

**EVOLVING NARRATIVES IN WESTERN FILMS PORTRAYING AFRICA: AN
ANALYSIS OF BLACK PANTHER 2018**

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ABSTRACT

Africa has for a long time been misrepresented in western films. The depictions of the continent and its people have always been characterized by old stereotypes and unfounded myths. This study explored the presence of such narratives in the culture defining movie, Black Panther. The purpose of this study was to analyse the portrayal of Africa in Black Panther and to determine whether the depiction of Africa in the movie challenges existing narratives about the continent. The study used Black Panther as a case study and used a tabulated list of myths/stereotypes found to exist in various forms of media portraying Africa as the framework to determine whether the plot, theme and structure of Black Panther uphold or challenge those old narratives. The study concludes that Black Panther as case study shows a steady change in the narrative around Africa with recommendations for future studies to delve deeper into ways to increase good representation.

DECLARATION.

I Nansimbi Erina Margaret hereby declare that this is my original work, is not plagiarised and has not been submitted any other institution for any award.

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CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Background.

For centuries, Africa has undergone tremendous pillaging and exploitation at the hands of brutal colonial powers and the effects are still resounding throughout the continent to date. Parallel to the post-colonial struggle, Africa has been fighting another battle, the underlying narrative of the “African story” as told to western audiences. (Study Corgi, 2022). For so many years, western filmmakers have struggled to portray Africa in a way that doesn’t play with narratives that are offensive, inaccurate or ignorant. What is typically seen in this media is what author Chimamanda Adichie referred to as “a single story” in her 2009 TED Talk, where news and films show images of suffering, poverty and desolation on the African continent to a disproportionate level. This singular narrative has for a long time created a single story in the minds of those foreign to Africa that she is hopeless and in need of saving. (CN Adichie, 2009)

Africa was originally dubbed the “Dark Continent” by Welsh journalist and explorer Henry Morton Stanley, who saw Africa as mysterious. (Stanley 1878, p. 65) Its landscapes and cultures were largely unknown to many outsiders until the late nineteenth century and so the name was fitting. The name later came to represent the war torn, despondent and doomed continent that the west loved to play hero to. Never mind that the countries using this term played a significant role in ensuring that Africa stayed poor. These former colonial masters ensured that they exploited the resources and the labour of Africans for centuries, developing and revolutionizing their own countries to unimaginable levels, before giving the

colonies “independence”. To use Ms. Adichie’s single story analogy, if the story of African suffering could be told starting from the long-term impact of slavery and colonialism and not just from the point of corrupt post-independent African leaders and the like, then we would have a very different story. For a long time, anyone interested in watching cinema about Africa has been forced to endure stereotypical tropes such as White saviourism and afro-pessimism but overtime with more access to information and rising African voices, it would seem as though the tides and attitudes have been changing.

There is no greater signifier of this possible change than Black panther. Released in 2018, the American superhero film based on the Marvel Comics character of the same name was released to both theatrical and critical acclaim becoming the second highest grossing film of 2018. The film explores the story of T’Challa who after his father dies comes back home to the African nation of Wakanda to take his inherited place as king. When a strong enemy appears out of nowhere, T’Challa’s disposition as king and as Black Panther gets put to the test when he is dragged into a conflict that puts the fate of Wakanda and the entire world at risk.

The film’s success can be attributed to the phenomenon it presented just by its mere existence. A superhero movie that was based in Africa, directed by Ryan Coogler, an African American with a majority black cast and production crew for major TV and film production company, Marvel Studios was a novelty that was unheard of. The film arose from the need to rectify Africa’s portrayal in Hollywood. As stated by Wesley Snipes who originally announced his intention to make a film about Black Panther in 1992, Snipes felt that Africa had been portrayed poorly in Hollywood films previously, and that this film could highlight

the majesty of the continent due to the title character being noble and "the antithesis of African stereotypes". (Parker, Couch 2018). Though Snipes did not end up directing the film and the release was only realized years later in 2018, the ideologies that he had envisioned are still at the core of the Black panther that did air to the masses and this study is setting out to discover whether or not the movie succeeded in moving away from the narratives of previous films and whether it has improved the portrayal of Africa.

1.2 Problem Statement

This study set out to investigate whether or not Black Panther challenges existing narratives about Africa and what the movie means for the current state of portrayal of Africa in western film.

1.3 Purpose of Study

The purpose of this study was to analyse the portrayal of Africa in the culture defining movie Black Panther and to determine whether the depiction of Africa in the movie challenges existing narratives about the continent.

1.4 Research Objectives

1. To examine the status of the portrayal of Africa in western films.
2. To analyse the strategies used to portray Africa in western films.
3. To determine whether the movie Black panther challenges existing narratives about Africa.

1.5 Research Questions

- What is the status of the portrayal of Africa in western films?
- What are the strategies western films use to portray Africa to fulfil their own agenda?
- Does the movie Black Panther challenge existing narratives about Africa?

1.6 Justification

This study is important to the film industry because it will show how Africa is portrayed in western film and if that portrayal is seeing an evolution which would provide a chance for the film industry, both in Africa and the west, to take initiative to improve on the portrayal.

The study will also help policy makers learn about the portrayals of Africa in western films which will enable them decide on regulations for future portrayals of the African image.

This study will contribute knowledge for scholars on the portrayal of Africa which will be used for further studies.

1.7 The Scope of the Study

The time scope of the study is between 2018 to 2024 which is the period the movie Black Panther was released and aired to the masses.

1.8 Theoretical framework

The theoretical framework used for this study is the Agenda-setting theory. The theory developed by Maxwell McCombs and Donald Shaw in the 1970s, explores how media can influence which issues and topics are prominent in public discourse and how this, in turn, can affect public perceptions and government agendas.

There are two main assumptions(tenets) that underlie the majority of agenda-setting studies. The first is that the media and the press do not reflect reality, they simply filter and shape it. Secondly, the concentration of the media on several issues makes the public perceive these issues as the most important. (Fazilat, 2021)

This study opts for this theoretical framework because of the belief that Western films, whether intentionally or not, shape the perception of Africa and its people in the minds of western audiences. These perceptions which are mostly comprised of negative stereotypes exacerbate the systematic issues that affect an already disadvantaged Africa and therefore the results of this study need to be taken into consideration by the film industry who yield the power to change said perceptions.

CHAPTER TWO

2.1 Literature Review

This chapter looks at an overview of the literature related to the topic being studied. For the sake of a structured and concise literature review, this section will be divided into three sections;

1. The status of the portrayal of Africans in Western films.
2. Strategies used by western films portraying Africa to fulfil their agenda.\
3. Black Panther challenging existing narratives about Africa.

2.1.1 The status of the portrayal of Africans in Western films.

Representations of Africa in the Western News Media: Reinforcing Myths and Stereotypes by Amy E. Harth is one of the scholarly works read for this literature review. While being a study about western news media specifically, the discussions and arguments raised could very well apply to western film as the two go hand in hand. Harth's study goes into depth of one of the main things plaguing western media's portrayal of Africa, stereotypes and myths.

The study emphasizes that stereotypes and myths are two different things explaining that "A stereotype creates a general view of a group and expresses a value judgment" whereas Myths are "the more complex notions which undergird

the simpler form of stereotypes. Myths help provide a framework for viewing stereotypes so that an entire system e.g. white supremacy becomes possible.

An extensive breakdown of various myths about Africa based on negative stereotypes, given in table form is presented in the study and some outstanding examples include; The myth of lack of progress which promotes the idea that Africans are isolated from global processes and not modern or advanced; The myth of the lack of history which states that Africa is a place without history and arises from colonization efforts to justify racist policies that focused on constructing the idea that white people brought history to Africans and Poverty Myths which are specific to poverty in Africa, for example, the belief that all Africans are poor.

On the status of the portrayal of Africa in the west, Harth presents the fact that these stereotypes, most of which originate from the colonial era, are still prevalent today and especially in media. The study references Micheal Pickering's book *Stereotyping: The Politics of representation (2001)* which presents the fact that while there are both good and bad stereotypes, those seemingly positive stereotypes that seem to idealise other social groups are actually reverse negative stereotypes. An example is provided with the stereotype that Asians are smarter at math and technology than Americans which is really a statement that Americans think they are better than Asians at most things, *except* for math and technology. "The underlying idea is that Asians are not able to contribute to other areas at the same level as Americans." (Pickering, 2001)

Therefore, all stereotypes have a negative component and misrepresent the groups they attempt to describe and since African portrayal in western media (including

film) is still defined by stereotypes, then it is inherently still a negative portrayal of Africa.

2.1.2 Strategies used in western films about Africa to fulfil western agendas.

Lights...Camera...Africa: Images of Africa and Africans in Western Popular Films of the 1930s. (Dunn, K, 1996) is a study that examines the representation of Africa and Africans in Western popular films of the 1930s. It focuses on the relationship between 'otherness' and the dynamics of power. The film "White on Black" by Jan Pieterse argues that popular ideologies take shape in images as well as words, and that cinematic representations are constructions of another by a self. The images in the films, such as "Tarzan the Ape Man" (1932), "Sanders of the River" (1935), "King Solomon's Mines" (1937), "Tarzan Escapes" (1936), and "Stanley and Livingstone" (1939) to name a few, contribute to the viewing audiences' misperception of Africa and Africans which maintains and upholds racist and colonialist modes of thinking. The study also examines the historical context in which these movies were produced, providing an understanding of the social, political, economic, and cultural climate of the thirties. The study concludes that the representation of Africa and Africans in Western films is a reflection of the relationship between 'otherness' and the dynamics of power. It highlights how the images used were used as a strategy to reinforce and legitimize Western political practices in Africa.

