. This data/information was collected through key informant interviews technique. It is a useful technique which provides more useful and in-depth knowledge in less time and limited cost. The study populations included a sample size of 195 people involved in multiparty political process in Pakwach District Local Government. Data was analyzed inform of tables, frequencies and percentages using SPSS & STATA (Nelson et al., 2022)

Results

Table 1: Pearson product moment correlation between Party engagement programs and Women participation in political process.

Variables Computed index		Party engagement programs	Women participation in political process
Party engagement programs	Pearson Correlation	1	.473**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	180	177
Women participation in political process	Pearson Correlation	.473**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	177	191

**** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).**

Results in Table 2.1 show the Pearson product moment correlation was applied to establish the relationship between Party engagement programs and Women participation in political process and the results indicate that the two variables have a statistically positive moderate and significant relationship ($r=.473^{**}$, $p<0.000$) (Nelson et al., 2023). These results imply that Party engagement programs influence women participation in political process and therefore the stated hypothesis is rejected.

Women participation in Political processes at Pakwach District Local Government		SD	D	NS	A	SA	TOTAL
Women participate in voting of electoral positions	F	2	1	9	55	125	192
	%	1	0.5	4.6	28.2	64.1	98.4
Majority of candidates that vied for leadership positions were women	F	27	72	43	35	16	193
	%	13.8	36.9	22.1	17.9	8.2	99
There exist equal opportunities of political leadership for women in Pakwach District	F	30	47	15	68	32	192
	%	15.4	24.1	7.7	34.9	16.4	98.5
Senior position in political offices are held by women in Pakwach District	F	59	54	26	35	19	193
	%	30.3	27.7	13.3	17.9	9.7	99
High proportion of electoral seats are held by Women in Pakwach District	F	53	64	23	29	24	193
	%	27.2	32.8	11.8	14.9	12.3	99

Table 2: Women participation in Political processes at Pakwach District Local Government

Source: primary data (2023)

Results in Table 3 show that majority (92.3%) of the respondents were in agreement that Women participate in voting of electoral positions, 1.5% were in disagreement while 4.6% were not sure. This implies that majority agree that women participate in voting of electoral positions.

Majority (50.7%) of the respondents were in disagreement that Majority of candidates that vied for leadership positions were women, 26.1% were in agreement while 22.1% were not sure. This implies that Majority of candidates that vied for leadership positions were women (Innocent et al., 2023)

Overwhelming majority (51.3%) of the respondents were in agreement there exist equal opportunities of political leadership for women in Pakwach District, 7.7% were not sure while 39.5% were in a disagreement. This implies that majority of the respondents agreed that there exist equal opportunities of political leadership for women in Pakwach District.

Overwhelming majority (58%) were in disagreement that Senior position in political offices are held by women in Pakwach District, 27.6% were in agreement while 13.3% were not sure. This therefore implies that most senior positions in political offices are not held by women in Pakwach District (Musaibah et al., 2023).

Majority (60%) of the respondents were in disagreement that High proportion of electoral seats are held by Women in Pakwach District, 27.2% were in agreement while 11.8% were not sure. This means that High

Received: 11.02.2024

Accepted: 17.02.2024

Published on: 29.02.2024

proportions of electoral seats are not held by Women in Pakwach District. The qualitative results revealed that when asked on how you can describe the WOMEN participation in political process since 2021; respondents revealed that; *Out of the 26 District councilors, 11 are female and 5 are in high positions of the District which is a good representative of the gender in reference total number, Participation in the political process has increased confidence built in many women into responsible citizens and generally has been described smoothly as women have been elected right from village levels with positions.*

A respondent stated that generally Women Participation in Political Processes at Pakwach District Local Government is still very low right from grassroots up to the top level due to limited access to awareness programmes by the political parties.

Arguably to find out personal perspectives about equal opportunities of leadership in Pakwach District; respondents gave the following statements;

In Pakwach District Local Government, there is equal opportunities in leadership; for instance in District Executive Committee, women constitute 60% which is representative of gender equity; a respondent said equal opportunities is good way to go because women are more hardworking and honest and that will build confidence in many women and see that they fully participate in the political process and lastly a respondent said equal opportunities of leadership has brought general fairness in the political process.

