

**WOMEN PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE: A CASE STUDY OF  
MUKONO CENTRAL DIVISION MUKONO DISTRICT**

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**UGANDA CHRISTIAN  
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**DECLARATION**

I declare that this dissertation is my original work and has not been submitted to any institution of learning.

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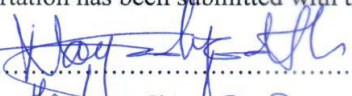
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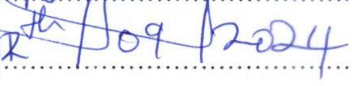
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**APPROVAL**

This dissertation has been submitted with the approval of the supervisor.

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Date.....

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## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this research to my family especially my parents who advised, supported and mentored me throughout my education up to university level. Above all, I thank God for guidance and provision towards completion of this dissertation.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I am greatly indebted to Madam Edith Nagadiya who was my supervisor for his effective supervision, dedication, availability and professional advice.

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I would like extend my gratitude to the entire women leaders in Mukono Central Division, Mukono District for giving me relevant information that made the study successful.

Lastly, I thank God who has given me good health and strength to carry out the research right away from the beginning to the end and successfully.

## **ABSTRACT**

The study aims to investigate women's engagement in local governance using a case study of Mukono Central Division, Mukono District. The study had three goals: to assess the types of women who participate in local governance in Mukono Central Division, to investigate women's perceptions of their participation in Mukono Central Division, and to identify the key barriers and facilitators affecting women's participation in Mukono Central Division.

The study was conducted using a descriptive survey research design that included quantitative and qualitative research methods. Purposive and stratified sampling procedures were employed to choose a sample of 32 female elected leaders and LC1 Chairmen from nine communities in Nsuube-Kauga parish, Mukono. The data was acquired utilizing questionnaires and the interviews were analyzed with SPSS.

According to the study's findings, there has been a significant increase in women's participation in local governance, with active involvement in decision-making, project planning, and leadership roles improving community development and social cohesion. Although there have been developments, societal obstacles, financial and educational limitations, as well as the usual sex tasks, still hinder comprehensive involvement of females. Nevertheless, with continued lobbying activity by women's groups and community support as well as emphasis on key areas like capacity building for such women they gain the courage to go into politics thereby reflecting some shifts towards gender equity. Long term removal of cultural and structural bottlenecks is essential if it is to ensure equal opportunities for all and protect what has been achieved in terms of women's roles in local governments.

To conclude, this research study has shown that more efforts should be made through continued lobbying and educational interventions meant to demolish cultural barriers hindering female participation in local administration. It also advised the establishment of specific capacity-building initiatives to improve women's governance and leadership skills, as well as enhanced financial assistance and resources for women active in local government.

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## **1.0 CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Introduction**

This study was about exploring women participation in local governance: a case study of Mukono Central Division, Mukono District. This chapter therefore presents the background of the study, problem statement, purpose of the study, objectives of the study, scope of the study, research question, significance of the study, and the conceptual framework.

### **1.2 Background of the Study**

Women's role in local government impacts by strengthening democracy and pushing for gender equality. This essentially means that women's perspectives and needs factor into choices that affect their lives over time (Joshua & Omahas 2023). For cultural, social, and political reasons, women face barriers when attempting to participate. in supervision Nevertheless, the increasing awareness and advocacy for gender equality have led to significant advancements in boosting the involvement of women in governance. This subject explores the obstacles and supporters of women's involvement in local governance systems, the effects on community development, and methods to boost their participation (Mlambo & Kapingura, 2019). There needs to be an emphasis on how important it is for women to take part in local government. When women join local government, they make decision-making more inclusive and productive (Wuya, 2021). They help create policies and programs to address health, education, and social services, issues women often bring up. Additionally, females involved in politics advocate for gender parity and inspire other women in the community. Although there are advantages, women face significant obstacles when attempting to acquire and wield political influence in their societies. We must investigate the barriers preventing women from participating in local government (Nyama & Mukwada, 2023). Women's participation in local governance is crucial to the legitimacy of decision-making processes. Women's participation in local governance increases the legitimacy of governments, provides equitable representation of society in elected offices, and influences the policy agenda by enhancing women's abilities to address concerns in society (Einstein et al., 2019). Women's participation in local government is a human rights concern in terms of political rights. Every person has the right to participate in decision-making processes that shape his or her life (Wuya, 2021). When women and men engage equally in local government, the female perspective is effectively integrated into policy decisions. Women face numerous challenges, both locally and globally Challenges in engaging

in political processes. Women are underrepresented as voters and in positions of leadership due to structural impediments such as discriminatory laws and institutions, as well as capacity shortages such as a lack of education, contacts, and resources (UNWomen, 2021). Globally, there has been varied levels of success in increasing women's participation in municipal government. In the United States, women hold 25% of municipal government jobs, indicating progress but underlining ongoing disparities (Paudel, 2023). European countries such as Sweden and Norway have enacted strong gender quotas and legislation, resulting in higher female representation on local councils—around 43% and 42.9%, respectively (Shaft, 2021). In Asia, countries such as India have made tremendous progress through legislative measures such as the Panchayati Raj Act, which requires one-third of local government seats to be reserved for women. Similarly, Japan and South Korea have witnessed incremental progress through policy reforms and societal changes, albeit female representation remains lower than in Western countries (Llinares et al., 2022).

The degree to which women participate in local governance varies greatly throughout Africa. South Africa has around 45% of women occupying local government roles, thanks to progressive laws and gender quotas. Similarly, Rwanda has made significant progress, with women accounting for about half of local council members. However, the involvement of women in politics in many sub-Saharan African nations remains below 20% because of long-standing cultural norms and restricted access to political realms. Nations such as Kenya and Nigeria are attempting to improve through constitutional amendments and advocacy initiatives, but advancements are slow and vary in different regions (Joshua & Omahas, 2023). In Uganda, women's engagement in local government has steadily increased due to a mix of policy actions and advocacy campaigns. The government of Uganda has initiated. Multiple actions have been implemented to increase women's involvement in politics, including creating designated seats for women in local councils (UN-Women, 2021). Mukono District, in particular, shows an interesting case for study. Mukono, situated in the heart of Uganda, has made strides in promoting gender equality within its municipal government. An increasing number of women in Mukono are taking on leadership positions, contributing to the district's advancement in both the economy and society (Twinomujuni et al., 2022). However, obstacles such as limited financial resources, prevailing male-dominated perspectives, and inadequate support structures continue to impede the full implementation of gender equality in community leadership. Based on statistics, approximately 35% of women occupy local government roles in

Mukono District, indicating progress and underscoring the need for ongoing initiatives to attain genuine gender parity (Thelma, 2024)

### **1.3 Problem Statement**

Alava et al. (2020) indicate that the increasing number of women in local councils, their leadership roles, and impact on policy decisions demonstrate advancements in gender equality in local government. The reality is that in different parts of Uganda, like Mukono district, there is still a notable lack of women participating in local governance. A recent study by UN-Women (2021) showed a consistent decrease in the presence of women in city councils over the past ten years, showing a substantial decrease in the number of female politicians from 40% to 25%. Moreover, there has been a significant decline in the number of women in leadership positions in local government organizations, with women currently occupying just 15% of top roles, marking a drastic decrease from past years. Additionally, women are losing influence in policy-making processes, as their perspectives and insights are increasingly being marginalized in the shaping and execution of local policies and initiatives. These problems may come from deeply rooted patriarchal attitudes, restricted access to opportunities and resources, and a lack of gender mainstreaming strategies in local governance systems (Alava et al., 2020). Failure to address this problem may result in decline of democratic values that do with diversity and participation, as well as the continuation of gender discrimination and exclusion (Wuya, 2021). Furthermore, while certain research has looked into general women's political participation at a national level, such as Mlambo & Kapingura (2019) and Paudel (2023), there is a lack of studies focusing on the particular contextual and local aspects influencing women's involvement in local governance in specific areas like Mukono. This study aimed to close this disparity by offering a thorough examination of women's involvement in local government, with an emphasis on Mukono Central Division, Mukono District.

### **1.4 Purpose of the study**

The purpose of the study was to explore women participation in local governance: a case study of Mukono Central Division, Mukono District.

## **1.5 Objectives of the study**

- i. To assess the types of women participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division.
- ii. To explore women's perceptions on their participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division.
- iii. To identify the key barriers and facilitators affecting women's participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division.