However, the pitfall of this study is that it came out in 1996 focusing on films of the 1930's and this doesn't really serve to explain the strategies of the Hollywood

films of today. But referring back to the study by Harth (2009), these strategies are brought up throughout. The study states at one point that, “The single negative story of Africa was created by the efforts of colonial officials and institutions to perpetuate white supremacy and Western domination of the African continent.” By stripping Africans of their complexities and diversities, the west is able to take away their humanity which makes it easier to justify their actions like neo-colonialism and political interference.

2.1.3. Black Panther challenging existing narratives about Africa.

As prior mentioned, Black panther came to hold cultural significance in Hollywood because of its novelty of bringing African main characters to the forefront of a story set in Africa. So naturally, much discussion has been had about the movie and the literature on it is extensive.

A common theme in these studies is the acknowledgement that Black Panther is an important movie for Africans but it is not exempt from criticisms. *Black Panther and the Problem of the Black Radical* by Dikeledi A. Mokoena (2018) for example states that “Representation cannot be downplayed but it is important to be critical in our perception and analysis of representation.”

Another study read for this review was *(Re)Imagining Africa in Ryan Coogler’s Black Panther (2018)*, (Anasiudu, O, 2023). It brings up the point that there is no one uniform blackness as presented in the film stating “Culture thus cannot be colour coded. Different races have internally different cultures. Then to talk about a black identity is somewhat misleading. A more appropriate signifier would be to

discuss black identities by reflecting on the understanding that a race may consist of many different cultural entities. Maluleke (2000:26)

CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the research method that was used to gather data relevant to the study. It contains the research design, sampling, data collection methods and research tools. This section also presents processes for analysing and interpreting the data. This study used qualitative analysis.

3.1 The qualitative approach

This research study employed a qualitative approach. Qualitative methods are ways of gathering and analysing data that is not based on numbers, but rather words, images and other forms of expression. Qualitative methods help researchers explore complex and sensitive topics, understand the meanings and motivations of people, and generate new ideas and insights.

Case studies can be carried out in either a quantitative or qualitative approach but for the purpose of this specific study, qualitative approach will be employed. This is because qualitative research is flexible and adaptive and allowed for adjustments to be made to the approach as needed. It also assisted in detailed understanding of rich data and insights into different perspectives. Qualitative approach is also more suited for exploring complex, nuanced, context-dependent phenomena.

3.2 Research design

A case study was chosen as the research design for this study. A case study is a research method used to gain an in-depth understanding of a particular subject, situation or event. According to Bromley (1986), it is an in-depth, detailed examination of a particular case within a real-world context. Research projects involving numerous cases are frequently called cross-case research, whereas a study of a single case is called within-case research.

This study used the movie Black Panther as its singular case which makes it a within-case research. A within-case study is a specific approach to analysing data collected for a single case study. It focuses on intensively examining all the details, patterns, and relationships within that single case. Initially the study was set to carry out a content analysis of several films released over time to analyse specific trends and the evolution of narratives about Africa in them but due to time and resource restraints it was greatly narrowed down to focus on Black Panther only.

3.2.1 Advantages of using a Case Study.

- Case studies are excellent at providing a deeper dive into any particular subject, situation, or event. The study can explore the complexities and nuances of a chosen case in great detail which offers a richer understanding than broader research methods might achieve.

- Case studies are good for generating new Ideas: The in-depth exploration of a case study can lead to the discovery of unexpected patterns, relationships, or challenges. This can bring up ideas previously unconsidered.
- Case studies are a great tool for exploring new and sometimes unresearched topics. If a research topic is new and doesn't have extensive coverage then a case study can provide valuable initial insights to pave the way for future research.
- Unlike surveys or experiments that can feel artificial, case studies allow for a proper examination of the phenomenon within its natural setting. This contextualisation of the chosen subject of study can provide a deeper understanding which is crucial to capturing the true essence of the situation and factors influencing it.
- Understanding Change Processes is another advantage of using case study. Studying a specific case of change, like a revolutionary film changing perceptions of audiences can show valuable insights into the dynamics and challenges involved.

3.2.2 Disadvantages of using Case study

- Case studies have a problem of limited generalizability. They focus on a single case, making it difficult to generalize the findings to a larger population. The study cannot necessarily say what applies in one case applies to all similar cases.

- Case studies can also be time-consuming and resource-intensive. Thorough case studies need significant investment in time and resources. Data collection, analysis, and interpretation can be intensive processes.
- Researchers can also introduce bias during data collection and interpretation when a case study is used. One's own unique experiences and perspectives can influence the analysis and representation of the case. Techniques like triangulation (using multiple data sources) can help mitigate this, but subjectivity remains a concern.
- Case studies have a limited Scope: Case studies focus on a specific case within a particular context. This can limit the applicability of the findings to situations with different contexts or variables.
- Case studies bring up difficulties in Replication: Case studies are often difficult to replicate due to their unique nature. This can make it challenging for other researchers to verify or build upon the findings.
- Ethical Concerns. Depending on the case, researchers may face ethical challenges related to privacy or confidentiality of participants involved.

Taking both the advantages and disadvantages into consideration, using a case study was selected for this research design.

3.3 Area of study.

The area of study was specifically focused on “Existing Narratives about Africa in Western film”. This area of study was chosen because it was very important and relevant to the research carried out. In order to be able to determine whether Black Panther defies these “existing narratives”, research about said narratives must have been made. The second area of study was the movie Black Panther itself as a body of art and work. The film was analysed to identify the existing narratives within it and determine whether they dismantle or reinforce the studied existing narratives.

3.4 Data collection tools.

Representations of Africa in the Western News Media: Reinforcing Myths and Stereotypes by Amy E. Harth (2012) is an article that is very crucial to the data collection of this study. In the article, a list of myths and stereotypes about Africa is drawn in tabulated form. (Harth, 2012 pg.11) Using the table of myths/stereotypes drawn in Harth’s study, a comparison will be drawn to existing themes, plot points, narratives and characterizations that will be found to exist in Black Panther through its analysis.

Using the table (illustrated below) will be able to put Black Panther to the test and determine whether or not narratives about Africa are improving. The other side of the table contains a brief explanation of each myth/stereotype.

LIST OF MYTHS	
MYTH/ STEREOTYPE	DESCRIPTION
Myth of lack of progress	This myth promotes the idea that Africans are isolated from global processes and are not modern or advanced, instead they are considered a backward people.
Myth of timeless present	This myth promotes the idea that Africa is a timeless place where everything has always been a certain way (i.e. timeless). Therefore, Africans are less evolved than others, specifically Europeans and Americans.
Myth of the primitive/exotic	The uses of the words primitive or exotic encompass a value judgment. Their use means that there is something better (less primitive, more modern/advanced, smarter). These are reference points generally used to demonstrate how one culture is better than another (because I use a stove to boil water instead of an open fire does not make me a better or smarter person). This is a problem of the language of description. Similar problems occur with use of the words –tribe and –tribal.
Myth of tradition/ceremonial	This myth promotes the idea that African History is static rather than dynamic. African traditions are viewed as always existing in an unchanging way.
Myth of African Continuity	Africa is often viewed as one country or one similar place. However, over 800 different languages, wide cultural differences, economic disparities and other differences dispute this myth.
Myth of Lack of History	This myth states that Africa is a place without history and arises from colonization efforts to justify racist policies that focused on constructing the idea that white people brought history to Africans; it plays into the ideas that Africa is timeless and static.
Geography Myths	These vary but include the idea that Africa is mostly jungle or desert or that

	there are no –modernll cities and that wild animals are –everywhere.
Population myths	These vary but include the contradictions that Africa is either over-populated (because Africans cannot restrain themselves from having children) or it is under-populated because the people are poor and dying of hunger and AIDS.
Poverty Myths	Many of these are specific to poverty in Africa, for example, the belief that all Africans are poor.
Hopelessness Myths (i.e. Africa is a lost cause)	There is so much violence, instability, corruption, poverty, disease, and other problems that these issues can never be resolved; therefore, it is not worth trying to help or concerning oneself with the continent.

Note: This table is originally from *Representations of Africa in the Western News*

Media: Reinforcing Myths and Stereotypes by Amy E. Harth (2012) Page 11.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION, AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS.

4.1. Introduction

In this chapter the data collected will be analysed and presented in an organized and understandable way. First will be the presentation of findings got from

analysing the movie Black Panther in comparison with the existing myths/ stereotypes listed in the table. Then secondly those findings will be used to answer the research questions;

RQ.1: What is the status of the portrayal of Africa in western films?

RQ.2: What are the strategies western films use to portray Africa to fulfil their own agenda?

RQ.3: Does the movie Black Panther challenge existing narratives about Africa?

And lastly there will be the interpretation of the findings.

4.2 Data Analysis: Comparison of Black Panther to Existing Myths and Stereotypes.

In this section, the study is going to look at the analysis of Black Panther strictly through the lens of the list of myths/stereotypes. Film analysis has a very wide and broad spectrum through which it can be approached but because the study is interested in evolving narratives, it is important for said narratives to be at the forefront of the analysis. Plot and storylines, thematic elements, settings, context and visuals were also examined but still related back to the main purpose of the study.

