

**PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES IN GOVERNMENT  
POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAMS IN KANYUM SUB-COUNTY, KUMI  
DISTRICT**

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**S22/MUC/BSW/006**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL  
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF THE BACHELOR OF  
SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

**May, 2025**

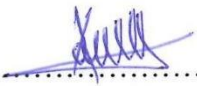


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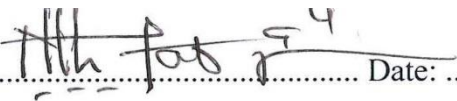
## DECLARATION

I **AMONGIN LONA EDONGOT** declare to the best of my knowledge that this research report is my original work and it has never been submitted to any institution of higher learning for any academic award.

Signature: .....  ..... Date: 25/6/2025 .....

## APPROVAL

This is to certify that this research report has been under my supervision and I approve that it is now ready for examination as a requirement for the award of a Bachelor's Degree of Social Work and Social Administration of Uganda Christian University.

Signature:  Date: 26/05/2025

**Mr. NUWAGABA NABOTH**

**Supervisor**

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this research report to my beloved parent Mrs. Alice Edongot who laid a foundation in terms of financial support towards my studies. May God bless the work of her hands.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Great thanks go to the Almighty God for the protection and giving me the wisdom that enabled me finish this research report.

Special thanks also go to my supervisor Mr. Nuwagaba Naboth for guiding me right from topic selection to report completion.

My heartfelt appreciation also goes to my family members for the care, guidance, encouragement and financial contribution towards my studies.

I also appreciate my friends who in one way or the other made a great contribution towards the success of this work.

I am also grateful to the study participants for providing information necessary for the study.

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ACRONYMS**

CDO	Community Development Officer
NAADS	National agricultural advisory services
NGO	Non- Government Organization
PEAP	Poverty Eradication Action Plan
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
WWDs	Women with Disabilities
OWC	Operation Wealth Creation
SAGE	Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment
YLP	Youth Livelihood Program
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Standards
UWEP	Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program
PMA	Plan for Modernization of Agriculture
MoGLSD	Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development

## ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study was to investigate the participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty eradication programmes in Kumi Sub-County, Kanyum District. The specific objectives of the study were; to find out the existing Government poverty eradication programmes in Kanyum Sub-County, the level of participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty eradication programmes and the challenges faced by women with disabilities while participating in Government poverty eradication programmes. The study used a descriptive research design with a qualitative approach and it employed purposive sampling technique. A total of 25 participants were involved in the study and these included; 20 persons with disabilities, 1 CDO and 4 local leaders. A semi-structured interview guide was used to collect information from participants.

The study revealed that the existing government poverty eradication programmes in Kanyum Sub-County are; Parish development models, Special Grant to persons with disabilities, Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) and Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE). The study further revealed that the participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty eradication programs is very low in Kanyum Sub-County. Majority of Participants stated that very few of them take part in government poverty eradication programmes. It was established that the major challenges experienced by women with disabilities while participating in Government poverty eradication programs include; unmodified environment, negative attitudes towards women with disabilities by ordinary people and implementers of government eradication programmes, too much requirements for one to engage in the programme and programmatic factors such as scheduling of activities in inconvenient time and places were that. The recommendations that came out of the study were; sensitization of WWDs about Government poverty eradication programmes, training implementers of Government poverty eradication how to handle WWDs, modification of the environment in all public facilities so that WWDs can easily access all the places including those where poverty eradication programmes are conducted from and WWDs should form groups in order to benefit from poverty eradication programmes.

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **1.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents the background of the study, problem statement, and purpose of the study, research objectives, and research questions, scope of the study and significance of the study.

### **1.1 Background to the study**

Women with disabilities are one of the most marginalized and vulnerable groups in society, facing multiple forms of discrimination and exclusion. Globally, women with disabilities face discrimination on the basis of gender and disability and this presents barriers in accessing equal opportunities which deprives them the full enjoyment and realization of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. As a result of society negative attitudes based on gender and disability, Women with disabilities have low levels of participation in poverty reduction programs than both men with disabilities and non-disabled women which worsen their poverty levels (World Report Disability, 2019).

According to the World Health Organization (2018), women with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty than their non-disabled counterparts, with poverty rates among women with disabilities ranging from 20% to 50% higher. Furthermore, a study by the International Labour Organization found that women with disabilities are significantly less likely to be employed than men with disabilities or women without disabilities. This lack of employment opportunities further contributes to their economic insecurity and exclusion from poverty reduction programs. In addition, women with disabilities are often excluded from decision-making processes and are not adequately represented in poverty reduction programs. This lack of representation further marginalizes them and limits their ability to advocate for their rights and needs.

Women with disabilities face unique challenges when it comes to participating in government poverty reduction programs. Despite efforts to promote inclusivity and accessibility, statistics show that women with disabilities are significantly underrepresented in these programs.

According to World Bank (2018), women with disabilities are less likely to participate in poverty reduction programs compared to their non-disabled counterparts. This disparity can be attributed

to a variety of factors, including lack of accessibility, discrimination, and social stigma. For example, many government programs are not designed to accommodate the specific needs of women with disabilities, such as accessible transportation or communication aids. Additionally, women with disabilities often face discrimination and prejudice, which can deter them from seeking assistance. In addition, women with disabilities are often excluded from decision-making processes and are not adequately represented in poverty reduction programs. This lack of representation further marginalizes them and limits their ability to advocate for their rights and needs. International policies like the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2006), standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities (1993), Beijing treaty (2004), among others, have provisions to promote involvement of persons with disabilities in community affairs. However, persons with disabilities throughout the world have failed to benefit from international, regional and national legal standard arrangements. Instead systematic prejudice and discrimination against them continues to result in multiple and extreme violation of their rights and freedom to participate in development avenues (Byabagambi, 2016).

In Uganda, the Government has put in place the legal framework to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities in as far as participation in government poverty reduction programmes is concerned. This includes the ratification of the UN Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities, provision of disability friendly clauses in the 1995 Constitution, the Local Government Act (1997), Equal Opportunities Act (2007), and the Persons with Disabilities Act (2020). The Government of Uganda in its effort to fight poverty especially among vulnerable groups such as PWDS has come up with a number of different anti-poverty programs and the major ones include; Parish development model, Emyoga, Operation Wealth Creation, Northern Uganda Action Fund, Special Disability grant, Youth livelihood program and Uganda Women Enterprise Program among others(Okello,2018).