## **1.6 Research questions**

- i. What are the types of women participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division?
- ii. What are the perceptions of women on their participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division?
- iii. What are the key barriers and facilitators affecting women's participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division?

## **1.7 Scope of the study**

The scope of the study covered three dimensions that is; content, geographical and time and these were discussed in detail below;

### **1.7.1 Content scope**

This study specifically examined the following topics: evaluating the various ways that women participate in Mukono Central Division local governance; investigating the views of women regarding their participation in Mukono Central Division local governance; and identifying the main obstacles and enablers that impact women's participation in Mukono Central Division local governance.

### **1.7.2 Geographical scope**

Geographically, the study was conducted in Mukono Central Division, Mukono District which is one of the districts in the Central Region of Uganda. Mukono district was chosen because it is one of the districts with low levels of women participation in local government in Uganda.

### **1.7.3 Time scope**

The study focused on scholarly material from the period 2019 to 2024. It was also carried out for a period of four months from May to August, 2024.

### **1.8 Justification of the study**

The study's rationale centered on the urgent necessity to resolve the gender gaps that continue to exist in Mukono District's local governance involvement. This study attempts to identify the fundamental obstacles and enablers influencing women's participation in policy by closely analyzing the representation, leadership positions, and policy influence of women. Comprehending these variables was vital not only for advocating for gender parity but also for augmenting the efficiency and inclusiveness of local administration. By addressing these problems, Mukono District would eventually see sustainable development and improved community well-being through more democratic and equitable government arrangements. This study addressed a major research gap and offered insightful information that can guide advocacy campaigns and policy changes targeted at promoting women's participation in local government.

### **1.9 Significance of the study**

Policymakers will benefit from the study's data-driven findings and suggestions, which can assist direct the creation and execution of laws meant to increase women's involvement in local government. This will facilitate the creation of governing structures that are more egalitarian and inclusive.

By identifying the obstacles and enablers to women's participation in leadership positions, the study will benefit local government representatives by helping them to develop focused interventions and foster a supportive atmosphere for female involvement.

Non-governmental organizations and women's advocacy groups will benefit from the study by receiving scientific support for their work for gender equality in local governance. Their advocacy work and strategic planning will benefit from this.

The research will benefit the Mukono District community members by raising understanding of the value of gender diversity in local administration. This can result in more people supporting female leaders and candidates, which will ultimately lead to more responsive and representative local government.

Future scholars will benefit from the study since it closes gaps in the literature and offers a thorough case study of Mukono District. This will be a useful point of reference for future study on women's engagement in local governance in various contexts and comparative studies. The study will benefit academic institutions and students by adding to the conversation on gender and governance and providing a real-world illustration of the benefits and difficulties that come with women participating in municipal politics.

## **2.0 CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter tries to review the scholarly materials put forward by several personalities on women participation in local government as well as critically analyzing the deviations in the explanations to find out the research gap in the study variables. Literature will be reviewed objectively by starting with definition of a concept followed by reviewing of objectives. Sources such journals and books related to the study were used.

### **2.2 Definitions and concepts of the variables**

#### **2.2.1 Women Participation**

The category of "women" includes people who identify as female and covers a variety of gender identities and expressions, going beyond just biological differences. Bonvillain (2020) describes women as a varied group influenced by different socio-cultural, economic, and political factors that shape their experiences and identities. The definition of what it means to be a woman has expanded to include a deeper understanding that goes beyond traditional gender roles, acknowledging how factors like race, class, sexuality, and other societal pressures are all interconnected. This thorough method ensures that all women, regardless of where they come from, are recognized and valued by society (Rioux et al., 2022). Women's participation involves women taking an active role in the social, political, and economic spheres of life (Yemenu, 2020). The active participation of women in governing bodies includes their involvement in creating policies, taking on leadership roles, and making decisions in both governmental and non-governmental organizations. Kabeer stresses the importance of women having the ability to influence outcomes, participate in decision-making, and be adequately represented for their participation to be meaningful. This concept emphasizes the importance of creating a supportive atmosphere for women to seize opportunities, promote their rights, and participate in different public and private domains. Recent research has clearly shown the significance of women's involvement in governance. For example, Imburgia et al. (2021) argue that putting women in political and administrative positions leads to more comprehensive and equitable policymaking that reflects the interests and viewpoints of the entire population. Studies have indicated that when women participate in governance, they are more likely to address issues such as gender-based violence, healthcare, education, and social welfare (Imburgia et al., 2021). According to Bjarnegård & Donno (2024),

women's engagement promotes transparency, accountability, and inclusivity in government institutions, which helps with democratization efforts. Bjarnegård and Donno (2024) argue that women's engagement plays a crucial role in promoting social fairness and sustainability.

### **2.2.2 Local Government**

Many scholars have analyzed and speculated on the intricate concept of local governance. According to Smellie (2024), local governance refers to the methods and structures utilized by local government bodies and other stakeholders on the local level to organize, decide, and supervise public assets within the area. This idea emphasizes the role of local government and the participation of multiple parties in the governing process. In the same way, Beshi & Kaur (2020) define local governance as the establishments, procedures, and relationships that govern the exercise of authority, the method by which decisions are taken, and the way in which the general public and other interested parties engage with local government entities. Their point of view highlights the importance of institutional frameworks and citizen involvement in effective local governance.

By focusing on democratic governance and decentralization, the local government gives residents more opportunities to be involved in decision-making processes that affect their lives. Richards (2024) believes that the local government functions to enhance accountability in public administration, promote transparency, and empower communities. He argues that decentralized governance promotes policymaking that is more responsive and adaptable by allowing local authorities to better understand and tackle the unique challenges and opportunities in their areas. Zeemering (2021) argues that this concentrated strategy is seen as vital for promoting societal cohesion and sustained development. Recent research is pointing out the changing role of local authorities in reaction to contemporary issues like climate change, urbanization, and socioeconomic inequality. By embedding global goals into planning and development strategies, local authorities can play a more important role in their neighborhoods by achieving global goals such as the Sustainable Development Goals (2019). Local governments can be empowered to drive sustainable and equitable growth nationally and internationally. This underscores the importance of reforming local government systems. Expanding capacity building programs and promote cooperation in cooperation.

### **2.3 Types of women participation in local governance**

A recent research study has highlighted how local government is changing to tackle modern challenges such as climate change, urbanization, and socioeconomic inequality. According to Clark (2019), city governments are increasingly playing a vital role in enacting global goals such as the SDGs at a local level. Incorporating global objectives into their planning and development strategies can greatly help local governments make a substantial contribution to achieving sustainable and equitable growth at the national and global levels. This role emphasizes the need to improve local government structures, enhance capacity-building initiatives, and promote collaboration among local, national, and international organizations. Martinez and Davis (2021) studied the various ways in which women participate in community development projects within local governance structures. It was found that women had an important impact on grassroots activism and mobilization, often taking on leadership roles in community organizations aimed at advancing local development goals. These women leveraged their roles to impact local governing bodies so that the community's requirements were met. Furthermore, research conducted by Brown and Miller (2022) analyzed the participation of females in municipal elections. The important role women played in educating and mobilizing voters was found to boost participation and turnout in local elections, ultimately strengthening grassroots democracy. Clark and White (2023) studied how women engage in environmental decision-making within local governance. Research revealed that women play significant roles in community environmental groups by promoting sustainable practices and policies. Their participation in the community resulted in a rise in awareness and actions regarding environmental issues like waste management and conservation. Moreover, a study carried out in 2022 by Wilson and Green highlighted the significance of women in promoting economic development in nearby societies. It was found that women are playing an active role in community business councils and economic planning boards, supporting policies that support small businesses and entrepreneurial initiatives, particularly those led by women. Nguyen and Lee (2020) examined how women's involvement in public health programs contributes to their participation in local governance in another study. They found that women were often the leaders of neighborhood health committees, pushing for improved access to healthcare and improved health outcomes. Their participation led to increased community

engagement in health-related events and improved health interventions. Patel and Sharma (2019) examined the participation of women in governing local education, similarly. They noticed that women played important roles in municipal education boards and school management committees, striving to enhance educational facilities and ensure all students, particularly girls, had access to top-notch education. In their research, Moyo and Chigudu (2021) examined the involvement of women in local governance in Sub-Saharan Africa, with a specific emphasis on their roles within local councils and committees. It was found that women had successfully impacted policymakers to establish laws and programs regarding gender, resulting in enhanced gender equality and women's empowerment in their communities. Their findings indicated that the active participation of women was crucial in decreasing violence based on gender and promoting the rights of women. Additionally, the 2022 study carried out in Kenya by Ochieng and Achieng highlighted the significant importance of women in local government in advancing peace and addressing conflicts. Their participation was linked to an increased sense of unity within the community and longer-lasting peace results. Mubiru and Nakabugo (2019) conducted a study on the participation of women in local government in Uganda. Researchers found that enhanced governance procedures and improved service delivery resulted from increased participation of women in local councils and committees in Mukono District. Women in leadership positions are important for advocating for laws that prioritize the welfare of women and children. This is true in areas such as education and maternal health. Similarly, Kizza and Mukasa (2020) studied the impact of women's participation in local government in Uganda. The study showed that women play an important role in improving transparency and accountability in local government institutions. This will ultimately increase public confidence in local authorities.