The presentation is going to be structured in a way that each myth/stereotype listed in the table will be looked at individually in the sense that each myth will be put up against Black Panther to decide if that specific myth exists in the movie in any shape or form. At the end another table will be drawn with all the findings for

a better representation. A myth will be either present or absent and anything in between will be duly explained.

1. Myth of Lack of Progress.

This myth promotes the idea that Africans are isolated from global processes and are not modern or advanced, instead they are considered a backward people.

(Harth, 2012).

Black Panther, even at a first glance does not contain this myth in its narrative.

The story is basically about the extremely technologically advanced fictional country of Wakanda. Wakanda has been able to advance and develop because of the presence of “Vibranium”, a sort of super metal that they are able to incorporate into their clothes, weapons and infrastructure. Wakanda, however, hides its true nature from the rest of the outside world and lets everyone believe that they are in fact just an impoverished country.

2. Myth of timeless present.

The myth of timeless present pedals the idea that Africa is a timeless place where everything has always been a certain way (i.e. timeless). When you watch an American film set in 2019 and one set in the 90’s there is a clear difference because things like the fashion, the language and architecture change overtime but with most portrayals of Africa in western film, it’s hard to differentiate and know the time period and sometimes location of the place where the film is set because they all have that same imagery of slum-like living conditions with a sepia filter and shabbily dressed children on streets running towards the main character.

When it comes to Black Panther, this stereotype is absent. It isn't present because it subverts the ideas of a stagnant Africa with the presence of a vibrant, advanced portrayal of Wakanda as a place. The genre of the film being a science fiction superhero film really gave way for a lot of creativity when reimagining how Africa could potentially look like in an alternate present or future.

3. Myth of the primitive/exotic.

The uses of the words primitive or exotic encompass a value judgment.

(Harth,2012) A value judgment is defined as a thought about something based on what it "ought" or "should" be given an opinion about what counts as "good" or "bad". The use of such value judgements means that there is something better (less primitive, more modern/advanced, smarter).

This myth is absent in the narrative of Black Panther. While the outsiders in the movie think Wakanda is poor and underdeveloped, the Wakandans and us the viewers know it is not the truth which is a challenge to the stereotypes that Western countries are just better.

4. Myth of tradition/ceremonial.

This myth promotes the idea that African History is static rather than dynamic. African traditions are viewed as always existing in an unchanging way. This is absent in Black Panther because the people of Wakanda are able to uphold their traditions but still modernize and advance even further than other nations.

5. Myth of African Continuity

This is the myth where Africa is often viewed as one country or one similar place. Whether intentionally or unintentionally, this stereotype is present in Black Panther.

This stereotype is one of the most popular ones where foreigners treat Africa as one country and address it as a collective. In Black Panther, this is present as well. The country of Wakanda is said to be located in different locations according to different sources. Some place Wakanda just north of Tanzania and exactly at Rwanda while others—such as *Marvel Atlas #2* (May 2008) put it at the north end of Lake Turkana, in between South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya and Ethiopia (and surrounded by fictional countries like Azania, Canaan, and Narobia). On top of that, Director Ryan Coogler stated that his depiction of Wakanda in the film was inspired by the Southern African Kingdom of Lesotho. (Smith, Tymon, 2018). It appears as though different parts of Africa are deemed interchangeable with each other because they are viewed as the same.

Furthermore, there was the issue of the accents used in the film as well as the actors. Xhosa, a South African language is used as the dialect of Wakanda but various characters speak with accents more associated with Nigerians and majority of the main leading cast e.g. Chadwick Boseman and Micheal. B. Jordan were African American's not local to the continent which may have been the cause of the inconsistent accents.

6. Myth of Lack of History.

This myth implies that Africa is a place without history and that it arises from colonization efforts to justify racist policies that focused on constructing the idea

that white people brought history to Africans; it plays into the ideas that Africa is timeless and static.

This stereotype is absent in Black Panther. Wakanda has a history that is actually at the centre of the storyline. The decision for T'Challa's father to hide the existence of Vibranium and the advancement of Wakanda is the cause of the major conflict where Killmonger is hellbent on outing Wakanda's true nature to the world and end their isolationist policy. The story shows that Wakanda has a real history whether it's good or bad and that it doesn't exist in a vacuum.

7. Geography Myths

These vary but include the idea that Africa is mostly jungle or desert or that there are no modern cities and that wild animals are everywhere. This myth is absent in Black Panther because even though such physical features are portrayed, they aren't the only part of "Africa" shown.

8. Population myths

This myth is absent in Black Panther because this aspect is not really focused on in the film.

9. Poverty Myths

The myth of poverty is absent in Black Panther. Only the rest of the world believes they are poor but the story itself does not perpetuate this stereotype.

10. Hopelessness Myths (i.e. Africa is a lost cause)

According to this myth Africa has so much violence, instability, corruption, poverty, disease, and other problems that these issues can never be resolved; therefore, it is not worth trying to help or concerning oneself with the continent.

This stereotype is absent in Black Panther. In fact, the idea of hope to help other struggling nations is featured heavily in the story with the side that campaigns for T'Challa to reveal Wakanda to the world. It is even seen fulfilled at the end where T'Challa brings Wakanda's truth forth at the U.N and introduces their plan to provide aid and assistance.

4.3 Presentation of Findings

Table 2: Showing which stereotypes/myths were found in Black Panther.

LIST OF MYTHS	
MYTH/ STEREOTYPE	ITS PRESCENCE IN BLACK PANTHER.
Myth of lack of progress	ABSENT
Myth of timeless present	ABSENT
Myth of the primitive/exotic	ABSENT
Myth of tradition/ceremonial	ABSENT
Myth of African Continuity	PRESENT
Myth of Lack of History	ABSENT
Geography Myths	ABSENT
Population myths	ABSENT
Poverty Myths	ABSENT
Hopelessness Myths (i.e. Africa is a lost cause)	ABSENT

4.4 Interpretation of findings.

The interpretation of the findings will be discussed in three sections according to the research questions.

4.4.1. The status of the portrayal of Africa in western films.

Using Black Panther as the case study to determine the status of the portrayal of Africa in western films led to the revelation that the portrayal is not nearly as negative and pessimistic as portrayals in the past have been. Western films about Africa in the past have contained misportrayal of the continent and its people by using stereotypes such as poverty myths, the myth of African continuity etc. But clearly with newer films like the case study of Black Panther, the portrayals are improving and are more positive than they are negative.

This can be attributed to a number of factors. First of all, newer movies like Black Panther have centred black and African people both inside and out. In the story itself, for example, the main characters are Africans and the romantic storylines are between two Africans i.e. Nakia and T'Challa. Even out of the story, the directors and writers Ryan Coogler and Joe Robert Cole were black creatives alongside several members of the crew. The effort to include many Africans and black people in productions about their heritage and stories is an important reason why the portrayal is improving.

Another aspect is the disillusionment and education that western audiences have experienced over the years. While the news and movies still do perpetuate most stereotypes about Africa in their messaging to western masses, western masses are not just dormant receivers of this message. In the age of social media and readily available internet, people have been able to educate themselves or get educated by others online about some biases they may not realize they have and this has led

to western audiences having better discernment when watching media about Africa and hold the news and film industries accountable when necessary.

4.4.2 The strategies western films use to portray Africa to fulfil their own agenda?

The main strategy that western films use to portray Africa is employing stereotypes and myths. Myths such as the myth of African continuity and the myth of hopelessness are used on purpose to perpetuate the idea that; a) All Africa is the same i.e. all Africa is poor in the same way and b) Africa is hopeless and so any attempt to aid or assist the continent is useless.

Even those who use those stereotypes on accident out of lack of information and ignorance still end up reinforcing those same narratives that end up harming Africans in the process.

4.2.3 Does the movie Black Panther challenge existing narratives about Africa?

According to the findings shown in table 2 where Black Panther was dissected and examined and analysed against a list of the 10 most common myths about Africa, Black Panther was only found to contain one stereotype out of ten. Other than that, Black Panther as a newer movie is a signifier of evolving narratives about Africa. Infact, the movie does challenge several of the myths and narratives such as the myths of poverty and lack of progress are challenged in a way that they are

used to the advantage of the people of Wakanda who use the idea that they are poor to hide their true nature from the world.

4.5 Conclusion

Out of a list of the ten most common myths/stereotypes that are usually present in western films portraying Africa, Black Panther was only found to contain one of these stereotypes i.e. Myth of African continuity. Using this list as the framework as the basis of judgement, the study found that Black Panther as a movie challenges existing narratives and works to evolve from them towards a better, more accurate representation of Africa and its people.

CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS.

The research of evolving narratives about Africa using Black Panther as a Case Study yielded the following results; That newer western films are making efforts to challenge existing narratives and works and evolve from the old negative myths and stereotypes to approach a better, more accurate representation of Africa and its people.

Initially, I came into this study with the idea that the results would be negative because of past movies pointing towards such evidence. Majority of works and articles concluded that the portrayal has always been negative. The negative and mostly stereotypical representation of the African continent is believed to mostly have been present in Western literature and especially in Western film until the postcolonial era via instruments of Euro-American cultural imperialism, with Hollywood as the biggest vessel for this warped image production, dissemination and consolidation. (Dokotum,2020). The studies showed that for decades Hollywood had taken white or European stories and thrown them onto an African backdrop, relegating the African natives to inferior supportive roles that only exist to serve the agenda of the European white main characters. (Malatji, 2020)

While all this is true and very much still the prevailing nature of these portrayals, this study has determined that newer films, at least a select few have made efforts to improve and that the narratives on Africa are in fact, evolving.

CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

6.1 CONCLUSION

This study set out to investigate whether or not Black Panther challenges existing narratives about Africa and what the movie means for the current state of portrayal of Africa in western film. The purpose of this study was to analyse the portrayal of Africa in the culture defining movie Black Panther and to determine whether the depiction of Africa in the movie challenges existing narratives about the continent. The study was guided by the research questions; 1) What is the status of the portrayal of Africa in western films? 2) What are the strategies western films use to portray Africa to fulfil their own agenda? 3) Does the movie Black Panther challenge existing narratives about Africa?

Using a tabulated list of existing myths and stereotypes about Africa commonly found in western media to determine whether or not Black Panther shows an evolution from those narratives was the methodology used and in summary, the results of the study showed that Black Panther does avoid usage of ninety percent of the selected common myths. It actually subverts and challenges some like the myth of poverty and lack of progress but the one stereotype it still contained was the myth of African continuity which is the myth that the whole Africa is one place.

6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS.

In line with the findings of the study, the following are recommendations in regards to future additional research in this area of study.

Firstly, I would recommend that future studies on the portrayal of Africa in western film should attempt to shift the focus more towards the positive side of the situation. It is true the portrayal has been negative for long. But in line with

the study's results, the narrative is changing and it would be beneficial for future research to dive into the positive changes and how best to increase instances of positive representations.

The second recommendation would be to carry out studies where a bigger pool of content is explored to really determine the shifting trends. This study originally planned to look at ten (10) recently released movies and do a content analysis on them but due to time constraints it was greatly narrowed down to a case study about the special case of Black Panther. Future studies would be better off examining larger pools of content to ensure more encompassing results.

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ACCOUNTABILITY AND SERVICE DELIVERY IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN UGANDA: A CASE-STUDY OF BUKEDEA DISTRICT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CLEMENT EMUGE

S22/MUC/BPAM/010

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL
FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF A BACHELOR
OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OF UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

May, 2024



**UGANDA CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY**

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

DECLARATION

I Emuge Clement declare that this work is mine and has never been published by any one.

Name: Emuge Clement

Registration No: S22/MUC/BPAM/010

Date.....

Sign.....

Supervisor's Name: Mr. Watuwa Khaukha Anthony

Date.....

Sign.....

DEDICATION

I dedicate this report to the Almighty God for enabling me to finish this work, May His name be Glorified. To my wife Kamisya Jane, my children Esaete Veronica, Akurut Joan and Nambafu Morgan Peter, may they grow to see the benefit of the father Emuge Clement.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge this report to the highest God who provided knowledge and wisdom in doing this research that may His name be blessed and magnified for the good works done. Special thanks go to my supervisor Mr watuwa Khaukha Anthony for the great work done, may almighty God bless you abundantly. My gratitude goes to all lecturers of Uganda Christian University, Mbale University College for the knowledge granted, May almighty God bless them abundantly.

Special thanks also go to my special my wife Kamisya Jane for the support and courage in doing this research, May almighty God bless her in abundance. My Dad Ejukat Peter for the support and courage granted, May almighty God enable him stay longer, My brothers and sisters Esaete Veronica, Odeke Ben, Ejukat Ronald for the support granted, my mother Akurut Josephine for the support granted and my spiritual father Apostle Cosmas for the prayers granted. Lastly, thanks go to the BPAM class and all other programs of Uganda Christian University for the courage granted, God bless them abundantly.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

MA-Managerial Accountability

PA- Political Accountability

FA- Financial Accountability

SD: Service Delivery

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ABSTRACT

The study was focused on the role of accountability in service delivery in local governments in Uganda: A case study of Bukedea district Local government. It was guided by three research objectives; to identify the effect of political accountability on service delivery in Bukedea district, to establish the effect of managerial accountability on service delivery in Bukedea district, to determine the effect of financial accountability on service delivery in Bukedea district. The study employed a cross sectional research design which was deemed fit for the research problem under investigation. Data from 60 respondents was collected and analyzed quantitatively. The study found out that there are a number of accountability mechanisms which included monthly meetings, budgeting, financing community projects like water facility, health unit centres, school facility among others. It was also discovered that accountability and service delivery in Uganda especially in Bukedea district local government is faced with serious challenges which include; illiteracy, limited funds, corruption among others. The study concluded that there is a lot that needs to be done to streamline accountability in Local governments in Uganda especially in Bukedea district local government. Basing on the findings of the study, the following measures were recommended; Local governments should have clear hierarchies, based on a transparent attribution of functions and involvement of the local communities, every local government should have some freedom to organize itself institutionally, to manage its own affairs and to finance some services by itself. The basis for autonomy lies in democratic legitimacy, as only popular elections of the legislative councils ensure full accountability, the states should establish a council for the distribution of resources among localities, with the membership of commissioners, in addition to abdicating some tax-revenues to localities, Local councilors should also be responsible enough to monitor and supervise projects among the local community to alleviate poverty, they should have voice to question commissioners and local govern inspector at all the Payment they are operating.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This study investigated the effect of accountability on service delivery and proposed how service delivery could be improved in Bukedea district. In this chapter, the research problem and its setting were clarified under the following sub-themes: the background, statement of the problem, objectives, research questions, hypotheses, conceptual framework, relevance, scope and operational definition of key concepts of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

In ancient Athens, Roberts (1982) found out that, the line of political accountability ran directly from Assembly to those with delegated authority to carry out the civic function. Meanwhile, more than 1000 years in Medieval England (Joliffe, 1937), managerial or financial accountability was the key characteristic of accountability divorced from any ideas of political democracy. The king was then accountable only to God for his actions; but by the twelfth century, a division of labour and specialization had developed among his servants in a rudimentary system of fiscal accountability. The system created the need for a machinery of control over those charged with carrying out the king's business and makes them answerable for the way in which they perform their tasks. These developments strengthened the issues of accountability in public affairs. 2 From the sixteenth century onwards, Locke (1947) found out that, the constitutional history of England was largely about whether parliament could substitute itself for God by holding the king or his ministers accountable in a way of asserting its control over expenditure without corruption. In the seventeenth century, Locke had developed contractarian theory of government, in which

accountability was the crucial link in the chain between the executive and the legislature in England. By the nineteenth century, John Stuart Mill (1947) had further developed the concept of ministerial accountability, seen as the ability of parliament to call the executive to account for its actions. According to HM Treasury (1986), in 1984/85, expenditure on education was the biggest of all the services directly provided by local authorities in England. Under the Education Act, 1944, local authorities in England were required to execute national policies and used their discretion to ensure high level of accountability and education service delivery. In Africa on the other hand, the immediate decades following independence were spent in strengthening the executive institutions at the expense of all other agencies of government including the public service (Sallasie, 1974). The resultant concentration of powers in the executive had not only led to bureaucratic weakness, inefficiency and rampant corruption but also undermined the fabric of the state and economy. According to Therkilsden (2001), there was a big challenge of making the public sector efficient and effective in a number of African countries due to poor accountability. However, the current donor driven pressure on good governance has enhanced the level of accountability and delivery of public services in Africa (Economic Commission for Africa, 2003). 3 In Uganda, the National Resistance Movement (NRM) government in 1993 enacted Resistance Council Statute to implement the decentralization programme. The policy was later enshrined in the Uganda Constitution of 1995, and legalized by the Local Governments Act, 1997. The Act established the district, municipality and town council/ sub-county as corporate bodies of the local governments to which it devolved farreaching powers and responsibilities in such areas as finances, legislation, planning and personnel matters. The main objective of this policy was to enhance accountability through decentralized structures of government for quality service delivery

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Accountability plays very significant role in ensuring that high level of service delivery is realized in local governments (World Bank, 2009). In Uganda, the government enacted the Public Finance and Accountability Act (2003) to strengthen district local government accountability in utilization of public resources for better service delivery. This Act has mandated Bukedea district local government offices of Chief Administrative Officer, Internal Audit, Head of Finance, Public Accounts Committee and District Council Chairperson to exercise full responsibility of accountability in utilization of public resources for better service delivery.

Despite this policy of accountability, Bukedea district local government continues to register a surge of debilitating problems of corruptions and unaccounted for funds meant for service delivery (IGG-Report, 2007; OAG-Report, 2010). As a result of this poor accountability, the district has failed to complete a number of government projects meant for service delivery.

1.3 General Objective

This study was to investigate the effect of accountability on service delivery in Bukedea district.

1.4 Specific Objectives

This study was aimed at achieving the following objectives:

1. To identify the effect of political accountability on service delivery in Bukedea district.
2. To establish the effect of managerial accountability on service delivery in Bukedea district.
3. To determine the effect of financial accountability on service delivery in Bukedea district.