Despite such efforts of Government, women with disabilities are often excluded from meaningful participation in government poverty reduction program in various places. For example, a study conducted by Okello (2018) revealed that most youths with disabilities are not involved in the youth livelihood program due to high cost sharing and selection criteria, lack of information, and negative attitude from ordinary persons. Similarly, Namukasa & Atwijukire (2012) carried out a

study on the performance of government poverty reduction interventions on the lives of persons with disabilities in Ntungamo, Mpigi, Kaberamaido and Dokolo Districts and they reported low participation of women with disabilities in poverty reduction programs. This was attributed to lack of information, society negative attitude, limited funding, mobility challenges and severity of the disabilities. But for the case of Kanyum Sub-County, Kumi district not much has been documented on the participation of women with disabilities in poverty reduction program. It is against this background that this study sought to find out participation of women with disabilities in government poverty reduction programs in Kanyum Sub-County, Kumi district.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

Participation of women with disabilities in government poverty reduction program is of great importance as far as addressing poverty among them is concerned. The government of Uganda has come up with a variety of poverty reduction programs such as Parish development model, Emyoga, Operation Wealth Creation, Northern Uganda Social Action Fund, Special Disability grant, Youth livelihood program and Uganda Women Enterprise Program among others. These are meant to be engaged in by all people regardless of their individual differences. Despite the existence of these Government initiatives, it is not known whether women with disabilities participate in poverty reduction program in Knyum Sub-County. Several studies have been done on Women with disabilities and government poverty reduction program in various places, however, such studies did not examine areas of participation of Women with disabilities s in government poverty reduction programs in Kanyum Sub-County, Kumi District in particular. This study therefore, sought to bridge the knowledge gap by exploring the participation of women with disabilities in government poverty reduction programs in Kanyum Sub-County, Kumi District.

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

### **1.3.1 General objective of the Study**

The general objective of the study was to explore the participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty reduction programs in Kanyum Sub-County, Kumi District.

### **1.3.2 Specific objectives of the Study**

The study specific objectives were;

1. To find out existing Government poverty reduction programs in Kanyum Sub-County.
2. To establish the level of participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty reduction programs.
3. To examine the challenges faced by women with disabilities while participating in Government poverty reduction programs.

### **1.4 Research Questions**

The study was guided by the following research questions;

1. What were the existing Government poverty reduction programs in Kanyum Sub-County?
2. What was the level of participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty reduction programs?
3. What challenges do women with disabilities experience while participating in Government poverty reduction programs?

### **1.5 Scope of the study**

#### **1.5.1 Geographical scope**

The study was conducted within Kanyum sub county, Kumi District. It is located in the Eastern region of Uganda. It is Bordered by Ngora District to the north, Soroti District to the West and Bukedea District to the East (Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2014). It was chosen because it is among the districts with a high girl child school dropout rate record in Uganda.

#### **1.5.2 Content scope**

The study will be carried out from Kanyum Sub-County, Kumi district and the study will focus on the existing Government poverty reduction programs, the level of participation of Women with disabilities in Government poverty reduction programs and the challenges faced by Women with disabilities while participating in Government poverty reduction programs.

### **1.5.3 Time Scope**

The study was carried out within a period 3 months from December 2024 to February 2025. This period was chosen because it was the period when the researcher was get time during the weekends to go to the field and collect data.

### **1.6 Significance of the study**

1. The study was helpful to Organizations both local and international working in the area of disability by providing them information on the participation level of Women with disabilities s in poverty reduction programs. This will help such agencies to come up with programs and appropriate strategies to promote participation of Women with disabilities s in poverty reduction programs.
2. The findings of the study were helpful to Kanyum Sub-County Local government authorities especially the CDO in understanding participation level of Women with disabilities s in government poverty reduction programs and make appropriate measures to enhance participation of Women with disabilities s in government poverty reduction programs.
3. The study was beneficial to other future researchers who may wish to conduct a study in a similar or related topic by using findings of this study as a source of literature.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents the literature that other researchers have put forward that are in line with the objectives of the study: existing Government poverty reduction programmes in Kanyum Sub-County, level of participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty reduction programs, challenges do persons with disabilities experience while participating in Government poverty reduction programmes and gaps in the existing literature.

#### **2.1 Existing government poverty reduction programmes in Uganda**

This section explores the available Government poverty reduction programmes in Uganda and the participation of persons with disabilities in such programmes.

##### **2.1.1 Special Grant to persons with disabilities (PWDs)**

In 2009, the government of Uganda through the Ministry of Gender, Labor, and Social Development (MGLSD), introduced the special grant for PWDs. The objective of the grant is to improve incomes of disabled persons through creation of employment and increased productivity. The fund which initially benefited 48 districts has since then been expanded to cover all the districts and increased from 1.5 billion to 3.0 billion annually (National Council of Disability, 2018). Disability advocates have argued that the money allocated is too small to support the huge numbers of persons with disabilities. In 2019, Parliament made the same call to the Government (Mufumba 2017). In 2015, the then Minister of Labour Gender and Social Development, The Ministry of Gender Labor, and Social Development announced that the Government was set to increase the funds allocated to special grants for Persons with Disabilities. with effect from next financial year (2016/2017) (Mufumba, 2017).

The Ministry's announcement came as an assurance and commitment to the disability community. Despite the Government's involvement, the budgetary allocation has not changed. The commitment by Government and legislature demonstrates that the debate on disability was starting to turn towards the social model of disability. Therefore, the Government needs to commit to

implementing policy solutions that enhance funding to persons with disabilities programs (Byamukama, 2020).

A study was conducted by *National Council of Disability (NCD)* (2018) on the performance of special grants for persons with disabilities in improving their livelihoods in Uganda. The findings reveal that the special grant is a national program that operates in all districts of Uganda; the government of Uganda allocates Ushs.3 billion that is shared by all districts; these funds are allocated through District Special Grant Committees and targets the most vulnerable Persons with Disabilities who have organized themselves into groups. The most notable achievements from the grant were; improved livelihoods through grant funds to start businesses; group formation and social interactions; Learning from each other's simple business skills; good saving culture and some beneficiaries are able to pay school fees for their children; able to access basic health needs.

### **2.1.2 Operation wealth creation**

Operation Wealth Creation through National Agriculture Advisory Services (NAADS) was set up as an intervention to support households with various agricultural inputs to enhance household incomes, food security and agricultural transformation (Barnabas, 2019). Under the operation wealth creation, homesteads with less than four acres are supported to become food secure and engage in high-value crops like horticulture and rearing livestock like poultry, zero-grazing dairy, apiary and piggery for non-Muslims. The four-acre model complemented by other Operation Wealth Creation (OWC) initiatives involving systematic distribution of improved seeds, planting and breeding materials, the single spine extension services, improved post-harvest handling storage and value addition was the main strategy for commercializing and transforming small-holder and peasant agriculture in the country (Barnabas, 2019).

Birung et al., (2021) conducted a study on perception of People with Disabilities towards Operation Wealth Creation Services in Masindi District and the findings revealed that Operation Wealth Creation exist in Masindi district and most people with disabilities (71.21%) positively perceived services by the Operation Wealth creation in Masindi district. On contrary, 28.79% perceived it negatively. On the other hand, an audit on the state of equal opportunities in the implementation of the OWC which was conducted in 2016 revealed that majority of the people (89%) were aware of the programme and 59% of the Persons with disabilities respondents

interviewed had benefited from the inputs of OWC Programme. Misinformation on how to access the programme is a major reason for limited access by persons with disabilities to the programme funds.