#### **2.4 Women's perceptions on their participation in local government**

Smith and Johnson (2020) examined the perception of American women on their participation in local government. The researchers examined the experiences, challenges, and aspirations of women in local administration by conducting qualitative interviews and focus group discussions with female elected officials and community leaders. While some women were content with their involvement and believed in their ability to make a difference, numerous others pointed out obstacles like gender discrimination, inadequate support systems, and limited resource availability that hindered their performance in leadership roles (Smith & Johnson, 2020). The

research elucidates how structural constraints and personal choices interact to influence women's perspectives on their roles in public office. Li & Wang (2022) conducted a study on how women perceive their participation in local government in China and Japan. They explored women's views on political leadership, gender dynamics, and institutional limitations in municipal governance through interviews and surveys with female politicians and community leaders. The study revealed that some Chinese women were optimistic about their opportunities for growth, while Japanese women faced long-standing gender prejudices, customary norms, and structural barriers that diminished their political self-assurance and impact. The study highlights the significance of recognizing the narratives and perspectives of young women in Asian local government policies and initiatives focused on promoting gender equality.

Abubakar & Mbatha conducted a study in 2019 in Africa that investigated how women in Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa view their involvement in local government. The researchers studied women's perceptions of their participation in local governing systems through surveys and focus group discussions, analyzing representation, decision-making authority, and resource availability. Some women were content with systemic injustices, discriminatory behaviors, and lack of support from male coworkers and community members, while others felt empowered and valued in their positions (Abubakar & Mbatha, 2019). The research highlights the significance of eliminating official and unofficial barriers that hinder women's participation in African local governments.

Rodriguez and Gomez (2020) examined the way in which women perceive their participation in local government Brazil, Argentina and Chile across Latin America. The participants were girls who were taking part in focus group sessions and observation of the researchers in the field to discover the women's perception of political leadership, community engagement, and empowerment in grassroots level. They found that there are some women who have a sense of optimism concerning their power to create a change in their communities. at the same time, others They encounter such challenges as machismo, violence, and institutional bias. This is a factor that lessens the commitment and interest in political participation.

## **2.5 Key barriers to women's participation in local government**

Various research studies It has identified many barriers that prevent women from participating in local government. including boundaries and social expectations within the system In a 2020

study, Johnson and Smith examined the barriers women face in the United States. Focusing on gender bias Insufficient financial support and limited access to political networks (2020) found that women face multiple barriers to obtaining campaign financing. Driving the dynamics of political parties and balancing family responsibilities and political aspirations. In addition, bias against women's leadership abilities and attitudes toward politics as a male-dominated field As a result, women play too few roles in local government.

Li & Wang (2022) conducted research that investigated the barriers that hinder women's participation in local government in China and Japan in Asia. Study finds institutional bias gender norms and social expectations are a major obstacle to women's political advancement. Both countries discovered that women often feel pressured to conform to traditional gender norms. and prioritizing family duties over political ambitions election process And the party structure in Japan poses additional problems. This is because women are often underrepresented in political organizations. and face barriers to participation in decision making (Li & Wang, 1999) 2022 (2022). These results highlight the importance of addressing barriers within institutions and culture to promote gender equality in Asian local governments.

Abubakar & Mbatha (2019) studied the barriers to women's participation in local governance in countries such as Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa on the African continent. The study showed that patriarchal beliefs, societal standards, and biased actions are the major obstacles that prevent women from accessing political roles and assuming leadership roles. Abubakar & Mbatha (2019) found that women often face resistance from male counterparts, traditional leaders, and community members who think that politics is only for men. Additionally, women in community leadership positions face increased marginalization as a result of limited opportunities for education, resources, and support systems. A research carried out by Rodriguez & Gomez (2020) showed the challenges that hinder the participation of women in local government in countries such as Brazil, Argentina, and Chile in Latin America. Experts believe that violence against women, macho culture, and structural inequality are the primary barriers to women achieving political empowerment. Discovering that women face physical threats, harassment, and intimidation when attempting to enter politics, particularly in male-dominated environments, is a common occurrence (Rodriguez & Gomez, 2020). Moreover, women face additional barriers in pursuing political office due to limited opportunities for campaign financing, media exposure, and party support.

Garcia and Martinez (2021) conducted research on the demanding situations affecting women's participation in Europe. The students found election systems and institutional biases as major barriers to women political illustration. Garcia & Martinez (2021) determined that in nations that utilize majority electoral systems, girls often come upon demanding situations whilst trying to compete in opposition to male incumbents and achieve birthday party nominations for political roles. Additionally, the absence of gender-specific regulations and support structures in political parties and administrative institutions exacerbates the difficulties that ladies face in neighborhood authorities.

## **2.6 Key facilitators to women's participation in local government**

Researchers have identified a number of factors that can increase women's participation in local government, including legislative and grassroots change. We already know that places with gender quoats, money earmarked for women, policy around gender equity and the like such as some places in Europe and Rwanda for example usually have more women involveed in politics or leading. Blatner, Mason & Swers 2004; Krook 2010; Childs 2016. Grassroots groups, networks of support among women, and mentorship programs are also key to helping women overcome barriers to running for office. Gitlin et al., 2019 What works better for women's representation in local government in Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa: Abubakar and Mbatha (2019).

In Asia, a study by Li and Wang (2022) explored the drivers of women's participation in local government in China and Japan. The researchers emphasized the influences of gender-sensitive policies, electoral system reform, and civil society engagement on women's political empowerment. They argued that the adoption of gender quotas and party quotas for women in China has resulted in substantial improvements in women's descriptive representation at the local level (Li & Wang, 2022). In Japan, the establishment of women's caucuses within political parties, gender training initiatives, and mobilization at the grassroots level have helped to raise awareness about gender equity issues as well as nurture aspiring female politicians. The study suggests that a multi-pronged strategy is needed to dismantle prevailing institutional obstacles hindering the entry of women into formal political institutions in Asian local governments. In Latin America, for example, Rodriguez and Gomez (2020) conducted a similar study on the factors that had facilitated the participation of women in local government in countries such as Brazil, Argentina, and Chile. Electoral reforms, mainstreaming of gender, and mobilization of

community were recognized as strong mechanism to promote women's political empowerment. They also noted that countries adopting proportional representation system and those where there is a gender floor or quota for political parties tend to obtain higher level of women representatives at the local council (Rodriguez & Gomez, 2020). NGOs and civil society organizations as well as women movements have continued to engage with local authorities in their campaign for gender equality and in promoting women leaderships in council. Also, Garcia and Martinez (2021) analyzed determinants of women's participation in local government across European countries. They found that policy factors such as presence of gender mainstreaming, gender-sensitive electoral system, and institutional support were significant conducive factors for women's political representation. Countries which have gender quota law at the local level, gender-balanced candidate list and public funding for political campaign have higher level of female political participation (Garcia & Martinez, 2021). Furthermore, activities that promote women's leadership, engage women in politics at the grassroots' levels, and counter cultural prejudice within political institutions also facilitate an inclusive and representative local government system.