1.5 Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions:

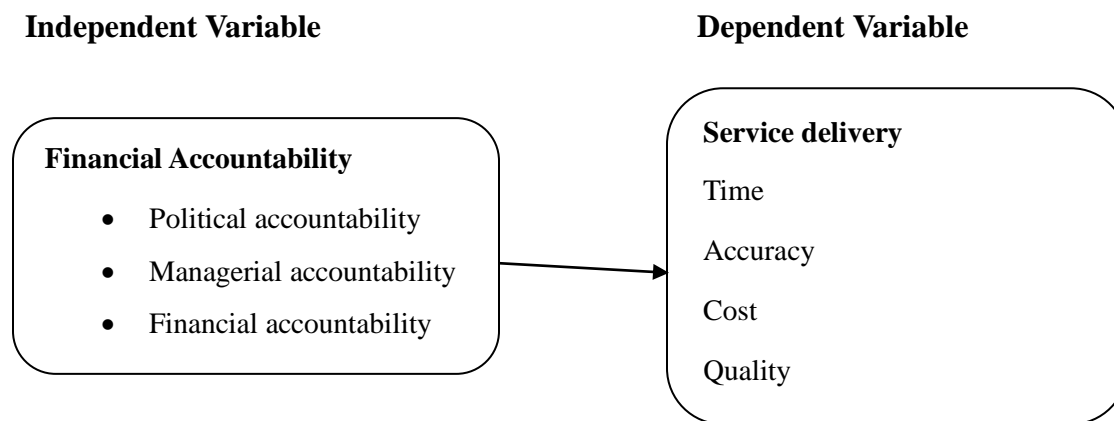
1. What is the effect of political accountability on service delivery in Bukedea district?
2. How does financial accountability affect service delivery in Bukedea district?
3. To what extent does managerial accountability affect service delivery in Bukedea district?

1.6 Hypotheses of the study

The study tested the following null hypotheses:

1. There is no significant relationship between political accountability and service delivery.
2. There is significant relationship between managerial accountability and service delivery.
3. There is significant relationship between financial accountability and service delivery.

1.7 Conceptual framework showing the relationship between financial accountability and service delivery in Bukedea district.



Source: Adopted and modified from Local Government Accountability structures by World Bank (2008)

Figure 1.1 above shows the main study hypotheses which was formulated to establish the effect of accountability on service delivery in local governments. It was assumed that high level of

accountability means high service delivery, and low level of accountability implies low level of service delivery in the local governments.

1.8 Significance of the Study

This study has generated more knowledge on the effect of accountability on service delivery in Bukedea district local governments. This will stimulate debate on policy change by government on accountability and service delivery in local governments. It has provided essential information on accountability to improve on service delivery in Bukedea district. It has also generated information for other scholars who would wish to study issues related to accountability and service delivery in local governments.

1.9 Justification of the study

The demand for accountability and better service delivery in district local governments is on increase, yet Bukedea district local government service delivery is declining. This prompted the study on the effect of accountability on service delivery and how service delivery could be improved in Bukedea district.

Decentralization policy is still a new concept for the most district local governments. How decentralization policy could help district stakeholder to enhance accountability for better service delivery is still a big challenge? This dilemma compelled the researcher to undertake this study in Bukedea district.

1.10 Operational definitions of key concepts

Accountability: This is where Bukedea district local government is obliged by law to provide social services for the people through transparent manner.

Service delivery: This is where Bukedea district local government uses mechanisms to translate development programmes to provide social services for the people with the aim of improving their standard of living.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the theoretical review and summarizes the findings of other researchers who have carried out their research on various aspects related to Accountability with specific emphasis on how their findings relate to service delivery. This section begins with reviewing the Agency theory which guided the study and there after reviewed available literature for each objective and the status of service delivery.

2.1 Theoretical review

This study was guided by agency theory.

Laiho 2011 states that agency theory holds a central role in the corporate governance literature. It describes the fundamental conflict between self-interested workers, when the former has the control of the firm but the latter bear most of the wealth effects. He further illustrates this by describing how lower managerial stakes lead to increases in non-pecuniary spending by the managers as they do not fully internalize the costs. Agency problems of this kind generate agency costs. While the model makes many restricting assumptions, the results Agency theory is concerned with the conflicting interests of principals and agents. He further talks about model on agency costs and ownership structure that it holds a central role in the corporate governance literature. Its predictions relating to agency problems are central to the topic of this thesis.

2.2 Political accountability

The researcher reviewed literature related to school, health and Water facilities established by elected leaders to deliver services to the electorate to fulfil their promises (Derick, 2003)

2.2.1 School Facility

According to MoES (2008) the total number of governments aided primary school increased by 0.1% from 11.643 (FY 2006/07) to 11.654 (FY 2007/08). The National average on the number of teachers' houses per school during the years 2001-2005 increased from 18% to 20% in the rural schools (Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2008). On the same note, the number of classrooms increased to 78.403 in 2005 compared to only 25.676 classrooms in 1996 (Namirembe, 2005), but the pupils classroom ratio (PCR) was still high at 84:1. However, the three authors never brought out clearly the accountability status of school infrastructure in each district. Therefore,

lack of specific details for each district in these three studies made it difficult to determine the level of political accountability in provision of school infrastructure to the electorate.

Meanwhile, some studies revealed improvement in school infrastructure development; Gbadamosi and Adeyeni (2010) found out that there were standard classrooms spacious for pupil population of 40 pupils per class in Nigeria. In Oguni State, the situation was even better in public primary schools, for example less than 40 pupils per class. Equally, GoU (2005) revealed that in Uganda pupil classroom ratio continued to improve, for example primary pupil classroom ratio reduced from 94 per class in 2003 to 79 per class in 2005. Improvement in pupil classroom ratio resulted into quality service delivery.

Furthermore, MoES (2010) revealed that under School Facilities Grant a number of public primary schools benefited from classroom construction leading to reduced pupil classroom ratio. These studies revealed that, the number of primary schools and classroom constructions increased in Uganda and Nigeria. However, the three studies were not adequate in explaining relationship between political accountability and service delivery.

2.2.2 Health Unit Facility

The role of political accountability in the health sector was to ensure that government deliver on electoral promises by allocating resource for infrastructure development (Derick, 2003). According to the Ministry of Health (MoH) (2010), the number of health facilities in the public sector grew from 1.979 in 2004 to 2.301 in 2006. In a similar note, the proportion of the population within 5km radius of a health facility rose from 49% in 1999 to 72% in 2004/05, through construction of facilities (GOU, 2005). The findings of the three studies showed only an average national increase in the number of health facilities, but not clear on the percentage increase of health facilities per district. It thus, becomes difficult to assess whether or not the local elected leaders are accountable to their constituents for meeting their demands in Bukedea district.

On the other hand, ACODE (2009) finding revealed a different situation in Amuria district; the structures in the government health facilities were few and poor which were in dire need of renovation. Similarly, in Kampala City health infrastructure were not well developed to meet the numerous demands of the community Nyirinkindi (2007).

2.2.3 Water Facility

Access to clean and safe water leads to improved health and is an essential investment in

human capital. However, World Bank (2003) report showed that, developing countries were facing water crisis which undermined their effort in the fight against poverty, hunger and diseases. Similarly, GoU (2005) finding revealed that Uganda water sector targets to increase water supply facilities within easy reach of 77% for the rural population and 100% for the urban population were not achieved. These two studies revealed that, developing countries were facing water crisis due to inadequate water facilities to provide better service delivery. Additionally, there was still low access to safe water facilities, only piped water was accessed by the population of Amuria town council ACODE (2009). There was only slight improvement of access to rural water supplies from 54.9% in 2002 to 61.3% in 2004/05, MWE (2005). The three studies were conducted at global and national environment settings which could not reveal the true findings in Bukedea district.

Interestingly, MWE(2008) report revealed great improvement in water sector in that the total number of water points constructed was 4,040 and the rural water supplies increased by 63%. While in urban areas access to improved water supplies was at 61%. In addition, Kfw (2004) finding revealed that in Kasese district there was great improvement in water supply. In 2003, 60-70% of the total population of Fort Portal town and 70-80% of the total population of Kasese district were supplied with clean drinking water. Water was also sold at public standpipes. The three studies revealed that, the total number of water facilities constructed in rural areas increased by 63% and 61% in urban areas. Despite the fact that the three studies tried to show the number of water sources and their national average percentages with some slight variations in districts, they were not elaborate. It, therefore, calls for this study to get better data on water sources in Bukedea district to assess whether the elected leaders are accountable to their electorate for clean and safe water.

2.3 Managerial accountability

2.3.1 Staffing

There was a tendency for local governments to appoint personnel on the basis of ethnicity or residence rather than merit (World Bank, 2006). In northern Uganda, MoLG (2006) report indicated that, the staffing level in districts stood at 55% leaving a gap of 45% positions due to limited capacity. This had reduced the level of service delivery for the people. In another study, the majority of the vacancies in the public health sector were in health Centre's III up to the general hospital (MoH, 2010e) with health centre II's having the highest number of vacancies at 67%. Moreover, nurses who were critically required especially at Health Centre II, III and IV levels had vacancy rates at 53%, 54% and 37% respectively.

Similarly, Abi Agriculture Institute still had a small human resource base where about 59% of established positions are filled. The recruitment level in scientists and the administrative units fell just above 50% while the technicians' section was below average. About 67% and 55% of the established scientific and administrative positions were respectively filled while only 36% of the technicians were currently recruited NARO (n.d.). Such a lean staff undermines organization's ability to meet the demands of its clients. Therefore, these studies revealed that most district local governments in Uganda are understaffed. However, these studies were unfortunately conducted at international, national and regional levels which did not clearly identify specific issues in the local

study area of the researcher.

Contrary to these studies about low level of staffing in local governments, Olowu and Wunsch (2004) found out that in Botswana local government positions were filled with competent

personnel to plan, budget and execute government programmes for the people. This study revealed that, local governments in Botswana filled positions with competent personnel to enhance accountability for better service delivery. However, this study was conducted some years ago in African countries and more so not specifically to the local study area of the researcher. The researcher was therefore interested to conduct similar study in Bukedea district to bridge this gap of the local setting.