### **2.1.3 Youth livelihood programme**

In the year 2013, the Government of Uganda through Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD) introduced the Youth Livelihood Programme (YLP) to empower the youths in Uganda to harness their socio-economic potential, increase self-employment opportunities and income levels (MoGLSD, 2013). The programme operates on a revolving fund arrangement where the youth access soft loans with zero interest if paid within the first 12 months to a maximum of 12.5 million per group. Under this arrangement, the repaid funds are ploughed back to finance new groups within the district. Based on the Youth Livelihood Programme document for Uganda under the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development, the responsibility of implementation of youth livelihood rests in hands of youth interest groups. Under supervision of technical officials from the district or sub-county, the youth management committee is mandated to manage the project implementation on behalf of the group. The youth project management committee convenes a youth interest group meeting on regular basis at least once a month to approve activity plans and have an inclusive involvement in the project management (MoGLSD, 2013).

However, Okello (2018) conducted a study on the participation of youth with disabilities (YWDs) in the youth livelihood programme in, Kole District and reports that majority constituting 89% (YWDs) are not involved in the YLP. Only 11% percentages are integrated into the existing group mainly youths with physical impairment and hard of hearing. A number of factors affected participation of youth with disabilities which included lack of information, high cost sharing and selection criteria. Furthermore, a study by NUDIPU (2018) identifies lack of information as a key deterrent of youth with disabilities' participation in the programme. The programme is demand driven yet many youths with disabilities are not aware of its special provisions for them. Furthermore, there have been inadequate efforts to establish mechanisms that ensure youth with disabilities' participation in the program.

### **2.1.4 Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE)**

Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE) is part of the social protection programmes implemented by the government through the ministry of gender, labour and Social development designed to protect the elderly with no other means of adequate support and incapable of contributing adequately for their social protection benefits. The grant was designed to reduce old age poverty by providing a minimum level of income to the elderly (65 years and above). By 2016, there were 125,000 beneficiaries with a large reduction in poverty registered. Over a 2-year period, the poverty rate of households receiving Sage fund fell from 49% to 33%, the poverty gap by 43% and poverty severity by 46%. The sage has also had an impact on food security and employment within communities. The proportion of beneficiary households experiencing little or no hunger grew from 45% to 62%. It's noted that the benefits of the grant go beyond the elderly to other vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities. It is important to note that older persons are physically weak and often handicapped by other vulnerabilities including physical disability.

A disability assessment of beneficiaries of the Sage found that 84% of beneficiaries had visual impairment; 54% had hearing difficulty; 72% had mobility difficulty; 10.6% had communication difficulty; 61.5% had cognitive difficulty, and 33.2% had self-care difficulty (NUDIPU, 2018). Social assistance grants for Empowerment (SAGE) were aimed at transferring cash to shs. 95,000 households of the poor, including an Old Age Grant and a Vulnerable Families Grant, each household benefitting shs. 24,000 per month(Maureen,2015). ‘

### **2.1.5 Women Entrepreneurship Program (UWEP)**

The Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) is another initiative of the Government of Uganda implemented as a Rolling Programme under the MGLSD. The programme which began in the Financial Year 2015/2016, was designed to address the challenges women face in undertaking economically viable enterprises including the limited access to affordable credit, limited technical knowledge and skills for business development, limited access to markets as well as information regarding business opportunities (MGLSD, 2019). UWEP therefore provides the opportunity to enhance financial inclusion, promote entrepreneurship development and effective participation of women in the economic development of the country. The Programme which is

envisaged to contribute to the creation of self-employment and wealth at the household level, comprises of several activities that include mobilization and sensitization of communities, training and capacity development, access to credit, access to appropriate technology and access to markets.

NUDIPU (2018) reports that UWEP guidelines are not favourable to women with disabilities. The requirement that beneficiaries under women group must be bona fide residents of a particular village is unrealistic given the fact that it is difficult to have a village with the required number of women with disabilities. This leaves them with one option of joining mainstream groups where many of them are unlikely to have a voice.

### **2.1.6 Emyoga programme**

Emyooga is a word derived from a local Ugandan dialect (Runyankole) to refer to specialized skills enterprises/groups. It is a presidential initiative aimed at wealth and job creation. Emyoga was launched by H.E the President of Uganda in August 2019 as part of Government's continuous strategies to transform 68% of Ugandan homesteads from subsistence to market-oriented production. It is aimed at increased employment/ job opportunities; increased access to specialized financial services to rural areas particularly to women/youth/PWDs; improved household income of the project beneficiaries and enhanced entrepreneurial capacity of different categories through sensitization, skilling and tooling. The Finance Ministry initially allocated UGX 140 billion seed capital to support youth and women entrepreneurs under the programme, and government has now finalized its allocation to the entire program in the amount of UGX 260 billion. The money is to be used as a revolving fund to boost entrepreneurs organized in SACCOS spanning 18 categories of Ugandans involved in similar business activities including Boda Bodas, Women Entrepreneurs, carpenters, Salon Operators, Taxi Operators, Restaurant Owners, Welders, Market Vendors, Youth Leaders, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), Produce Dealers, Mechanics, Tailors, Journalists, Performing Artists, Veterans, Fishermen among others (Micro finance support centre,2020).

Each member of a group will pay membership and subscription fees as agreed upon by the group. Both membership and annual subscription fees payable by each parish association to the constituency SACCO shall not exceed UGX.20, 000/-. Each member group is eligible to receive 30 million UGX seed capital under the program. The Emyoga initiative is financed by the Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development through the Department of Microfinance. The

Microfinance Support Centre Ltd (MSC) is responsible for the planning, management, budgeting, reporting and accountability of all funds disbursed for the programme, including disbursements to the groups. District Task Forces are charged with mobilizing communities to participate in the programme. The identification of individuals subscribing to a given category or enterprise was done at the village level with support from the LC 1 leadership (Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development, 2020) The program has been criticized by a number of people especially members of parliament claiming that it does not give clear criteria how beneficiaries are selected. A section of MPs called for the suspension of Emyoga program until Government clarifies on the way they select the beneficiaries (Parliament, 2021).

## **2.2 Level of participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty reduction programmes.**

This section explores level of participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty reduction programmes such as Emyoga, operation wealth creation, Special Grant to persons with disabilities, Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE), Women Entrepreneurship Program (UWEP) and Youth livelihood programme.

A study conducted by Kobuhwezi (2018) on operation wealth creation and livelihoods of people with physical disabilities in Kamukuzi Mbarara Municipality Mbarara District. The results reveal that PWDs are less involved in operation wealth creation programme. This is attributed to Programme design which does not favor their involvement and PWDs having not been made aware of the benefits. The findings also indicate that to a large extent, OWC has not changed the livelihoods of people with physical disabilities including women with disabilities. Kobuhwezi further explains that the challenges faced in promoting livelihoods of people with physical disabilities through OWC have ranged from physical disability to discrimination and lack of information.

Okello (2018) conducted a study on the participation of youth with disabilities in the youth livelihood programme in Kole District. One of the objective of the study was to examine the extent to which PWDs are involved in youth livelihood programme. One of the key findings reveals that majority constituting 89% of youth with disabilities are not involved in the youth livelihood programme. Only 11% percentages are integrated into the existing group mainly youth with

physical impairment and hard of hearing. Many factors contributed to their not being involved. Among others includes lack of information, high cost sharing and selection criteria.