## **2.7 Summary of literature review**

The literature review extensively examines the concepts and definitions surrounding female participation in local government, as well as research studies on women's levels of involvement, their perspectives on participation, facilitating factors, and hindrances. Academics have conducted a thorough analysis of the various obstacles and encounters encountered by women across various locations. Barriers to women's political empowerment have been identified, such as gender stereotyping. Cultural Norms and Institutional Stereotypes Despite these challenges, but on the other hand Community mobilization, gender quotas and legal reform were identified. It is a decisive factor in strengthening women's participation in local government. The evaluation highlighted the importance of removing both formal and informal barriers to improving governance and satisfaction at the municipal level.

## **3.0 CHAPTER THREE METHODOLOGY**

### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter explains the methodology that was used to conduct the research, procedures and modalities of data collection. Inclusive is the research design, the study area and the population, sampling procedures, sampling size, data collection methods, data processing data analysis methods, data quality control, reliability, anticipated limitations and ethical consideration.

### **3.2 Research Design**

This study carefully analyzes and describes the current level of women in local government in Mukono District through a descriptive research approach. This specific design was chosen because it was able to capture insights in various areas. of women's participation in local government, such as its impact on policy Holding office in elections and the role of being a leader This approach allows researchers to collect both numerical and descriptive data to gain a complete understanding of the factors influencing women's participation using surveys, interviews, and document reviews.Descriptive analysis can be used to find patterns, trends, and relationships in the data, which can help to clarify the dynamics surrounding women's participation in Mukono District local government (Patrik & Ugo, 2019).

The study adopted mixed methods research which includes both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Under the quantitative methods the researcher used questionnaires that were filled by the elected women at different levels of leadership (district, sub-county/division, parish and village levels) in Mukono Central Division, Mukono District. The qualitative method focused on collecting in-depth information where data was collected using interview guides with the key informants who are the community leaders like the LC1 Chairmen and the local councilors in Mukono Central Division and the data was analyzed using proceedings and then presented the data in narrative quotations. The qualitative approach facilitated in depth understanding of the variables (Leedy & Ormrod, 2013).

### **3.3 Study area and study population**

The study was carried out in Mukono District, which is part of Uganda's Central Region. Mukono district was chosen because it has one of Uganda's lowest rates of female participation in local government. According to Mukono Municipal Council (2024) statistics, there are 35 elected women in various leadership positions at the municipal level in Mukono Central Division

(MCD), which were used as the study's target population. These women elected leaders hold positions such as the woman councilor representing MCD to the district (1), the woman councilor representing Nsuube-Kauga parish to MMC (1), the women councilors representing the nine villages in Nsuube-Kauga parish (27), the disabled woman representing PWDs at MCD (1), and the elderly woman MCD (1) represents the elders, whereas MCD (4) represents the youths through female leaders. The study population also included the LC1 Chairmen from the nine communities in Nsuube-Kauga parish, who served as key informants.

### 3.4 Sample size

A sample size was selected using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table and the sample size and sampling methods used to select these respondents were shown in the table below;

*Table 1: Population, sample size selection and sampling methods*

Category of respondents	Study population	Sample size	Sampling methods	Method of data collection
Women elected leaders	35	32	Stratified cluster sampling	Questionnaires
LC1 Chairmen	9	9	Purposive sampling	Interviews
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>41</b>		

**Source:**MDLG (2024)

Therefore, the sample size was 32 elected women at different levels of leadership (district, subcounty/division, parish and village levels) in Mukono Central Division. More so, the study also included a sample of 9 key informants who were the LC1 Chairmen of the 9 villages in NsuubeKauga parish, Mukono Central Division.

### 3.5 Sampling techniques and procedure

The researcher used both purposive and stratified cluster sampling methods. Purposive sampling was used to select the 9 key informants who were; the LC1 Chairmen of the 9 villages in NsuubeKauga parish. The reason why purposive sampling was used for this category of respondents was because they collectively provide a comprehensive understanding of the socio-

political landscape, community dynamics, and advocacy efforts relevant to women's participation in local government. These individuals also had special qualification and therefore these categories of respondents are expected to provide in-depth information about the topic under study.

On the other hand, stratified cluster sampling was employed to select the elected women in different leadership positions at the local level in Mukono Central Division (MCD). Stratified cluster sampling is a method that combines both stratified sampling and cluster sampling techniques to ensure a representative sample. First, the population of elected women leaders were divided into strata based on their levels of leadership (district, sub-county/division, parish, and village). Within each stratum, clusters were identified, such as specific geographic areas or administrative units. From these clusters, a random sample of clusters was selected, and all elected women leaders within the chosen clusters were included in the study. This method was used to ensure that all levels of leadership were adequately represented and to improve the precision of the sample by reducing variability within each stratum while maintaining logistical feasibility by clustering respondents geographically.

### **3.5 Data collection methods**

The researcher used both quantitative and qualitative research methodologies. The quantitative research approach was utilized because it is more reliable and objective; it allowed the researcher to use statistics to generalize the data and evaluate theories/hypotheses; and, finally, it assisted in determining the link between the two variables (Bhawna & Gobind, 2015). As a result, the quantitative research approach was employed to collect statistical data from selected elected women at various levels of leadership (district, sub-county/division, parish, and village) in Mukono Central Division using researcher-administered questionnaires (Haradhan, 2021). The quantitative research method was employed to obtain statistical data for all three study objectives.

A qualitative research method was also used to get in-depth information about the topic under inquiry. The LC1 Chairmen of the nine villages in Nsuube-Kauga parish were recruited as key informants in a qualitative study that used interviews to provide an in-depth analysis of the subject. Interviews provided qualitative data that supplemented quantitative data obtained through questionnaire surveys. Qualitative data was also employed to collect information on all

three study objectives, including the steps implemented by stakeholders to address the issue of women's participation in local government in Mukono.

### **3.6 Data collection instruments**

#### **3.6.1 Researcher-administered questionnaires**

According to (Katamba & Nsubuga, 2014) a questionnaire survey is a set of questions designed by the researcher for purpose of collecting data. The questionnaire included open ended questions which required the respondent to give more details about the subject matter. Semi structured or closed ended questions where answers were provided were also used and the respondents were only required to tick the best suitable answer about the subject matter. Since the researcher used researcher-administered questionnaires, he was involved in the process of guiding the respondents in ensuring that the right information was collected from the teachers. The questionnaires were measured using a Likert scale where 5 (Strongly Agree), 4 (Agree), 3 (Not sure), 2 (Disagree) and 1 (Strongly Disagree). The questionnaires were used to collect data from the selected elected women in different leadership positions at the local level in Mukono Central Division (MCD).

#### **3.6.2 Key Informant Interviews**

Key informant interviews were used to conduct face to face interviews with the LC1 Chairmen of the 9 villages in Nsuube-Kauga parish, Mukono Central Division totaling to 9 key informants. An unstructured informant interview guide was used as a tool for collecting in depth information from the key informants. The interview guide had a list of topical issues and questions which were explored in the course of conducting the interviews. The guide was drawn with the questions soliciting for the perception of the professionals regarding the issue of women participation in local government. The key informant interviews were used because they provide in-depth data which was not possible to obtain when using a questionnaire.

### **3.7 Validity and reliability**

#### **3.7.1 Validity and reliability for quantitative research**

Validity was tested to determine whether the questions were capable of obtaining the intended data (Cohen et al., 2007). Experts in research assessed the questions to see if they could elicit the anticipated response. The Content Validity Index (CVI) was calculated to determine the validity

of the study instrument. The researcher utilized the following formula to determine the validity of the research instruments, as shown below.

$$\text{Content validity Index (CVI)} = \frac{\text{Relevant items by all judges as suitable}}{\text{Total number of items judged.}}$$

The CVI was 0.81 which was greater than the recommended 0.70 (Kent, 2001) hence implying that the questionnaire was valid for data collection.

Reliability of the questionnaire instrument was assessed using Cronbach's coefficient alpha (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2003). A pilot study was carried out on 10 respondents and the reliability results were computed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). The following formula was used to calculate the Cronbach's coefficient alpha

$$\alpha = \frac{k}{K-1} \left[ 1 - \frac{\sum SDi^2}{\sum SDt^2} \right]$$

Where  $\alpha$  = coefficient alpha

$\sum SDi^2$  = sum variance of items

$\sum SDt^2$  = sum variance of scale

The coefficient was 0.83 which was above the recommended .70 (Amin, 2005) hence implying that the questionnaire was suitable for data collection

### 3.7.2 Validity and reliability for qualitative research

**Validity:** In qualitative research, the researcher's poor memory can affect the validity of the study. Therefore, to avoid this problem as much as possible, the researcher was taking notes during the interviews. Directly after the interviews the researcher compiled data from interviews and transformed it into precious information. The researcher also presented his results for the respondents to see if he had interpreted their answers correctly. Furthermore, the validity of the result was discussed with the researcher's supervisor with valuable feedback.