2.3.2 Reporting

The quality of a report reflects the quality of work about which a report is written. Adams (2006) emphasized that reports enhanced public sector accountability for they normally indicated a balance sheet of success and failures of government programmes. This implied that a written report was a form of accountability to the council for one's actions in discharging local government programme. According to the MoLG (n.d.) a good report must be presented in a clear, logical and readable manner. It was to be relevant and focus on future trends to provide an overall picture of accountability on local government service delivery systems. Similarly, Cameron (2004) argued that well documented reports were fundamental to public sector accountability for they could be used to meet compliance requirements. This reinforced the perception of managerial accountability.

In addition, World Bank (2008) contended that performance reports were even more important for stakeholders because the reports enabled them to make informed judgments about the performance of public sector entities against stated objectives and the stewardship of public monies. These studies revealed that, well documented reports were fundamental to ensure accountability for better service delivery. However, these four studies were conducted some years ago which did not stand the test of today. It was therefore a justification for the researcher

to undertake this study which may have different findings from the previous studies on accountability and service delivery.

2.3.3 Meetings

The MoLG (2004) report found out that most districts held technical meetings on monthly basis to enhance service delivery. The purpose was to hold local government officials accountable to the council for the utilization of government resources meant for service delivery to the people. This agreed with the meeting held by UCLG (2011) where they discussed and analyzed the priorities of local governments in implementation of decentralisation indicators. These studies revealed that, most district local governments in Uganda held technical planning meetings on monthly basis to ensure accountability for government programmes. However, the Local Governments Act, 2006 and MOLG (2004) guideline for the technical meeting were inadequate about steps to be taken in case meetings are not held regularly by districts as required. As a result, most districts did not

hold technical committee meetings as scheduled affecting adversely service delivery. These two documents are national in nature to explain the specific findings of Bukedea district in regards to meetings. The researcher was therefore compelled to undertake this study in Bukedea district in order to establish the effect of financial accountability on service delivery.

2.4 Financial accountability

In this study, the researcher looked at three indicators of financial accountability: accounting, revenue collection and budgeting in relation to service delivery.

2.4.1 Accounting

Accounting enabled recording, classifying and summarizing transactions which were meant to interpret the results for accountability purpose (Millichamp, 1997). Goddard (2004) said that accounting was the most important mechanism for communicating and coordinating the accounts and ensuring accountability in organizational service delivery.

Similarly, Meigs (1996) concurred that accounting provided a basis for control of scarce resources in any organisation. These studies revealed that, accounting was important mechanism of communicating and coordinating financial accountability for better service delivery. The researcher agreed with the authors on their findings because in Uganda government set standards for districts to prepare financial statements to ensure accountability on service delivery.

On contrary, World Bank (2009) found out that preparation of financial statements proved to be difficult in most local governments of Africa either due to insufficient discretion to do so or lack of capacity, lowering level of accountability and service delivery. This study revealed that, most local governments of Africa lack capacity to ensure effective financial accountability for better service delivery. Thus, the researcher's interest is to find out whether or not actions are taken on the financial statements produced in Bukedea district to enhance financial accountability and service delivery.

2.4.2 Local revenue collection

The efforts of local authorities in Uganda to generate their own revenue have a long history Davey (1974). These efforts were redoubled with the inception of new decentralisation policy which provided substantial powers for districts to deliver services like primary education, health, and water for the people GoU (2008). MoLG (2003) report stressed the importance of local

revenue collection in local governments to ensure high level of accountability and service delivery. These studies revealed that, there was no concrete evidence to show that local governments generate adequate local revenue to ensure better service delivery.

In Canada and Australia, Dirie (2005) found that Municipal councils expanded local revenue collection to finance their infrastructural development. Municipal towns also explored alternative methods of raising revenue for recurrent and capital expenditure in order to expand urban services. Similarly, according to UNECA (2005) South Africa provinces were able to collect more local revenue to implement their local priorities like primary education and health services for the people. These two studies revealed that, local governments in Canada, Australia and South Africa generate their own local revenue to finance their local priorities for better service delivery. First of all, the five studies were conducted in a different environment. Secondly, they were conducted some years ago, so their findings could not stand the test of time because of changing environment. It was therefore necessary for the researcher to undertake this study within Bukedea district.

On the other hand, MoLG (2003) reported low level of local revenue collection due to inadequate preparation of effective revenue enhancement strategies in most district local governments. In another study, adequacy of local revenue raised by rural districts depended on graduated tax base (Livingstone& Charlton, 2001); unfortunately, it was abolished by the Government of Uganda (2005). This meant that local government councils were unable to implement their local priorities as a way of accountability for the people as entrusted by the Local Governments Act [as amended] (2007).

2.4.4 Budgeting

Budgeting was one of the corner-stones of accountability because it projected costs and revenues to prioritize and control spending and ensured that experts did not exceed available funds (Williams 2003). Importantly, budgeting provided regular accountability of the implementation of policies and plans (Goddard, 2004).

On a similar note, Olowu and Wunsch (2005) found out that in Botswana, local accountability was highly developed in that budgeting was prepared and executed well. Though often, local governments were doing supplementary payments and allocations to complete each year. In connection to this was a study by UNDP (2007) which showed that participatory budgeting introduced by a number of local authorities throughout the world has improved the responsiveness, transparency and accountability of public investment and public service delivery. These studies revealed that, in Botswana local governments, budgeting was well prepared and executed unlike some other developing countries. Much as the researcher agreed with these three authors about budgeting for local government activities, the studies were conducted some years back in different

countries. It was thus, necessary for the researcher to undertake this study in Bukedea district to compare their findings with his findings.

Contrary to this, there were some studies which showed low level of accountability in budgeting. According to UNECA (2004) there was a continuous revision of budget and increased budget deficits recorded over recent years which suggested lack of fiscal discipline and weak budgeting in many African countries.

2.5 Government policies/ regulations

The researcher reviewed the policies and regulations of political, managerial and financial accountabilities in relation to local government service delivery. The Education Investment Policy (1998) set targets for classrooms, latrines and teachers houses. The target for the number of classrooms was based on a maximum of 54 pupils in one classroom. The target for the number of latrines was set by the latrine- pupil ratio to be not higher than 40 pupils per latrine. The target for teachers' houses was set at four per school. The researcher agreed with the policy objective of MoES, but was doubtful whether it was effective on the ground. It was so because there was no specific data to show that district leaders were compliant with the policy in rendering political accountability to the communities. The Local Governments Act, 2008 mandated districts to provide primary education services to people within their jurisdiction. However, the researcher doubted whether this policy was fulfilled by councillors to achieve human development objective for their people considering local revenue base.

The National Health Policy (2009) objective was to build and strengthen capacity of health facilities to improve health service provision. The health service infrastructure followed this pattern where Uganda was divided administratively into districts, counties, sub-counties, parishes and villages. Similarly, the Local Governments Act, 2008 directed the districts to provide health services through health units as stipulated in the Second Schedule.

The national water policy (1999) stated that priority was given to those segments of the population who were in adequately served or not served at all, and who were willing to participate in planning, implementation and maintenance of the facilities, easy reach (maximum distance set for water points) was within 1.5 km radius of the population to be served. In the same vein, the Act 2008 mandated the districts to provide water services to the communities

under their jurisdiction. The researcher was in agreement with the water policies; however, he was not certain about their influence on the relationship between political accountability and service delivery in local governments.

Section 56 (1) of the Local Governments Act, 1997 vested the power to appoint persons to hold or act in any office in the service of a district or urban council in the District Service Commission (DSC). The researcher doubted whether this good staffing policy was implemented to ensure that services were offered to the people in Bukedea district. This scenario necessitated the researcher to undertake this study to establish the effect of managerial accountability on service delivery in Bukedea district.

The Uganda Public Service Standing Orders (2010) mandated the office of the Chief Administrative Officer to compile reports on monthly, quarterly and annually basis not later than 30th June for onward submission to responsible standing committees for discussion. However, the researcher observed that the policy was silent about the nature of reports to be produced so that the public could access and held public officers accountable for their actions.

The Local Government (Amendment) Act, 2008 under section (36) created a District technical planning committee to be chaired by the Chief Administrative Officer. The committee consisted of heads of department and the Chief Administrative Officer co-opts any technical person onto the committee. The mandate of the committee was to coordinate and integrate all the sectoral plans of lower-level Local Governments for their presentation to the district council.

The Local Governments Act, 2008 section 86 states that every local government council and administrative unit shall keep proper books of account and shall balance its accounts for that year and produce statements of final accounts in accordance with the Public Finance and

Accountability Act, 2003. The researcher doubts if this policy guideline is being followed by local governments. This study being undertaken in Bukedea district is meant to ascertain its practice.

The power to collect taxes was enclosed in section 80 and the fifth schedule of the Local Governments Act Cap. 243. The collection of revenue was carried out by authorized persons in accordance with part IV of the financial and Accounting Regulations. In the district council, revenue was to be collected by the sub-county councils, which retained sixty- five percent and remitted the remaining percentage to the district.

The Local Governments Act Section 77 required that local government expenditure must not exceed the revenues. It also took into account the approved three-year development plan and accorded national priority programme areas preferential budget outlays to be prepared and laid before the council, not later than the fifteenth day of June of each year. After consideration by committees, all local governments must approve their budgets by 31st August. However, the researcher disagreed about the adherence to this policy guideline by the council. This justified the researcher's interest to undertake the study in Bukedea district to establish the effect of financial accountability on service delivery.