On the aspect of commenting about proportion of seats held by Women in Pakwach District Local Government; some of the respondents gave the following statements;

District Executive Committee (DEC) women constitute 60% and speaker's office 100% which is good representative presentation of women in seats,

A respondent also stated that generally for better proportion of the political offices(seats) , there must be a capacity building to the women so that they get to know their strength and competency in some of the top political positions (Micheal et al., 2023).

Lastly to find out about personal perspective(s) about senior position held by Women in Pakwach District Local Government; respondents gave the following statements;

We have women in senior positions not because of any bodies making but because they have the capacity and are well knowledgeable and God fearing, Women are hardworking, honest and are always willing to perform to the expectation; The women in senior position are all capable and committed to work and deliver services generally and we as women are ready to support fellow women. A respondent said that; Women hold senior positions such as the' District Education Officer(DEO), Principal Human Resources, District Community Development Officer(DCO), Senior Assistant Secretaries(SAS), Ag. Chief Finance Officer (Ag. CFO), District Clerk to Council, Secretary Finance, Secretary social services, District speaker, Deputy speaker, District Internal Security Officer(DISO); All these positions at least have women representative.

Discussion of Findings

Received: 11.02.2024

Accepted: 17.02.2024

Published on: 29.02.2024

The relationship between Party engagement programs and Women participation in political process and the results indicated that the two variables has a statistically positive moderate and significant relationship. These informs that party engagement programs are paramount and determine women participation in political process as they increase confidence, build capacity of women to enhance their skills and expertise to participate in the Political Process. According to (Annet et al., 2023), studies on women's leadership training programs in Uganda. The research found that targeted training programs significantly enhance women's political skills, confidence, and ability to navigate the political landscape. Additionally, Kyohairwe (2017), argues the role of party-affiliated women's wings in promoting women's participation (Ramadhan et al., 2023). Women's wings within political parties often organize activities and campaigns to mobilize and support women candidates.

Conclusions

The study concluded that majority of the respondents totally agreed that Political parties carry training programmes to increase women political participation capacity, understand the party's mission, vision and objectives. carry out regular political mobilization group meetings that support women participation in political processes, have women coordination offices across and social structures that support women participation in political processes, have intra/inter-party women advocacy networks to build coalitions around priorities for women, develop capacity building programmes that focus on enhancing the skills and expertise of party women, engage women through Social media campaign to promote women participation in political process, and done by political parties to attract women into political process and that Political parties partner with women organization to form alliances based on ideologies and women interests in Pakwach District Local Government (K. Faridah et al., 2023).

Overall, on establishing the relationship between Party engagement programs and Women participation in political process and the results indicated that the two variables have a statistically positive moderate and significant relationship. These informs that party engagement programs are paramount and determine women participation in political process as they increase confidence, build capacity of women to enhance their skills and expertise to participate in the Political Process.

Recommendation

Based on the conclusion, it was recommended that Overly, the relationship between Party engagement programs and Women participation in political process indicated that the two variables having a statistically positive moderate and significant relationship as such party engagement programs are paramount and determine women participation in political process as such should be strengthened to increase confidence, build capacity of women to enhance their skills and expertise to participate in the Political Process.

References

Annet, N., Andrew, N., Kazaara, A. G., Christopher, F., & Moses, N. (2023). *Impact of Budgeting On the Profitability of a Manufacturing Company , a Case Study of Harris International*. 7(2), 112–126.