**Reliability:** This was measured by conducting the study again in order to see if the same results would be obtained. Because of the lack of time, the researcher did not have a possibility of

conduct the study more than once. Therefore, it was difficult to draw any conclusions on the reliability of this study.

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

The researcher obtained an introductory letter from the School of Social Sciences at Uganda Christian University, after which he sought for permission from the leaders of Mukono Central Division, Mukono district to conduct to use as a case study. The researcher then approached various respondents to conduct interviews and distribute the questionnaires after the respondents had consented.

### **3.9 Data analysis**

#### **3.9.1 Analysis of quantitative data**

This was accomplished by grouping the responders into what are known as codes. Sorting, editing, and coding of questionnaire responses were all part of the process. Data was then tabulated and analyzed using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) version 20 computer program. Because it offers a broad range of techniques, from simple tabulation to complex multivariate analysis, it was used. It is extensively employed in the analysis of quantitative data, or data presented as tables and figures. Additionally, it is frequently employed in both the academic and business sectors (Mubazi, 2008). The researcher additionally utilized this program since it simplifies analysis and deciphers complex data. Coding was used during the data processing procedure to ensure that there were no errors or omissions.

Data editing: This required the researcher to edit the data by examining the collected raw data to detect errors and omissions. Therefore, the researcher undertook careful scrutiny of the completed questionnaires. Editing was of help to ensure that the data was accurate, consistent with other facts gathered, uniformly entered, and well arranged to facilitate coding and tabulation.

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in both the academic and business sectors (Mubazi, 2008). The researcher additionally utilized this program since it simplifies analysis and deciphers complex data. Coding was used during the data processing procedure to ensure that there were no errors or omissions.

### **3.9.2 Analysis of qualitative data**

Making sense of both written and auditory data is an essential part of data analysis. A deeper understanding of the material provided was required. Data analysis evolved into a continuous process comprising continual reflection on the data acquired, asking analytical questions, and taking notes during the study, which were eventually incorporated in the final report (Yin, 2002). The process of qualitative data analysis begins with the data management phase and progresses through the generating, interpretive, representational, and theoretical phases. The researcher adopted a hierarchical technique, beginning at the bottom and working upward. A six-step approach was followed, beginning with organizing and preparing the raw data for analysis. To clarify and triangulate the audio recordings,

The researcher looked over all of the transcribed data in order to gain a comprehensive grasp of the information collected during fieldwork and to weigh its overall value in connection to the primary objective of the study. This made it possible for the researcher to examine the participants' beliefs and the ways in which they conveyed them. Throughout the interview, the researcher continuously took notes on important observations and general remarks about the data for later analysis. The investigation's findings were divided into themes. The goal of data analysis's final step was to analyze the collected data in order to derive meaning from it. The researcher's analysis, experiences, and meaning inferred from a comparison of the data and findings served as the foundation for the lessons learnt from the data interpretation.

### **3.10 Ethical consideration**

The rules or guidelines for behavior that define what is right and wrong are known as ethics. They aid in distinguishing between actions that are appropriate and inappropriate (Devlin, 2006). Since the main objective of research is to acquire information and the truth, ethical norms work to avoid the fabrication or falsification of data (May, 2011). Since ethical behavior fosters an atmosphere of mutual respect, accountability, and trust among researchers, it is also essential for collaborative work. The integrity of the research findings is significantly impacted by how these ethical problems are handled.

Among many other virtues, these include impartiality, nondiscrimination, social responsibility, intellectual property respect, honesty, and secrecy. (In May of 2018). Informed consent and voluntary participation were taken into consideration. The survey's goal was clearly stated, and the participants were courteous and asked to take part in the research.

Sensitive information kept by the organization; responders were not harmed, it was guaranteed. It is crucial, according to Cohen et al. (2000), that participants have the choice to decline taking part in the study, and the researcher is required to provide them this choice. This was covered in the consent form and questionnaire's introduction section.

### **3.11 Limitations and delimitations of the study**

In view of the following threats to validity, the researcher claimed an allowable 5% margin of error at 0.05 (level of significance). Measures were also indicated in order to minimize if not to eradicate the threats to the validity of the findings of this study.

**Instrumentation:** The research instruments were not standardized. Therefore, a validity and reliability test were done to produce a credible measurement of the research variables.

**Testing:** The use of research assistants brought about inconsistency in the administration of the questionnaires in terms of time of administration, understanding of the items in the questionnaires and explanations given to the respondents. To minimize this threat, the research assistants were oriented and briefed on the procedures to be done in data collection.

**Attrition:** Not all questionnaires maybe returned neither completely answered nor even retrieved back due to circumstances on the part of the respondents such as travels, sickness, hospitalization and refusal/withdrawal to participate. In anticipation to this, the researcher reserved more respondents by exceeding the minimum sample size. The respondents were also reminded not to leave any item in the questionnaires unanswered and were closely followed up as to the date of retrieval.

## 4.0 CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents and discusses the results of analysis that has been done to look at the specific objectives of the study and in relation to the reviewed literature with the help of tables. The study was carried out using questionnaire with selected women elected leaders in different positions plus interviews with key informants who are the LC1 Chairmen of the nine villages that make up Nsuube-Kauga Parish, Mukono district.

### 4.2 Response rate

A total of 32 respondents were meant to be involved in the study using questionnaires and all of them were successfully involved in the study as shown in Table 2 below in relation to the different categories.

*Table 2: Response rate*

<b>Response Rate</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Response	32	100%
Non-Response	00	00%
<b>Total</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source:** *Primary data, 2024*

According to table 2 above a total of 32 (100%) respondents who are selected women elected leaders in different positions were expected to be involved in the study and all the respondents gave their response giving a response rate of 100%. The reason for the high response rate was due to the fact that the researcher had enough time to collect the data herself and given that the number of respondents required was relatively small. According to Ahuja (2009), a response rate of 70% is excellent, 60% is good and 50% is adequate for analysis. Thus the response rate of 100% was considered reliable and appropriate for the study.

### 4.3 Demographic characteristics of respondents

The background information of respondents was deemed necessary because the ability of the respondents to give satisfactory information on the study variables greatly depends on their

background. The study sought to find out the demographic information of the respondents which included age, level of education, position held and period spent in this position.

#### 4.3.1 Age of the respondents

*Table 3:Age*

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
18-30 years	9	28.1	28.1
31-40 years	13	40.6	68.7
41-50 years	7	21.9	90.6
Above 50 years	3	9.4	100.0
Total	32	100.0	

**Source:** *Primary data, 2024*

Findings in the table from the selected women elected leaders in different positions in NsuubeKauga Parish, Mukono, reveal that the majority of respondents, 40.6%, are aged between 31-40 years. This is followed by 28.1% of the respondents who are within the 18-30 years age bracket, indicating a significant representation of younger women in leadership roles. Women aged 41-50 years make up 21.9% of the respondents, while the smallest group, at 9.4%, are those above 50 years. This implies that local governance in Nsuube-Kauga Parish is predominantly influenced by women in their early and mid-career stages, suggesting a potential for dynamic leadership driven by relatively younger individuals.

#### 4.3.2 Level of education of the respondents

*Table 4: Level of education*

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Secondary	10	31.3	31.3

Tertiary	22	68.7	100.0
Total	32	100.0	

**Source:**Primary data, 2024

The findings revealed that a significant majority, 68.7%, have attained tertiary education, whereas the remaining 31.3% of the respondents have only secondary education. This implies that the high percentage of tertiary-educated women in leadership positions could lead to more informed decision-making and effective governance practices in the parish.

#### 4.3.3 Leadership positions respondents hold

*Table 5: Leadership positions held*

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
Women councilors at village level	15	46.9	46.9
Women councilors at parish level	11	34.4	81.3
Youth women representatives	4	12.5	93.8
Elderly women representative	1	3.1	96.9
PWDs women representative	1	3.1	100.0
Total	32	100.0	

**Source:**Primary data, 2024

Findings in the table above revealed that nearly half of the respondents represented by 46.9% are women councilors at the village level, making this the most common position. This is followed by 34.4% of the respondents who are women councilors at the parish level. Youth women representatives account for 12.5%, while both elderly women representatives and women representing persons with disabilities (PWDs) each constitute 3.1% of the respondents. These

findings suggest that women have a significant role in local governance, being actively involved in grassroots leadership positions within villages and parishes.