2.6 Summary of Literature Review

In summary, the above fore gone empirical evidence has suggested that accountability affect service delivery to a greater deal. Therefore, many of the studies above have disagreed with the researchers four hypotheses; political accountability had no significant relationship with service delivery, managerial accountability had no significant relationship with service delivery, financial accountability had no significant relationship with service delivery, and government

policies/regulations had no significant relationship with service delivery. The findings of this study are also in agreement with many of the studies in the literature. However, what remains a major gap is that many of these studies on accountability and service delivery were not conducted in the district local government settings. Therefore, this study was investigated in Bukedea district local government.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

The purpose of this study was to establish the effect of accountability on service delivery in Bukedea district. This chapter, therefore, focused on the methods and techniques of data collection and analysis for this study.

3.1 Research Design

The study used a case study design and adopted cross sectional survey to find out the opinion, attitudes, preferences and practices of cross section of the population about the subject under investigation (Amin, 2005). The triangulation approach used quantitative methods provided the hard data needed to meet required objectives and test hypothesis.

3.2 Study Population

The study population was drawn from Bukedea district and civil society organizations (CSO's) where three different types of people were enlisted. The technical officers are people who understand and deal with implementation of government programmes on daily basis; and from whom accountability is sought, by virtue of the delegated authority and public resources they held

3.3 Sample Size and Selection

The sample of 60 was selected from a study population of 70 using Krejcie and Morgan table (1970). The researcher chose this sample because a sample is practical, smaller and therefore manageable than the whole population (Kothari, 2010). The researcher therefore used Krejcie and Morgan 's table (1970) to come up with the sample size.

Table 3.1: Sample size and determination

Population description	Population (N)	Sample size	Sampling technique
Councilors	23	20	Simple random sampling
Technical officers	47	40	Simple random sampling
Total	70	60	

3.4 Data Collection Methods

The researcher used four methods of data collection to achieve the objectives of the study as described below. Questionnaire Closed ended questionnaires were administered by the researcher and two research assistants to respondents: councilors and technical officers to collect primary data on the effect of political, managerial and financial accountabilities on service delivery and how government policies/regulations influenced it. The researcher used this method because the respondents know how to read and write. In addition, a no bias nature from the researcher was avoided and finally it covered a wide area of the sample selected (Sekaran, 2003).

3.6. Data Collection Instruments

The researcher used four instruments to achieve the objectives of this study. These instruments included; questionnaire form, interview guide, focus group discussion guide and documentary review checklist as discussed below.

Questionnaire Form

The researcher collected data from the respondents by the use of questionnaire forms on the effect of political, managerial and financial accountabilities on service delivery and government policies/regulations. The researcher selected this instrument because of its confidentiality nature, saves time and above all information was collected from a large sample. The researcher developed the questionnaire on a Likert scale with a five-response continuum: Strongly agree, Agree, Undecided, Disagree and Strongly disagree.

3.7 Quality control

3.7.1 Validity

The researcher used face and content validity. Research instruments were drafted and sent to the supervisors for comments on sentence construction and wording, relevance of questions and the ease with which questions were answered to ensure face validity. The instruments were pretested on CAO and Internal Auditor for content validity. The responses from two officers were subjected to content validity test.

Content validity = $\frac{\text{No of items}}{\text{Total no of items}}$

3.9 Ethical Considerations

First and foremost, the researcher sought permission from the people/respondents and gives them reasons why she is conducting the interview. In this case respondents were allowed the right to or not to participate in the interview. Respondents were informed that their honest opinions were welcome and confidentiality was maintained where they were not be quoted without their

permission. This helped to create confidence between the respondents and the interviewer who tried, as much as possible, to use friendly language.

CHAPTER FOUR PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter covers presentation analysis, interpretation and discussion of research finding and interpretation of findings on the accountability and service delivery in Bukedea district.

4.2 Demographic information of the respondents

This section covers; gender, age, marital status and educational level attained by the respondents. The findings are presented as below;

Table 4. 2: Gender of the respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	34	57
Female	26	43
Total	60	100

Source: Primary data

It was found out that majority of the respondent were males as shown by 57% of the total response in table 4.1 above, implying that Bukedea District has more staff who were male than females. Only 43% of the respondents showed were female.

Table 4.3: Age of the respondents

Age bracket in years	Frequency	Percentage (%)
20 – 30	7	12
31 – 40	28	47
41 – 50	20	33
Above 50 years	5	8
Total	60	100

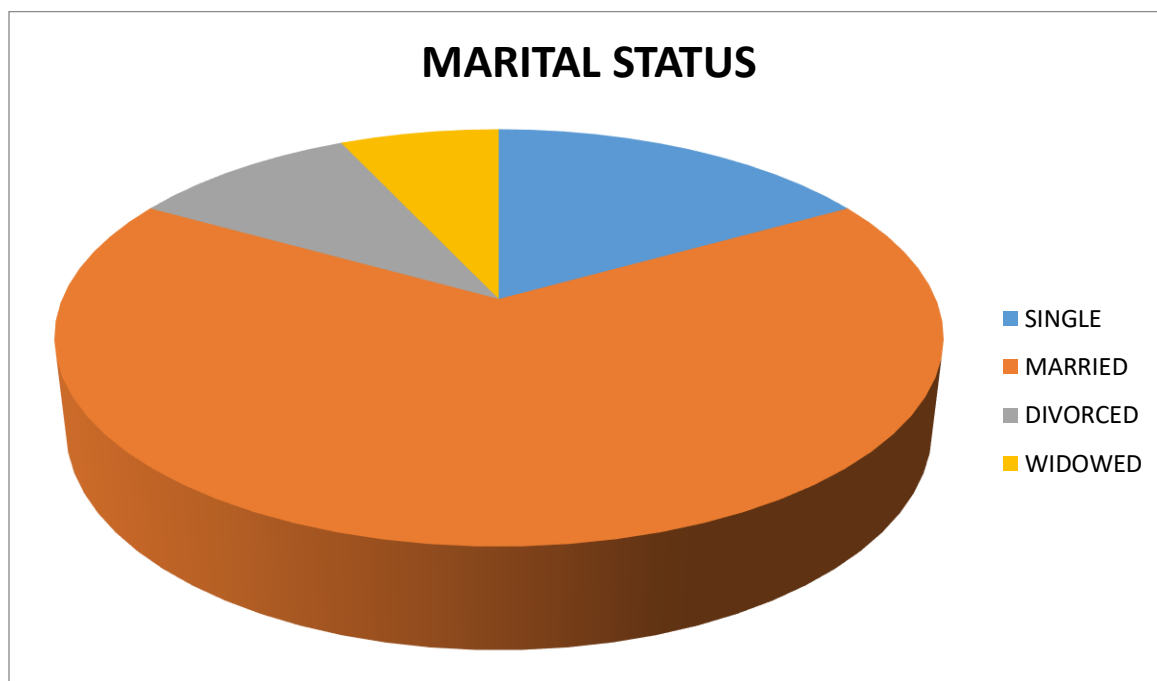
Source: Primary data

It was established that most of the respondents (47%) were between the age of 31 to 40 years, this implies that they had many responsibilities are still in service, this was followed by those who were between the age of 41 to 50 years as represented by 33%, then by 12% that showed those who were between 20 to 30 years old and lastly those who were above 50 years old were indicated by 8%.

Table 4. 4: Marital status of the respondents

Marital status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Single	10	17
Married	40	67
Divorced/separated	6	10
Widow	4	7
Total	60	100

Source: Primary data

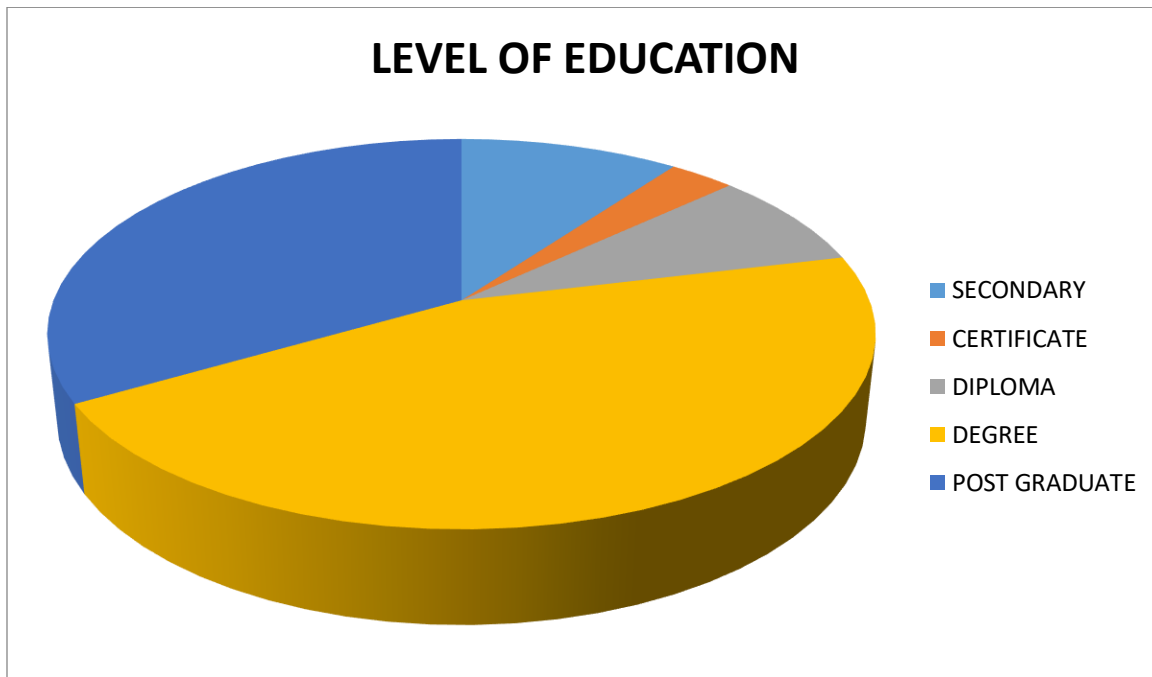


It was found out that 67% of the respondents were married, this implied that most of the respondents were responsible because married people are considered to be responsible in most of the societies while 17% were single, 10% divorced/separated and 7% were widow.