Byabagambi (2016) investigated the social constraints affecting participation of persons with disabilities in development programmes in Luuka District and reports that some existing programmes do not cater for participation of Persons with Disabilities. Byabagambi therefore recommends that Persons with Disabilities should have their programmes designed separately from that of the general community. This implies that most community development programmes do not cater for needs of the Persons with Disabilities when designing such programmes. This deliberately minimizes the full participation of such persons in such programmes and this largely deprives them chance to fully utilize the benefits of such programmes. This therefore implies that to have effective participation some programmes should involve Persons with Disabilities when designing such programmes to have their effective participation. Similarly, NUDIPU (2016) conducted a survey in Mpigi and Mbarara districts to establish the level of inclusion of YWDs in government poverty reduction programs such as Operation Wealth Creation, Youth Livelihood, and Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program). Based on survey results, 76% of the YWDs interviewed had attained at most a primary-level education, whereas the non-disabled youth were better-educated and more competitive (Ssenoga, 2016). Also, YWDs are not aware of the different programmes existing within their communities and, thus, were not accessing them (Yedo, 2016).

According to UBOS (2018), the Government of Uganda has implemented several livelihood programs targeting both persons with disabilities and the most vulnerable people. These include Operation Wealth Creation (OWC), the Social Assistance Grants for Empowerment (SAGE), the Youth Livelihood Program (YLP), the Women Entrepreneurship Program (UWEP), and the Special Grant for Persons with Disabilities. One in every ten persons with disabilities in Uganda (13 percent) have attempted to receive social transformation, and a half (50 percent) feel poorly represented. On the other hand, thirty-five percent believe that due to their disability, they can receive special care and social transfer (UBOS, 2018:37). The extent of unequal treatment and awareness need to be addressed for all those who would wish to benefit from Government programs.

National Council of Disability (2012) conducted a study on the performance of government poverty reduction interventions on the lives of persons with disabilities. The findings show that half of the PWDs interviewed had benefited from the special grant compared to 25.8percent of those who had accessed NAADS program. The least accessed programmes were the Special Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE), SACCOs and CDD. The study further established that PWDs have benefited from the government development programmes through increased incomes, payment of school fees for their children, accessing medical care, and building a house among others. Other achievements noted were access to enough food (food security), knowledge and self-employment. With increase in incomes, PWDs are able to access basic necessities like food, shelter, clothing and medical care.

### **2.3 Challenges towards participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty reduction programmes**

This section explores challenges towards participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty reduction programmes.

Byabagambi (2016); Bailey (2011) found out that persons with disabilities are discriminated when it comes to involving themselves in community development projects, for instance allowing them to talk in meetings, accessing some community services. Byabagambi further found out that ordinary people have negative attitudes towards PWDs and they are generally considered as “second hand citizens” and it has been continually voiced out since the PWDs are exempted from direct tax, therefore considered not to talk in public. Similarly, Okello (2018) observes that low self-esteem is one of challenges to participation of PWDS including women with disabilities in youth livelihood programme. This was due to the negative perception of PWDs and misconception held by the community. Okello adds that they look at them as less productive, than their peers; require too much assistance. This affects their image for social integration and participation. Ignorant about disability result into the needs of YWDs unrealized, leading to a low self-esteem, self-worthy and isolation. All these painted on YWDs, make them feel less competent and believe to have no confidence of themselves hence inferiority complex. For YWDs, exclusion, isolation and abuse of opportunities are daily experience. It has been observed that exclusion can lead to feeling of helplessness and low morale.

Alinaitwe (2017) conducted a study on the contribution of the youth livelihood programme towards youths' income in Kawempe Division, Kampala District and found out that the major challenges to the YLP were; delays in disbursing the money to the youth groups, giving the youths small fractions of money out of what they requested, and corruption from the officials from the government. Generally, those were the challenges facing the YLP from the government side towards the youths. The findings further indicate that at group level, the most groups complained of the group leaders embezzling the funds given to them and yet the all members of particular groups would be held accountable. Lack of individual commitment, expensive raw materials and brokers to the youth funds were among the challenges that the youths faced. (Alinaitwe, 2017)

Alma (2012) observes that physical barriers where he explained that “These are structural obstacles in natural or man-made environments that prevent or block mobility (moving around in the environment) or access. These include: Steps and curbs that block a person with mobility impairment from entering a building or using a sidewalk; Mammography equipment that requires a woman with mobility impairment to stand; and Absence of a weight scale that accommodates wheelchairs or others who have difficulty stepping up.

Similarly, a study by National Council of Disability (2012) identifies mobility challenge as one of the factors limiting effective participation of PWDs in government programmes. As earlier noted, most PWDs find challenges in accessing training venues, meetings and follow up. It is elaborated that whereas ordinary people may not find it as a challenge to walk 2-3 kilometres, PWDs find it a big challenge. By the time the person reaches there, the meeting was over” said of the respondent. To make matters worse, PWDs find it very hard to access assistive devices like wheel chairs, white canes and crutches among others.

Equally Hanafin et al., (2007) explain that the persons with motor impairment experience harder times from the infrastructure and the physical environment. They assert that accessibility is a problem, particularly for those with reduced mobility or in wheelchairs. Fichten (2008) argue that people with physical disabilities may only be able to access a fraction of places that people without disabilities may access. It is important that the relationship between the work environment and the participation for persons with disabilities as important to consider as they affect each other (Etscheidt, 2006).

Tabuga, (2013) cites transportation; transportation factors are due to a lack of adequate transportation that interferes with a person's ability to be independent and to function in society. Tabuga also adds that transportation barriers include; lack of access to accessible or convenient transportation for people who are not able to drive because of vision or cognitive impairments. Likewise, public transportation may be unavailable or at inconvenient distances or locations which inhibit participation of PWDS in PEAP including youth livelihood programme.

Akindola (2009) observes that education influences disabled farmers' role in farm decision making and that those PWDS with little education register relatively low decision-making and participation in agricultural development programme. Akindola therefore conclude that illiteracy poses a big constraint to PWDS including women with disabilities participation in rural development programme.

Saito (2010), states that entries into activities that provide higher return depend on dissemination of information about such opportunities and on well-functioning labour and capital markets. One of the main sources of information is formal education. There is evidence that better educated farmers are more likely to enter into export agriculture because education appears to increase the ability and willingness to reallocate resource efficiently when or technology change. In rural Africa, because PWDS have significantly less education than able bodied. This contributes the majority of agricultural labour. This low level of education inhibits the pace of development and needs to be addressed.

Kobuhwezi (2018) points out that the nature of disability can hinder participation of PWDS. Due to their different disabilities such as difficulties in movement, visual among other defects, PWDS are unable to perform their tasks as expected. They thus have physical limitations with movement to and from the service centres and likely not to be timely in accessing the related services. This consequently affects their ability to tap the opportunities from livelihood programmes. Similarly, Okello (2018) reports that the nature of impairment poses further a big challenge. Those persons with severe disabilities are always limited by their disabilities. Their needs and interests are always ignored, regarded as hopeless and therefore unfit to do any task.

## **2.4 Gaps identified in existing literature**

Several studies, such as Kobuhwezi (2018) and Okello (2018), identify lack of information as a key factor limiting participation in the programs. However, the specific mechanisms of how information is disseminated and the role of community awareness are not explored in detail

In addition to that, Byabagambi (2016) highlights that existing programs do not cater to the needs of persons with disabilities. However, there is little elaboration on what specific adjustments are needed in program design to improve accessibility for women with disabilities.