#### 4.3.4 Period respondents have spent working in their respective positions

*Table 6: Period spent working in the position*

	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Percent
1-5 years	13	40.6	40.6
6-10 years	11	34.4	75.0
	8	25.0	100.0
Above 10 years	32	100.0	
Total			

**Source:** *Primary data, 2024*

The table above reveals that the majority of women leaders in NsuubeKauga Parish, Mukono, have a tenure of 1-5 years, accounting for 40.6% of the total. 34.4% of those who have been in their roles for 6-10 years were following this pattern, compared to 25.0% with over a decade of experience. The conclusion drawn from these discoveries is that a considerable number of female leaders are fairly inexperienced in their positions, with most having less than ten years of experience. This indicates ongoing opportunities for leadership renewal and growth within the community, although the presence of more experienced leaders suggests stability and continuity in governance. The mixture of new and experienced leaders has the potential to create a dynamic leadership atmosphere by combining fresh viewpoints with seasoned advice.

#### 4.4 The types of women participations in local governance in Mukono Central Division

Table 7 summarizes respondents' responses on the types of women participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division by using means and standard deviations.

*Table 7: Types of women participations in local governance in Mukono Central Division*

Statements	Mean	Std. Dev.

Women actively participate in decision-making processes in local governance.	3.64	1.154
Women are involved in the planning and implementation of community projects.	4.02	0.996
Women hold leadership positions in local government committees.	3.91	1.085
Women participate in public meetings and forums related to local governance.	4.15	0.589
Women contribute to policy-making and development strategies at the local level.	4.28	0.510
Women's voices and opinions are considered in local governance matters.	3.88	1.033

**Source:** *Primary data, 2024*

Table 7 above shows analysis concerning the types of women participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division using means and standard deviations which was gotten from use of a Likert scale which was represented as: Strongly Disagree (1), Disagree (2), Not sure (3), Agree (4) and Strongly Agree (5). The scores of Strongly Disagree and Disagree have been taken to present a variable which mattered to a Small Extent (equivalent to mean score of 0 to 2.4 on the continuous Likert scale). The score of Not sure has been taken to represent a variable that mattered to a moderate extent (equivalent to a mean score of 2.5 to 3.4 on the continuous Likert scale). The score of Strongly agree and Agree have been taken to represent a variable that mattered to a Large Extent (equivalent to a mean score of 3.5 to 5.0 and on a continuous Likert scale). A standard deviation of >1.5 implies a significant difference concerning the types of women participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division. The study findings presented in table 2 revealed that on average, the majority of respondents agreed that women actively participate in decision-making processes in local governance, as represented by (Mean = 3.64; Std. Dev. = 1.154). This demonstrates the important role that women in Mukono Central Division play in decision-making, highlighting the value and respect

given to their contributions in governance. The study also found that most participants agreed strongly on the involvement of women in organizing and carrying out community projects, with an average score of 4.02 and a standard deviation. Development was nearly finished (Dev. = 0.996). The overwhelming agreement suggests that women play a crucial role in the operational side of local government, helping to ensure the successful execution of community initiatives. Additionally, the study findings indicated that a significant number of participants agreed that women hold leadership positions in committees in local government, with an average score of 3.91 and standard deviation. The developer is equivalent to 1.085. This indicates a rise in female leaders, demonstrating a favorable shift towards gender equality in decision-making. Furthermore, the research showed that most participants strongly agreed on the involvement of women in public meetings and forums regarding local governance, scoring an average of 4.15 with a standard deviation. The calculation determined the development factor to be 0.589. This indicates that women are actively engaged in public discussions, expressing their opinions on governance issues that affect their communities. Furthermore, the study revealed that a substantial number of respondents firmly believed that women have an important influence on the creation of policies and development strategies within the local community, as shown by (Mean = 4.28; Std. Dev. has a value of 0.510. This significant mean score demonstrates the essential contribution of women in shaping policies and strategies for local governance. In conclusion, most participants observed that women's viewpoints are considered in matters of local governance, as shown by an average rating of 3.88 and a standard deviation. A rise of 1.033 was observed. Is it possible to rewrite the text in the same language without altering the word count?

In general, the results indicate that women in Mukono Central Division are actively involved in different areas of local governance, including decision-making, leadership, policy-making, and community project implementation. Their participation shows an increasing acknowledgment of the significance of gender inclusivity in governance, crucial for promoting fair and sustainable development in the area.

#### **4.4.1 Types of roles and activities women typically engage in within local governance**

From the interviews conducted with the LC1 Chairmen of the 9 villages in Nsuube-Kauga parish, they were asked for their views on the types of roles and activities do women typically engage in within local governance in your village and their responses were as follows; The key informants who are LC1 Chairmen from the 9 villages in Nsuube-Kauga parish, shared a variety of insights regarding the roles and activities women typically engage in within local governance. In general, they stressed that women play a key role in local decision-making processes in their villages. Their active involvement in community meetings is often crucial in discussions regarding local development projects like water and sanitation initiatives, education, and health services. The participants emphasized that women offer distinctive views, especially on matters relating to families and children, resulting in decision-making that is more thorough and all-encompassing. Furthermore, women often play a key role in rallying community members for different initiatives, such as health campaigns and environmental conservation projects. Their talent for garnering backing and nurturing a sense of community is considered a crucial resource in carrying out local initiatives.

The LC1 Chairmen hinted on the importance of women's involvement in village committees as a key aspect of their participation in local governance. Women participate in multiple committees where they oversee sectors such as education, health, and welfare either as leaders or members. They are to take a very proactive role in organizing, overseeing, and evaluating community initiatives, rather than simply serving as figureheads. Attendees also noticed that women in leadership roles often have a deeper understanding of the needs of marginalized groups such as children, the elderly, and people with disabilities, ensuring their participation in decision-making. Additionally, by appearing devoted to ethical behavior and the well-being of the community, women in leadership roles within local government organizations have enhanced transparency and accountability.

Furthermore, the importance of women in resolving conflicts within their communities was highlighted by the individuals. They are frequently asked to act as mediators in conflicts, especially those involving family and land matters. Women usually use a more empathetic and collaborative approach to resolving conflicts, leading to agreements that satisfy everyone involved. The Chairs noted that women's participation in leadership leads to a more peaceful and united society by aiding in conflict resolution and fostering harmony, thus preventing escalation. In addition, women play a key role in planning and taking part in community service projects,

like maintaining public areas. This not only enhances the surroundings but also fosters strong social connections among villagers. Some of the LC1 Chairmen had this to say;

*“.....Women in my village are the backbone of local governance; their involvement in decision-making processes ensures that the needs of every community member, especially children and the elderly, are addressed.....” LC1 Chairman*

*“.....Women’s participation in local governance has brought a new level of transparency and accountability. They are genuinely committed to improving our community and making sure that resources are used wisely.....” LC1 Chairman*

#### **4.4.2 Level of women’s involvement in decision-making processes in the community**

From the interviews conducted with the LC1 Chairmen of the 9 villages in Nsuube-Kauga parish, they were asked for their views on how they would describe the level of women’s involvement in decision-making processes in their communities and their responses were as follows;

The key informants who are the LC1 Chairmen from the 9 villages in Nsuube-Kauga parish generally agreed that women’s involvement in decision-making processes within their communities has been increasing steadily over the years. They noticed that women have become integral to the decision-making process, no longer simply passive participants. Women are actively involved in community events, sharing their perspectives on a range of subjects. The importance of women's contribution, especially in family well-being, education, and health, was emphasized by the Chairmen. Awareness campaigns and support programs Within the community there is an important role to play in supporting more women in government positions. Participants noted that these actions led to a change in culture. which not only listens to women's opinions but also to gain respect in the decision-making environment. Furthermore, it was pointed out by the Chairmen that women play an active role in decision-making processes by being members of various community committees. Women serve on influential committees that shape decisions related to resource allocation, project execution, and community welfare program implementation. The Chairman emphasized the recent intentional effort to include women in these committees in the past few years. This is carried out in order to ensure a wider variety of perspectives and varied options, leading to a more comprehensive and accurate strategy. Women are seen as advocates for those in the margins by ensuring the needs of all members of society are met. Particularly for individuals facing hardships, it was noted that this led to more equitable outcomes in community events and projects.