Received: 11.02.2024

Accepted: 17.02.2024

Published on: 29.02.2024

-
- Christopher, F., Moses, N., Muhindo, M. E., & Muhammad, M. (2022). *Rewards and Employee Performance in an Organization : A Case Study of African College of Commerce and Technology in South Western Uganda*. 6(4), 414–428.
- Faridah, K., Kazaara, A. G., & Kazaara, A. I. (2023). *The Effect Of Supplier Selection On Product Quality Management In Organizations . A Case Study Of Uganda Wild Life*. 7(3), 307–317.
- Faridah, N., Kazaara, A. G., & Kazaara, A. I. (2023). *An Evaluation of the Effects of Advertising on Consumer Brand Awareness in an Organization , a Case Study of Mukwano Group of Companies*. 7(3), 206–212.
- Gracious, A. (2023). *The Effects Of Electronic Banking On Customer Service Delivery , A Case Study Of Cairo Bank Uganda , Nakasero*. 7(2), 80–87.
- Innocent, A., Kazaara, A. G., Nelson, K., Catherine, M., Micheal, T., & Deus, T. (2023). *Internal Auditing and Fraud Prevention in Organizations a Case Study of Nssf Kampala Area*. 7(2), 150–157.
- Lydia, N., Kazaara, A. G., Kazaara, A. I., Brenda, T., & Bafaki, G. (2023). *Promotion of Small-Scale Industries and Development of Business . A Case Study ; Masafu Subcounty (Busia)*. 7(3), 240–245.
- Micheal, T., Nicholas, K., Kazaara, A. G., & Nelson, K. (2023). *The Effect of Teacher ' s Motivation on Academic Performance of Students in Kole District a Case Study of Alito Sub-County*. 7(2), 64–72.
- Moses, K., Kazaara, A. G., Kazaara, A. I., & Ismail, L. (2023). *External Auditing and the Financial Performance of Marianum Press Limited , Kisubi*. 7(3), 258–266.
- Musaibah, N., Kazaara, A. G., Kazaara, A. I., & Deus, T. (2023). *The Organizational Factors Affecting Employee Performance in Non-Governmental Organizations in Uganda . A Case Study of the Uganda Women Parliamentary Association*. 7(3), 221–231.
- Nelson, K., Christopher, F., & Milton, N. (2022). *Teach Yourself Spss and Stata*. 6(7), 84–122.
- Nelson, K., Kazaara, A. G., & Kazaara, A. I. (2023). *Teach Yourself E-Views*. 7(3), 124–145.
- Ntirandekura, M., Ainebyoona, A., Registrar, D., District, B., & Commission, E. (2022). *HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND ENHANCEMENT OF STAFF RETENTION IN PUBLIC SECTOR ORGANISATIONS : AN EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION IN KABALE*. 6(7), 89–103.
- Ramadhan, B., Alex, I., Kazaara, A. G., Nelson, K., Deus, T., & Pascal, T. (2023). *Taxation and the Development of Small Businesses in Uganda , a Case Study of Iganga District*. 7(2), 136–149.
- Rashid, S., Kazaara, A. G., & Kazaara, A. I. (2023). *Assessing The Impact Of Government Programs On Youth Empowerment In Communities , A Case Study Of Mityana Central Division , Mityana District*. 7(3), 352–362.
- Sharon, A., Kazaara, A. G., & Kazaara, A. I. (2023). *Electoral Processes and Democratic Elections in Uganda , a Case Study of Electoral Commission of Uganda*. 7(3), 267–280.
- Tasha, N. A., Kazaara, A. G., Deus, T., Ismail, L., & Micheal, T. (2023). *The Impact Of Taxation On Small Scale Businesses On Performance Of Small Scale Businesses In Namungoona Parish , Kampala Uganda*. 7(3), 17–26.

Received: 11.02.2024

Accepted: 17.02.2024

Published on: 29.02.2024

Winny, N. D., Kazaara, A. G., Kazaara, A. I., & Deus, T. (2023). *Effect Of Motivation On Employee Performance In Non- Government Organizations (NGOS): A Case Of Mbale City*. 7(3), 67–71.

Zowena, N., Kazaara, A. G., Deus, T., & Kazaara, A. I. (2023). *Assessment Of The Effect Of Government Programs On Women Empowerment In Rural Areas . A Case Study Of Busale Sub County , Kayunga District*. 7(3), 240–247.