Some studies mention social discrimination and stigma as barriers to participation but do not explore how cultural norms and attitudes toward disability, especially among women, affect their participation in government programs.

The studies mentioned in excerpt (such as Okello 2018 and Kobuhwezi 2018) discuss barriers to participation for PWDs in general, without delving deeply into the unique experiences of women with disabilities.

The literature often mentions exclusion and discrimination but doesn't fully examine the social and economic isolation of women with disabilities in these programs, which may not only stem from physical barriers but also from societal stigma, which reinforces exclusion.

Studies like those by Alinaitwe (2017) and Tabuga (2013) highlight challenges with corruption, delays in disbursing funds, and lack of accessible transportation. However, these are not linked back specifically to how women with disabilities are disproportionately affected by these challenges.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents the research design, population, sampling procedure, methods of data collection, procedure of data collection, methods of data analysis and ethical consideration.

#### **3.1 Research design**

According to Kombo and Tromp (2006), a research design is a plan or structured framework of how one intends to conduct the research process in order to solve the research problem and to expand knowledge and understanding.

In this study, a descriptive research design with a qualitative approach will be employed. According to Nworgu (2006) a descriptive research design is one in which group of people or items is studied and data analyzed from a few people or items considered to be the representative of the venture group. It aims at collecting data on and describing in a systematic manner, the characteristics, features or facts about a given population. Qualitative research approach refers to an approach that allows the researcher to examine people's experience in detail by using a specific set of research methods. This approach will be relevant in getting detailed information regarding the participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty reduction programmes in Kanyum sub-county, Kumi district.

#### **3.2 Area of study**

The study was conducted in Kanyum Sub-County, Kumi district located in Eastern Uganda. The district is bordered by Ngora District to the north, Soroti District to the West and Bukedea District to the East. This area was selected because of having women with disabilities whose participation in poverty reduction programme is not clearly known.

#### **3.3 Study population**

Bryman (2008) defined a study population as a group of people that a researcher has in mind from whom he or she can obtain information for the study. Therefore, the study population will include; women with disabilities, Community Development Officer (CDO) and local leaders.

Women with disabilities were involved in the study because they are target population under investigation. Therefore, they had first-hand information about themselves which is necessary for the study.

Community Development Officer was also involved because they are knowledgeable about poverty reduction programmes. Therefore, they had relevant information about involvement of women with disabilities in government poverty reduction programmes.

Local leaders were as well involved because they represented the people including women with disabilities therefore, they had information about involvement of women with disabilities in government poverty reduction programmes which is relevant for the study.

### **3.4 Sample size**

According to Burns and Grove (2013), sample size is the number of participants drawn from the target population and used in the study to give information required. Kanyum Sub-County, Kumi district has a population of 153 women with disabilities and out of these, 20 women with disabilities will be involved in the study. The study will also include 1 CDO and 4 local leaders making a total of 25 participants to be involved in the study.

### **3.5 Sampling techniques**

The researcher used purposive sampling and Snow ball sampling techniques in the study.

Purposive sampling is a sampling technique in which the researcher chooses individuals knowledgeable about a certain aspect to participate in the study (Cresswell, 2014). In this study, the CDO and local leaders were purposively selected because they were knowledgeable about available Government poverty reduction programmes.

Snow ball sampling is where participants recruit other participants for a test or study and it is used where the potential participants are hard to find (Cresswell, 2014). In this study, snow ball sampling was used to identify women with disabilities who helped the researcher to identify other participants of the same characteristics.

### **3.6 Methods of data collection**

In this study, interviews were used. According to Kombo and Trompo (2006), an interview is a face-to-face oral/verbal dialogue between a researcher and a respondent where ideas are exchanged and recorded. A semi structured interview was used because it allows for a two-way communication and this provides viable and detailed information, helps in seeking information of individual, it is flexible and help to make adjustment in the questions. This method will be applied to all participants

### **3.7 Data collection instruments**

In this study, the researcher printed out the question guides containing open ended questions for the various categories of respondents and answers written down in an empty piece of paper and then entered in a laptop for analysis.

### **3.8 Procedure of data collection**

An introductory letter was obtained from the Department of Social work and Social Administration of Uganda Christian University and then presented to the Community development officer (CDO) of Kumi district to seek permission to conduct the study. Targeted respondents were met and the researcher made appointment with respondents. During individual interview, the researcher collected data by recording and taking notes of the views of the participant. Then collected data was analyzed and a research report presented at the end.

### **3.9 Data analysis**

Data collected through interviews by taking notes and recordings was transcribed into word processing format. Raw data obtained was edited, checked for accuracy, consistency and completeness. It was then analyzed by generating themes and sub themes according to research objectives and backing up with quotations from respondents. Finally, the responses were integrated in the report for presentation.

### **3.10 Ethical considerations**

First, approval to conduct this study was obtained from the relevant authorities at Uganda Christian University University. Then the researcher seeked permission from the CDO of Kumi district.

During data collection, permission was sought from each participant before recording the interview session. The researcher explained to the participants the purpose of the study and nature of data collection in the language that they understand. It was intended to ensure that the participants decide in full knowledge of the risks and benefits of the study. Then the participants decided whether to participate in the study or not.

The researcher ensured that the information got from the participants is not disclosed to any other unauthorized individual and this was explained to the participants.

The researcher also ensured that participants have the right to determine their own participation in research and the right to refuse to participate.

The researcher also protected the identity of participants at all times by use of Pseudo names such as participant 1, 2 and so on but not using their real names.

**CHAPTER FOUR**  
**PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF FINDINGS**

**4.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents and analyses the result of the research findings. The purpose of the study was to explore the participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty reduction programmes in Kanyum Sub-County, Kumi district. It is organized according to the study objectives: to find out existing Government poverty reduction programmes in Kanyum Sub-County, the level of participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty reduction programmes and the challenges faced by women with disabilities while participating in Government poverty reduction programmes. The data was collected using semi-structured interview with women with disabilities, Community Development Officer (CDO) and local leaders.

**4.1 Description of the participants**

**4.1.1 Gender of the respondents**

**Table1: Distribution of respondents by gender**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Male	4	16
Female	21	84
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Primary Data,2025**

According to table 1 above, majority of respondents (84%) were females and males were 16%. This implies that the study was dominated by women since the major focus of study was women with disabilities.

#### 4.1.2 Age of the respondents

**Table 2: Distribution of respondents by age**

<b>Age bracket</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
18-20	3	12
21-30	5	20
31-40	9	36
41-50	6	24
51+	2	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Primary Data,2025**

The results in table 2 show that respondents aged 18-20 were 3(12%), those aged 21-30 were 5(20%), those aged 31-40 were 9(36%), those aged 41-50 were 6(24%) and those aged 51 years and above were 2(8%). From these findings it can be observed that majority of the respondents were mature and knowledgeable enough to respond to the questions appropriately.