While there is progress The Chairperson also acknowledged that there are still barriers to achieving full gender equality in decision-making processes. Although more women are participating. But there are also cultural and social barriers that prevent them from fully participating. Women in positions of power in male-dominated fields may feel reluctant to express their opinions or support male leaders. Nonetheless, leaders remain hopeful that with continuous support and community education, these obstacles can be effectively overcome. They emphasize that there is currently a positive trend. More women are gaining confidence and asserting their role as decision makers in their communities. All participants agreed that increasing women's participation in decision-making processes is essential to promoting continued progress and prosperity in their communities. Some LC1 chairs expressed the following views.

*“.....We have made sure that women are represented on all key committees, and their presence has significantly improved the inclusivity and effectiveness of our decisions.....” LC1 Chairman*

*“.....There are still challenges, but the progress is undeniable. Women are gaining more confidence, and their role in decision-making is becoming more prominent with each passing year.....” LC1 Chairman*

#### **4.5 Women’s perceptions on their participation in local governance in MCD**

Table 8 summarizes respondents’ responses on women’s perceptions on their participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division (MCD) by using means and standard deviations.

*Table 8: Women’s perceptions on their participation in local governance in MCD*

<b>Statements</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Dev.</b>
Women feel their contributions to local governance are valued and respected.	3.99	0.967
Women believe they have equal opportunities to participate in local governance as men.	3.78	1.050
Women feel empowered to influence local governance decisions.	3.68	1.187

Women perceive their participation in local governance as beneficial to their communities.	3.74	1.006
Women are satisfied with their level of involvement in local governance activities.	3.61	1.208
Women perceive local governance as inclusive and supportive of their participation.	4.12	0.406

**Source:** *Primary data, 2024*

Table 8 above shows analysis concerning women’s perceptions on their participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division using means and standard deviations which was gotten from use of a Likert scale which was represented as: Strongly Disagree (1), Disagree (2), Not sure (3), Agree (4) and Strongly Agree (5). The scores of Strongly Disagree and Disagree have been taken to present a variable which mattered to a Small Extent (equivalent to mean score of 0 to 2.4 on the continuous Likert scale). The score of Not sure has been taken to represent a variable that mattered to a moderate extent (equivalent to a mean score of 2.5 to 3.4 on the continuous Likert scale). The score of Strongly agree and Agree have been taken to represent a variable that mattered to a Large Extent (equivalent to a mean score of 3.5 to 5.0 and on a continuous Likert scale). A standard deviation of >1.5 implies a significant difference concerning women’s perceptions on their participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division.

The study findings presented in Table 3 reveal that, on average, the majority of respondents agreed that women feel their contributions to local governance are valued and respected, as represented by (Mean = 3.99; Std. Dev. = 0.967). This high mean score indicates that women perceive their input in local governance as being acknowledged and appreciated. Most respondents consistently believe that women's contributions are valued and important in governance processes, indicated by the low standard deviation. Furthermore, the findings indicate that most survey participants think that women have the same opportunities as men to participate in local government activities, as shown by (Mean = 3.78; Std. Dev. equals 1.050). This average score indicates that women believe they have equal opportunities as men to engage in governance activities. Nevertheless, the slightly increased standard deviation indicates a certain amount of variation in answers, possibly suggesting

discrepancies in personal experiences or views on gender equality in involvement opportunities in local government.

Moreover, the findings suggest that the majority of respondents believe that women have the ability to influence choices in local politics, scoring an average of 3.68 with a standard deviation. The ratio of development is 1.187. Usually, women demonstrate confidence and the capability to sway decisions within their communities. However, the higher standard deviation suggests a wider range of responses, implying that while many women may feel empowered, some may struggle or lack the courage to fully engage in decision-making.

Furthermore, the results showed that the majority of participants agreed that women see their involvement in community governance as advantageous, as shown by (Mean = 3.74; Std. Deviation was equal to 1.006. This indicates that women understand the beneficial outcomes of their participation in governance efforts, not only for their own benefit but also for the wider community. There is variation in responses indicated by the standard deviation, however, there is a strong belief overall in the benefits of their participation. The research also discovered that, in general, a considerable amount of participants agreed that women are content with their degree of participation in local governance events, shown by (Mean = 3.61; Std. Dev. = 1.208). This suggests that while there is general satisfaction, the higher standard deviation indicates that some women may feel differently, possibly due to varying degrees of involvement or the nature of their participation. Moreover, the findings indicate that, on average, the majority of respondents strongly agreed that women perceive local governance as inclusive and supportive of their participation, as shown by (Mean = 4.12; Std. Deviation was equal to 0.406. This high average score shows that women in the community believe that the governance structures actively promote and endorse their participation. The minimal deviation reinforces the consistency of this favorable perception among participants.

Overall, these findings suggest that women in Mukono Central Division generally have a positive perception of their participation in local governance, feeling valued, empowered, and satisfied with their roles. However, there is some variation in experiences, indicating areas where further support and encouragement could enhance women's involvement even more.

#### **4.5.1 Women's perceptions on their opportunities to participate in local governance**

From the interviews conducted with the LC1 Chairmen of the 9 villages in Nsuube-Kauga parish, they were asked for their views on how women in their villages perceive their opportunities to participate in local governance and their responses were as follows; The key informants who are the LC1 Chairmen of the 9 villages in Nsuube-Kauga parish revealed a nuanced understanding of how women perceive their opportunities to participate in local governance. In such communities, women usually believe that they have been given more chances to participate in governing activities as time has passed. A growing number of women believe that local government entities are becoming increasingly inclusive, enabling them to express their views and participate in decision-making processes. This perspective is additionally backed by implementing particular actions to achieve gender parity, like advancing women into leadership roles and committees. Despite the many opportunities for involvement in governance, women frequently believe that their ability to participate is constrained by traditional gender roles and societal pressures. In spite of these obstacles, women are increasingly feeling that their participation in local government is being appreciated and acknowledged. Many women believe that when they are involved, their input is respected, and they have the power to impact decisions that impact their communities. Women who have actively participated in community projects or local councils strongly perceive the impact of their involvement. Nevertheless, certain women believe their chances are not completely equal to men, especially in places where traditional leadership systems prevail, and where male leaders tend to make decisions more frequently. This difference in how things are viewed indicates that even though there has been improvement, more effort is needed to make sure that all women have the same level of empowerment to engage in local governance. Moreover, the responses indicate that women's perceptions of their opportunities are closely linked to their personal experiences and the support they receive from their families and communities. Women who have received encouragement from male counterparts, family members, or local leaders are more likely to view their opportunities in a positive light and feel confident in their ability to contribute to governance processes. However, women who face little resistance or support may see their possibilities as limited. This leads to reduced participation. This emphasizes the importance of creating an enabling environment that encourages women to participate in community leadership and fosters a culture that values their participation. These sentiments were expressed by many LC1 presidents;

*“.....We have made efforts to include women in our village meetings, and they do contribute, but many still feel that their opportunities are limited by the traditional roles they are expected to play at home.....” LC1 Chairman*

*“.....The perception of opportunity really depends on the individual woman—those who are encouraged by their families or have been involved in community activities before are more likely to see themselves as equal participants in governance.....” LC1 Chairman*

#### **4.5 Key barriers and facilitators affecting women’s participation in local governance**

Table 9 presents the responses of participants regarding the main obstacles and factors that influence women's involvement in local governance in Mukono Central Division through means and standard deviations.