Table 4. 5: Education level of the respondents

Education level	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Secondary	6	10
Certificate	2	3
Diploma	5	8
Degree	27	45
Post graduate	20	33
Total	60	100

Source: Primary data



The findings showed that majority (45%) of the respondents were degree holder, implying that they were knowledgeable about the study problem they were also able to answer the

questionnaires very well, 33% of the respondents had post graduate diploma, 10% were secondary holders and 8% had completed diploma and lastly 3% were certificate holders.

4.5 Political accountability and Service delivery

The study determined the effect Political accountability and Service delivery in Bukedea

The findings are presented below;

Table 4.5: Response whether Bukedea district has constructed health centre III per sub county

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	50	83
No	10	17
Total	60	100

Source: Primary data

Table 4.5 above showed that majority (83%) of the respondents agreed that Bukedea district has constructed health centre III per sub county implying that they have ever benefited from political accountability and while 17% disagreed.

Table 4.6: Response whether Bukedea district has provided equitable distribution of water facility per village

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	15	24
No	45	76
Total	60	100

Table 4.6 above showed that majority (76%) of the respondents disagreed that Bukedea district has never provided equitable distribution of water facility per village implying that they have no equitable distribution of water facility per village and while 24% agreed that there is equitable distribution of water facility per village.

Table 4.7; Response whether Bukedea district has constructed classrooms in primary schools

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	13	22
No	47	78
Total	60	100

Table 4.7 above showed that majority (78%) of the respondents disagreed that Bukedea district has constructed classrooms in primary schools implying that they have no classrooms in primary school and while 22% agreed that Bukedea district constructed classroom in primary schools.

4.6 Managerial Accountability and service delivery

Table 4.8 shows the variables of managerial Accountability and service delivery

Variables	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Bukedea district has advertised vacant posts for attracting applicants	Yes	25	42
	No	35	58
Bukedea district has interviewed qualified applicants to fill vacant posts	Yes	15	25
	No	45	75
Bukedea district has provision of funds to fill vacant posts	Yes	43	72
	No	17	28
Departmental performance reports have enhanced decision making process in Bukedea district	Yes	28	47
	No	32	53

The study found out that Bukedea district has advertised vacant posts for attracting applicants as represented by 42% of the total respondents combining those who strongly agreed and agreed in the table 4.8 above while 58% of the respondents disagreed.

It was established that 75% of the respondents disagreed that Bukedea district has not interviewed qualified applicants to fill vacant posts and 25% agreed with the statement implying that Bukedea fills vacancies without interviewing candidates.

The study found out that Bukedea district has provision of funds to fill vacant posts as represented by 72% of the total respondents combining those who strongly agreed and agreed in the table 4.8 above while 28% of the respondents disagreed.

It was established that Departmental performance reports have enhanced decision making process in Bukedea district as represented by 47% of the total respondents while 53% of respondents disagreed

4.7 Financial accountability and service delivery

Table 4.9 shows the variables of financial Accountability and service delivery

Variables	Response	Frequency	Percentage
Bukedea district produces statements of final accounts within three months from the end of each financial year	Yes	19	32
	No	41	68
Bukedea district produces quarterly financial statements in every financial year	Yes	17	28
	No	43	72
Local revenue collected by Bukedea district are banked before their utilization	Yes	16	27
	No	44	73
In Bukedea district budget estimates have been used to measure council performance	Yes	15	25
	No	45	75

Bukedea district has used official receipts for local revenue collection	Yes	25	42
	No	35	58

It was established that 68% of the respondents disagreed that Bukedea district produces statements of final accounts within three months from the end of each financial year and 32% agreed with the statement.

The study found out that Bukedea district produces quarterly financial statements in every financial year as represented by 28% of the total respondents combining those who strongly agreed and agreed in the table 4.9 above while 72% of the respondents disagreed with the statement.

It was established that Local revenue collected by Bukedea district are banked before their utilization as represented by 27% of the total respondents while 73% of respondents disagreed that the local revenue are not always banked.

The study found out that in Bukedea district budget estimates have been used to measure council performance as represented by 25% of the total respondents combining those who strongly agreed and agreed in the table 4.9 above while 75% of the respondents disagreed.

The study found out that Bukedea district has used official receipts for local revenue collection as represented by 42% of the total respondents combining those who strongly agreed and agreed in the table 4.9 above while 58% of the respondents disagreed with the statement.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter covers conclusion and recommendations drawn from the study findings.

5.2 Conclusion

The study concluded that there is a lot that needs to be done to streamline accountability in Local governments in Uganda especially in Bukedea district local government.

Political accountability is a significant determinant of service delivery in Bukedea local government. Improving political accountability improves service delivery

Managerial accountability is a significant determinant of service delivery in Bukedea local government. Improving managerial accountability improves service delivery.

Financial accountability is a significant determinant of service delivery in Bukedea local government. Improving financial accountability improves service delivery.

5.3 Recommendations

Basing on the findings of the study, the following measures were recommended; Local governments should have clear hierarchies, based on a transparent attribution of functions and involvement of the local communities, every local government should have some freedom to organize itself institutionally, to manage its own affairs and to finance some services by itself.

The basis for autonomy lies in democratic legitimacy, as only popular elections of the legislative councils ensure full accountability, the states should establish a council for the distribution of resources among localities, with the membership of commissioners, in addition to abdicating

some tax-revenues to localities, Local councilors should also be responsible enough to monitor and supervise projects among the local community to alleviate poverty, they should have voice to question commissioners and local govern inspector at all the Payment they are operating.

5.4 Suggestions for further Research

Further research could be conducted on the same research area but exploring other indicators of accountability on service delivery in local government in Uganda.

Further research could also be conducted on the impact of financial accountability on service delivery in local governments.

Other researcher could look at the impact of external factors on service delivery in local government in Uganda.

APPENDIX
LETTER TO RESPONDENTS
QUESTIONNAIRE ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND SERVICE DELIVERY IN
BUKEDEA DISTRICT

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a student of Uganda Christian University pursuing a Bachelors Degree of Public Administration and management as a partial requirement for the award of the said degree and this questionnaire was designed for the purpose of collecting data on accountability and service delivery: A case study of Bukedea District.

You have been chosen as one of the respondents because of your unique expertise, knowledge, experience and integrity on crucial role of accountability plays in promoting and improving service delivery in local government of Bukedea District. I hope you will spare your valuable time to provide answers to the following questions by filling in the right alternatives as may be required. Please take note that the research will be conducted and handled with strict confidentiality and you need not indicate your name.

Thank you,

Emuge Clement

DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

PART A: BIO DATA

1. Gender

1= Male () 2= Female ()

2. Age

1=20-29 () 2=30-39 () 3=40-49 () 4=50 and above ()

3. Marital status

1=Single () 2=Married () 3=Divorced () 4=Windowed ()

4. Level of Education

1 =Certificate () 2= Diploma () 3= Degree () 4= Post graduate ()

5= others (specify).....

PART B: The conceptual independent variable

Instructions:

For this section, please use the rating scale below and cycle in the box that contain the most appropriate rating.

Rating Scale

Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Not Sure	Agree	Strongly Agree
1	2	3	4	5

Political accountability and service delivery

Variables	SA	A	N	SD	D
5 = Strongly Agree (SA); 4 = Agree (A); 3 = Neutral (N); 2 = Disagree (D); 1 = Strongly Disagree (SD)	5	4	3	2	1
Bukedea district has constructed health Centre III per sub county					
Bukedea district has provided equitable distribution of water facility per village					
Bukedea district has constructed classrooms in primary schools					

Managerial Accountability and service delivery

Variables	SA	A	N	SD	D
5 = Strongly Agree (SA); 4 = Agree (A); 3 = Neutral (N); 2 = Disagree (D); 1 = Strongly Disagree (SD)	5	4	3	2	1
Bukedea district has advertised vacant posts for attracting applicants					
Bukedea district has interviewed qualified applicants to fill vacant posts					
Bukedea district has provision of funds to fill vacant posts					
Departmental performance reports have enhanced decision making process in Bukedea district					

Financial accountability and service delivery

Variables	SA	A	N	SD	D
5 = Strongly Agree (SA); 4 = Agree (A); 3 = Neutral (N); 2 = Disagree (D); 1 = Strongly Disagree (SD)	5	4	3	2	1
Bukedea district produces statements of final accounts within three months from the end of each financial year					
Bukedea district produces quarterly financial statements in every financial year					
Local revenue collected by Bukedea district are banked before their utilization					
In Bukedea district budget estimates have been used to measure council performance					
Bukedea district has used official receipts for local revenue collection					

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