#### 4.1.3 Marital status of respondents

**Table 3: Showing the marital status of the respondents**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages (%)</b>
Married	8	32
Single	13	52
Divorced	4	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Primary Data,2025**

Table 3 above shows that the biggest number of respondents (52%) were single, followed by 32% who were married and 16% were divorced. This shows that at least the study covered all the categories of women and thus understanding wide ranges of situations they all experience.

#### 4.1.4 Level of education

**Table 4: Respondents' level of education**

Level of education	Frequency	Percentage
None	4	16
Primary	9	36
Secondary	7	28
Tertiary/University	5	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Primary Data,2025**

Results in table 4 show that 6(20%) of respondents never had any educational qualification, 11(37%) stopped in primary seven, 8(27%) ended in secondary and those with post-secondary qualification were 5(16%).

#### 4.1.5 Employment status of respondents

**Table 5: Showing employment status of respondents**

Occupation	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Employed	8	40
Unemployed	12	60
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source: Primary Data,2025**

According to table 5 above, majority of respondents (60%) were unemployed and 40% were employed. This implies that most women with disabilities had no source of income.

#### **4. 2 Objective one findings: Existing existing Government poverty reduction programmes in Kanyum Sub-County**

This section sought to establish the existing poverty eradication programmes in Kanyum Sub-County. When the participants were asked about the existing poverty eradication programme, they mentioned Special Grant for persons with disabilities, Parish development model, Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) and Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE). The details are presented below.

Most participants mentioned Special Grant to persons with disabilities as one of the poverty eradication programmes in the area. It was revealed that Kumi as a district receives 30 million as disability grant per financial year which is given to persons with disabilities in groups doing some economic activities. A woman with disability said:

*“I belong to a group where the government gave us 5million for economic empowerment through disability grant and we have used this money to start poultry keeping project”.*

Another participant mentioned:

*As a district we get 30 million as disability grant every year and after receiving it we advise people with disabilities to form groups of around 8-10 people, come up economic activity with clear constitution guiding the group, then we give them some portion of the money(CDO).*

Similarly, another woman stated:

*“After forming a group of 9 people with disabilities, we requested for 4 million shillings as disability fund from the office of CAO and started piggery farm. So far, we are doing well”.*

It also emerged from some participants that Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE) program exists in Kanyum Sub-County. They explained that under SAGE, elderly people above 80years are given one hundred twenty thousand shillings after every six months and this money is distributed by local leaders. However, none of the people with disabilities interviewed ever received the money since they were below 80 years. This was complimented by the CDO who said that:

*‘We have SAGE programme but unfortunately there are very few people who are above 80years to benefit from it. Actually, I have a list of beneficiaries but you hardly see persons with disabilities (CDO).*

Another participant had this to say:

*“They always give out money to elderly persons and for me they refused to give me because am 67 years yet they only give individuals who are 80 years and above”*

Some participants (7) mentioned that Parish Development Model also exists in Kanyum Sub-County as one of the poverty eradication programmes. It was reported that under this program, money is given to people in groups having an income generating activity at a parish level. This was further more highlighted by the local leader who said that:

*“Parish development program started last year in 2022 in this area and we have been advising people to form groups and benefit from it and actually many people formed groups to benefit from it”.*

*“We have attended several meetings both at the sub county and the district discussing about the sensitization of community members in Kanyum Sub-County concerning Parish Development Model”.*

Another local leader mentioned:

*“Parish development Model started in this area immediately after Emyioga program phase out. As leaders we started sensitizing people about the programme and how they can benefit from it”.*

#### **4.3 Objective two findings: The level of participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty reduction programmes**

Participants were further asked whether women with disabilities participate in Government poverty eradication programmes and majority of the participants (17) stated that very few of them take part in the existing programmes and out of 20 WWDs interviewed, only 11 were participating in existing Government poverty eradication programs. In this case 7 were participating in special grant program, 2 in UWEP and 2 in Parish Development Model. One of the participants had this to say:

*“Honestly speaking, most persons with disabilities do not involve in existing Government poverty eradication programs because these programmes have preset requirements one has to meet before receiving funds for some programme. For example, to get funds for Special Grant for persons with disabilities, you must be in a group of 10 people having a constitution governing your group as well as having a project. Such demands make it hard for people with disabilities meet”.*

Another participant said:

*“I have never participated in any of the government programmes you are talking about because me I thought such programs are only for able bodied people”.*

Participants also revealed that some persons with disabilities participate in Government poverty eradication programs during initial stages of projects but stop involving in such projects along the way. they explained that some PWDs engage in forming groups to receive funds but due to delayed release of funds as well as taking long to benefit from the projects makes them stop taking part in such projects. This was supplemented by the CDO who lamented that:

*“You see our people are not patient enough. They want to get money so fast without doing anything but the moment they do not see any benefit in a short period, they decline to participate in programmes that take some time for one to benefit from” (CDO)*

Another woman with disability said that:

*“I remember the CDO came to our area telling us to form groups and get disability grant, then we formed the group, after we were told to draft a constitution, when they told us to open up a bank account, at that point for me I decided to leave the group and concentrate on other things because I was just wasting my time for nothing”.*

Some participants revealed that women with disabilities are not aware of the existence of government poverty eradication development programmes because the means used to sensitize these programmes such as radios, television and newspapers are rarely used by persons with disabilities. A woman with disability lamented:

*“I just hear about parish development model but I don’t understand what it is all about because I just stay home and no one has ever explained to me anything about it. Therefore,*

*am not sure where the programme is ongoing in our area or in the neighboring communities”.*

Another local leader had this to say:

*“Honestly some of our people with disabilities don’t get information about existence of these programmes. Now like those who are deaf they hardly get information because they don’t move with sign language interpreters when sensitizing people about these programmes”.*

#### **4.4 Objective three findings: Challenges faced by women with disabilities while participating in Government poverty reduction programmes**

Participants were asked the Challenges experienced by women with disabilities while participating in Government poverty eradication programs and pointed out a number of number of challenges as presented in the section below.

Most Participants mentioned unmodified environment as a barrier to the participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty eradication programs. Respondents revealed that public buildings/facilities are disability unfriendly where most of them have stairs/steps which makes it difficult for a person using crutches or in a wheelchair to manoeuvre without some assistance. This hinders movement of women with disabilities to places where activities of Government poverty eradication programmes take place. A person with disability mentioned:

*“You see Kanyum Sub-County headquarter buildings do not have ramps to help those on wheelchairs like me. One day I decided to go to the District to attend a meeting for Parish Development Model but I had problems in accessing the buildings where the meeting was being conducted from”*

Another person with disability responded:

*“Most roads are not levelled to enable even wheel chair users to use it easily and even there are separate sideways for wheel chair users. Now tell me how I can participate in such programmes when am not able to move”*

Participants also stated that negative attitudes towards women with disabilities by ordinary people and implementers of Government poverty eradication programme make it difficult for people with

disabilities to participate in Government poverty eradication programs activities such as meetings, workshops, trainings among others. Individuals without disabilities were cited as major culprits in insulting women with disabilities when they attend government poverty eradication program meetings and even on their way to attend such meetings. One of the participants stated:

*“When you’re meant to involve in groups, most people do not want to be part of a group having a person with a disability like me. This therefore discourages most of disabled people to engage in Government poverty eradication programs due to negative judgmental attitude of other people”.*

Another participant said that:

*“You see most people think that disabled people like me cannot engage in any productive work like other able-bodied people and I guess is the reason why people in charge government programmes they don’t want to involve some of us in their programme”.*

Some participants cited programmatic factors such as scheduling of activities in inconvenient time and places, little or no communication about prevailing activities and insufficient training activities. This discourages participation of women with disabilities in activities of Government poverty eradication programmes and a local leader pointed out:

*“Sometimes meetings of Government poverty eradication programs are scheduled to take place at around 8:00am at the sub county headquarters yet most people with disabilities come from very far and even if they come in time, sometimes the program could start at around 3:00pm or postponed without noticing people in time. This makes some people frustrated and those who are not strong hearted will end up giving up with activities of government programme”.*

Participants stated that Government poverty eradication programs has specific requirements which beneficiaries have meet before being given funds. It was found out that disability funds are given to people in groups and such a group must be having a constitution governing the group, having a project to be funded as well as necessary facilities. Such demands make it hard for women with disabilities to meet in order to get funds. One of the participants said that:

*“You see the challenge with some of these programmes is that they ask a lot of things from us which we cannot afford. I recall we were requesting for disability funds, the CDO came to our area telling us to form groups and get disability grant, then we form the group, after we were told to draft a constitution, we they told us to open up a bank account. At that point for me I decided to leave the group and concentrate on other things because I was just wasting my time for nothing”*

It also emerged from participants that lack of awareness about the existence of Government poverty eradication programs hinders participation of women with disabilities. Most participants revealed that women with disabilities are not aware of the existing government poverty eradication programmes because the means used to sensitize these programmes such as radios, television and newspapers are rarely used by women with disabilities. This was complemented by a local leader who said that:

*“Most of the people can perform better in any activities they are well oriented about but the programme for us women disabilities we are often ignored by the implementers of community development and no one takes the initiative of informing us about development activities. This consequently limits our involvement in programmes like Parish development models”.*

Another participant had this to say:

*“Some of our people with disabilities don’t get information about existence of these programmes. Now like those who are deaf they hardly get information because they don’t move with sign language interpreters, we sensitizing people about these programmes”.*

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter is a presentation of discussion; conclusion and recommendations of the study on participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty eradication programmes in Kanyum Sub-County, Kumi District. This has been guided by the research objectives that include: to find out the existing Government poverty eradication programmes in Kanyum Sub-County, the level of participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty eradication programmes and the challenges faced by women with disabilities while participating in Government poverty eradication programmes.

#### **5.2. Summary of findings**

The first objective was to find out the existing Government poverty eradication programmes in Kanyum Sub-County and the findings revealed that; Special Grant for women with disabilities, Parish development model, Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) and Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE) are the existing Government poverty eradication programmes in Kanyum Sub-County.

The second objective was to establish the level of participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty eradication programmes and the findings revealed the participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty eradication programs is very low. Majority of Participants stated that very few of them take part in government poverty eradication programmes.

The third objective was to examine the challenges faced by women with disabilities while participating in Government poverty eradication programmes and the findings revealed that; unmodified environment, negative attitudes towards women with disabilities by ordinary people and implementers of government eradication programmes, too much requirements for one to engage in the programme and programmatic factors such as scheduling of activities in inconvenient time and places are the major challenges experienced by persons with disabilities while participating in Government poverty eradication programs

## **5.3 Discussion of findings**

### **5.3.1 Existing Government poverty eradication programmes in Kanyum Sub-County**

The study revealed that Special Grant to women with disabilities is one of the government poverty eradication programmes, in Kanyum Sub-County. It was found out that Kumi as a district receives 30 million as disability grant which is given to women with disabilities in groups doing some economic activities. The findings above are similar to National Council of Disability (2018) which reveals that special disability grant is a national program that operates in all districts of Uganda where the government of Uganda allocates Ushs.3 billion that is shared by all districts; these funds are allocated through District Special Grant Committees and targets the most vulnerable Women with disabilities who have organized themselves into groups.

It also emerged from study that SAGE programme exists in Kanyum Sub-County. participants reported that under SAGE elderly people above 80years are given one hundred twenty thousand shillings after every six months and this money is distributed by local leaders. However, none of the women with disabilities interviewed ever received the money since they were below 80 years. The findings concur with Maureen (2015) who observes that Social assistance grants for Empowerment (SAGE) is a government empowerment aimed at transferring cash to shs. 95,000 households of the poor, including an Old Age Grant and a Vulnerable Families Grant, each household benefitting shs. 24,000 per month. The research agrees with the findings by mentioning that there are very few PwDs who are aged 80 years and above and at the same time the amount of money given to an individual is very little compared to the needs of people.

### **5.2.2 Level of participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty eradication programs**

The findings revealed that most women with disabilities do not participate in existing Government poverty eradication programmes. This is evidenced by the number of women with disabilities interviewed whereby out of 20 PwDs interviewed, only 11 were participating in existing Government poverty eradication programs. In this case 7 were participating in special grant program, 2 in UWEP and 2 in Parish Development Model. The above findings are supported by Okello (2018) who conducted a study on the participation of youth with disabilities s in the youth livelihood programme in Kole County, Kole District and found out that majority of youth with

physical disabilities are not involved in the Youth livelihood programmes. Only 11% percentages are integrated into the existing group mainly youth with physical impairment and hard of hearing. Many factors contributed to their not being involved. Among others includes lack of information, high-cost sharing and selection criteria. The findings are also in line with Kobuhwezi (2018) who carried out a study on operation wealth creation and livelihoods of people with physical disabilities in Kamukuzi, Mbarara Municipality, Mbarara District and it was established that PwDs are less involved in operation wealth creation and livelihood programs being attributed to Program design which does not favour their involvement and PwDs having not been made aware of the benefits. The researcher agreed with the findings by pointing out that the participation of PwDs in most Government poverty eradication programmes is very low because some of them are not aware of how such programmes operate; some are physical weak to engage in any activity among other factors.

It was also found out that some women with disabilities participate in Government poverty eradication programmes during initial stages of projects but stop involving in such projects along the way. It was observed that some women with disabilities engage in forming groups to receive funds but due to delayed release of funds as well as taking long to benefit from the projects makes them stop taking part in such projects. The findings concur with Byabagambi (2016) who points out that women with disabilities participation during project initiation is very low. The initiative to embark on any project is generally only taken by a few people. Besides, at this stage, most project participants might not have made their minds and people can be sceptical and refuse to take risks in an unknown venture.

### **5.3.3 Challenges experienced by women with disabilities while participating in Government poverty eradication programmes**

The study revealed that unmodified environment is one of the major barriers to the participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty eradication programs. It was found that public buildings/facilities are disability unfriendly where most of them have stairs/steps which make it difficult for a person using crutches or in a wheelchair to manoeuvre without some assistance. This hinders movement of women with disabilities to places where activities of Government poverty eradication programmes take place. The findings are in line with a study by *National Council of*

*Disability* (2012) which revealed mobility challenge as one of the factors limiting effective participation of PWDs in government programmes. It was observed that most women with disabilities find challenges in accessing training venues, meetings and follow up. It is elaborated that whereas ordinary people may not find it as a challenge to walk 2-3 kilometres, PwDs find it a big challenge. By the time the person reaches there, the meeting was over said of the respondent. To make matters worse, women with disabilities find it very hard to access assistive devices like wheel chairs, white canes and crutches among others.

It emerged from the study that the negative attitudes towards women with disabilities by ordinary people and implementers of Government poverty eradication programme make it difficult for women with disabilities to participate in Government poverty eradication programs activities such as meetings, workshops, trainings among others. Individuals without disabilities were cited as major culprits in insulting youths with disabilities when they attend youth livelihood programme meetings and even on their way to attend such meeting. The findings agree with Byabagambi (2016) who found out that women with disabilities are discriminated when it comes to involving themselves in community development projects, for instance allowing them to talk in meetings, accessing some community services. Byagambi further found out that ordinary people have negative attitudes towards women with disabilities and they are generally considered as “second hand citizens” and it has been continually voiced out since the women with disabilities are exempted from direct tax, therefore considered not to talk in public. The researcher agrees with the findings by saying that “some people think that being disabled is a curse or a punishment from God which results into isolation, neglecting and labelling PwDs with degrading names. All this discourages PwDs from involving in activities with other people including Government poverty eradication programmes.

The study further revealed that Government poverty eradication programmes have specific requirements which beneficiaries have to meet before being given funds. It was found out that disability funds are given to people in groups and such a group must be having a constitution governing the group, having a project to be funded as well as necessary facilities. Such demands make it hard for women with disabilities to meet in order to get funds. The findings concur with Alinaitwe (2017) who conducted a study on the contribution of the youth livelihood programme towards youths’ income in Kawempe Division, Kampala District and found out that the major

challenges to the YLP were; too much requirements to be enrolled in the program, delays in disbursing the money to the youth groups, giving the youths small fractions of money out of what they requested and corruption from the officials from the government. The researcher observed that women with disabilities should be given special consideration when selecting beneficiaries of Government poverty eradication programmes so that they are not demanded a lot for them to participate in such programmes.

#### **5.4 Conclusion**

Based on the findings of the study and discussion, the following conclusions are made:

1. The common existing government poverty eradication programmes in Kanyum Sub-County are; Parish development models, Special Grant to women with disabilities, Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) and Social Assistance Grant for Empowerment (SAGE).
2. The participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty eradication programs is very low in Kanyum Sub-County. Majority of Participants stated that very few of them take part in government poverty eradication programmes.
3. The major challenges experienced by women with disabilities while participating in Government poverty eradication programs include; unmodified environment, negative attitudes towards women with disabilities by ordinary people and implementers of government eradication programmes, too much requirements for one to engage in the programme and programmatic factors such as scheduling of activities in inconvenient time and places.

#### **5.5 Recommendations**

Having studied the participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty eradication programmes in Kanyum Sub-County, Kumi District, the researcher recommends the following based on what was found out:

- The CDO and local leaders should carry out active sensitization of people about Poverty reduction to increase their awareness about involvement and available poverty eradication programmes.

- The CDO and Local Council leaders should encourage the people they represent to form groups in order to benefit from Government poverty eradication programmes since government programmes tend to give priority to individuals in groups.
- Disabled Peoples 'Organizations should advocate for modification of the environment in all public facilities so that women with disabilities can easily access all the places including those where poverty eradication programmes are conducted from.
- The Government should train more project implementers how to deal with the women with disabilities so that they provide friendly poverty eradication programmes and more development projects which can fit women with disabilities.

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## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX I: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES

**Dear Respondent,**

My name is **Amongin Lonah Edongot**, a student of Uganda Christian University pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration. I am carrying out a study on the participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty reduction programmes in Kanyum Sub-County, Kumi district. You have been selected to participate in the study and you are requested to give your responses in a way that best reflects your view. The information given only for academic purposes and will be kept confidential. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

#### **Section A: Background information of respondents.**

1. Kindly tell me something about yourself? (Here I will probe for the age, marital status, education levels, employment status and when acquired disability).

#### **Section B: Existing Government poverty reduction programmes.**

2. Please talk about the government poverty reduction programmes in Kanyum Sub-County?
3. Which of the above poverty reduction programmes have you participate in?

#### **Section C: The level of participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty reduction programmes.**

4. Which activities of government poverty reduction programmes do you participate in?
5. How many times in a week or month do you take participate in activities of government poverty eradication?
6. In your observation, what factors influences participation of women with disabilities in poverty reduction programmes?
7. Which other role do you play besides participating in poverty reduction programmes?

#### **Section D: Challenges faced by women with disabilities while participating in Government poverty reduction programmes.**

8. What challenges do women with disabilities experience while trying to participate in Government poverty reduction programmes?
9. In your opinion, what can be done to increase participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty reduction programmes?

## **APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR LOCAL LEADERS/CDO**

**Dear Respondent,**

My name is **Amongin Lonah Edongot**, a student of Uganda Christian University pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Social Administration. I am carrying out a study on the participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty reduction programmes in Kanyum Sub-County, Kumi district. You have been selected to participate in the study and you are requested to give your responses in a way that best reflects your view. The information given only for academic purposes and will be kept confidential. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

### **Section A: Background information of respondents.**

1. Kindly tell me something about yourself? (Here I will probe for the age, marital status, education levels and employment status).

### **Section B: Existing Government poverty reduction programmes.**

2. Share the Government poverty reduction programmes existing in Kanyum Sub-County?
3. Which of the above, are women with disabilities involved?

### **Section C: The level of participation of women with disabilities in Government poverty reduction programmes.**

4. Which activities of government poverty reduction programmes do women with disabilities participate in?
5. How many times in a week or month do women with disabilities take participate in activities of government poverty eradication?
6. In your view, what factors influences participation of women with disabilities in poverty reduction programmes?

### **Section D: Challenges faced by women with disabilities while participating in Government poverty reduction programmes.**

7. In your experience, what challenges do women with disabilities experience while trying to participate in poverty reduction programmes?
8. As leaders what have you done to enable women with disabilities participate in Government poverty reduction programmes.
9. In your opinion, what can be done to increase participation of women with disabilities in poverty reduction programmes?



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To CSO Kanyum  
SUB-COUNTY



Received with thanks

Account saved  
CSO Kanyum sk  
2/04/2025

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Academic Research

Christian greetings!

We are honored to introduce to you Mr. Mrs./Miss. AMONEN LOOK EDONGI T

Of Registration Number; S22/MVC/BSW/006 pursuing a Masters' Degree/Postgraduate Diploma / Bachelor's Degree SOCIAL WORK AND SOCIAL ADMINISTRATION

He/ she is required to carry out an academic research on the topic

PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES IN GOVERNMENT POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAMMES IN KANYUM SUB-COUNTY, KUMI DISTRICT

and thereafter produce a well bound hard cover research report (MAROON) in color for undergraduate and three (BLACK) copies for Postgraduate students as a University requirement for the award of a degree/diploma in the academic discipline that he / she is pursuing.

We shall be grateful for the help you may offer to him or her accordingly.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

  
.....  
Mr. Akampurira Timothy  
ACADEMIC REGISTRAR  
MBALE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Academic Registrar