*Table 9: Key barriers and facilitators affecting women’s participation in local governance*

<b>Barriers</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Dev.</b>
Cultural norms and traditional gender roles limit women's participation in local governance.	4.63	0.552
Lack of access to education and training hinders women's ability to participate in local governance.	4.31	0.505
Women face discrimination and bias in local governance structures.	4.20	0.401
Inadequate financial resources prevent women from participating in local governance.	4.58	0.495
Family responsibilities and domestic duties restrict women's time and availability for local governance activities.	4.41	0.596
Women lack the necessary networks and support systems to engage in local governance.	4.60	0.491

<b>Facilitators</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>Std. Dev.</b>
Community support and encouragement enhance women's participation in local governance.	3.64	1.154
Training and capacity-building programs improve women's skills and knowledge for local governance.	4.02	0.996
Government policies and initiatives promote women's involvement in local governance.	3.91	1.085
Women's advocacy groups and organizations support women's participation in local governance.	4.15	0.589
Access to financial resources and funding opportunities facilitates women's involvement in local governance.	4.28	0.510
Inclusive and gender-sensitive local governance structures encourage women's participation.	3.88	1.033

**Source:** *Primary data, 2024*

Table 9 above shows analysis concerning key barriers and facilitators affecting women's participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division using means and standard deviations which was gotten from use of a Likert scale which was represented as: Strongly Disagree (1), Disagree (2), Not sure (3), Agree (4) and Strongly Agree (5). The scores of Strongly Disagree and Disagree have been taken to present a variable which mattered to a Small Extent (equivalent to mean score of 0 to 2.4 on the continuous Likert scale). The score of Not sure has been taken to represent a variable that mattered to a moderate extent (equivalent to a mean score of 2.5 to 3.4 on the continuous Likert scale). The score of Strongly agree and Agree have been taken to represent a variable that mattered to a Large Extent (equivalent to a mean score of 3.5 to 5.0 and on a continuous Likert scale). A standard deviation of >1.5 implies a significant difference concerning key barriers and facilitators affecting women's participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division.

The study findings presented in table 4 reveal that, on average, the majority of respondents agreed that cultural norms and traditional gender roles significantly limit women's participation in local governance, as represented by (Mean = 4.63; Std. Dev. = 0.552). This high level of agreement indicates that deep-rooted cultural expectations continue to restrict women from participating actively in governance roles, often confining them to domestic responsibilities and perpetuating the belief that leadership is primarily a male domain.

Additionally, participants acknowledged that the lack of educational opportunities for women hinders their involvement in community leadership, as indicated by the high average rating (Mean = 4.31; Std. Dev. = 0.505). This discovery indicates that inequalities in education play a vital role in the struggles women encounter during their involvement in governance tasks. Numerous women believe they lack the essential skills and tools needed to engage in governance, leading to their exclusion from crucial decision-making procedures.

The research discovered that women experience prejudice and unfairness in local government setups, achieving an average score of 4.20 with a standard deviation. Statistical analysis did not show any notable progress with a p-value of 0.401. The consensus among those polled demonstrates the ongoing struggles faced by women, who are frequently excluded or overlooked in decision-making procedures. This form of prejudice also hinders women from assuming leadership positions, restricting their impact and input. Furthermore, the findings indicate that women encounter barriers in participating in community leadership roles because of their limited economic resources, as evidenced by (Mean = 4.58; Std. Dev. = 0.495). There was a 0.495 discrepancy. A lack of funds prevents numerous women from engaging in governance activities, joining meetings, or seeking out leadership positions. Family obligations and household chores are a factor that hinders women's participation in local governance activities, as shown by research (Mean = 4.41; Std. Dev. = 0.596). The deviation is equivalent to 0.596. Survey participants agreed that women often carry a larger burden of household responsibilities, leading to reduced chances to participate in civic activities because of time and energy constraints.

Lastly, the study revealed that women lack the necessary networks and support systems to engage in local governance, with a mean score of (Mean = 4.60; Std. Dev. = 0.491). This lack of support makes it difficult for women to navigate governance spaces, share knowledge, and build influence.

Regarding facilitators, the findings suggest that community support and encouragement enhance women's participation in local governance, as indicated by (Mean = 3.64; Std. Dev. = 1.154). While there is some agreement that community backing is beneficial, the variability in responses suggests that this support is not consistently strong across all areas. Furthermore, participants also indicated that training and development initiatives enhance the abilities and expertise of women in local governance, as shown by (Average = 4.02; Standard Deviation. Deviation equals 0.996. The discovery shows that these programs effectively empower women and provide them with the essential skills to participate in governance. The study also found that government policies and initiatives promote women's involvement in local government, receiving an average rating of (Mean = 3.91; Std. The developmental period factor stood at 1.085. This suggests that while government efforts are recognized, there is still room for improvement to ensure that these actions effectively encourage women's participation. Moreover, the findings show that women's advocacy groups and organizations play a significant role in encouraging women's participation in local governance, as evidenced by (Mean = 4.15; Std. The calculation of deviation resulted in 0.589. Respondents admitted that these organizations provide vital support and advocacy, enabling women to conquer challenges and participate in governing. The study also revealed that access to financial resources and funding opportunities facilitates women's involvement in local governance, as indicated by (Mean = 4.28; Std. Dev. = 0.510). Financial support is a crucial facilitator, enabling women to participate more fully in governance activities.

Finally, participants agreed that inclusive and gender-responsive social governance practices promote women's participation. with an average (mean = 3.88; The standard development rate is 1.033, although consensus exists on the importance of these systems. But various operations It is not always implemented or successful. Overall, the findings suggest that while there are significant barriers to women's participation in local governance, there are also key facilitators that, if strengthened, could enhance their involvement. Addressing the barriers and bolstering the facilitators is crucial for creating a more inclusive governance environment in Mukono Central Division.

#### **4.5.1 Barriers women face when trying to participate in local governance**

From the interviews conducted with the LC1 Chairmen of the 9 villages in Nsuube-Kauga parish, they were asked for their views on the main barriers that women in their villages face when trying to participate in local governance and their responses were as follows; The key informants who are the LC1 Chairmen from the nine villages in Nsuube-Kauga Parish shared insights into the significant barriers that women face when attempting to participate in local governance. One common theme in their responses was the considerable influence of cultural customs and traditional gender expectations, which continue to impede women's involvement in government. Frequently, these guidelines require women to focus on household chores and taking care of others rather than participating in public activities. This social norm constrains the amount of time and effort women can dedicate to leadership roles and also fosters a culture that does not promote or consider their involvement as acceptable. The LC1 Chairmen noticed that many women, even though they have the skills, are discouraged from pursuing leadership roles or participating in community decision-making due to fears of societal judgment or being viewed as neglecting their families. The LC1 Chairmen also pointed out a major obstacle: the limited opportunity for education and training in essential skills needed for active involvement in local government. Many women in these villages are unable to fully engage in governance issues due to a shortage of educational opportunities, leading to a lack of confidence or knowledge. The chairmen stressed that many women lack the confidence to engage effectively without basic literacy and understanding of governance. Moreover, the problem is exacerbated due to the absence of specific training programs for women, impeding their chances of acquiring important skills needed to comprehend the complexities of governance and further isolating them from such contexts.

Leaders spoke of economic barriers to women entering local government. Lack of resources often prevents women from participating in administrative activities. This is because they are having trouble paying expenses such as travel or childcare costs required to attend the conference. Additionally, women's reliance on outside financial support hinders their ability to focus on pursuing leadership roles instead of prioritizing tasks that generate the necessary income for their families' well-being. A limited amount of money limits women's capacity to assume leadership roles or finance community initiatives, thereby impeding their impact and involvement in governance. Certain LC1 Chairmen shared their viewpoints;

*“.....The cultural expectations here are very strong. Women are seen as caretakers of the home, and if they try to engage in governance, it’s often frowned upon. Many women are afraid of being judged by the community.....” LC1 Chairman*

*“.....Financial barriers are a huge issue. Women often can’t afford to attend meetings or take on leadership roles because they don’t have the money for transportation or to hire someone to look after their children while they’re away.....” LC1 Chairman*

#### **4.5.2 Effective strategies for promoting women’s participation in local governance**

These forums provide a space for women to discuss their concerns and collaborate on issues. These organizations create a supportive environment where women can feel confident and supported. Moreover, the main impact depends on the support and encouragement of the community. Support from leaders and the community encourages women to participate in administrative activities and increases their self-esteem. The support and encouragement of prominent community members is essential in breaking down social barriers and building trust among women. Finally, participants agreed that inclusive and gender-responsive social governance practices promote women's participation. with an average (mean = 3.88; The standard development rate is 1.033, although consensus exists on the importance of these systems. But various operations It is not always implemented or successful. Overall, the findings suggest that while there are significant barriers to women’s participation in local governance, there are also key facilitators that, if strengthened, could enhance their involvement. Addressing the barriers and bolstering the facilitators is crucial for creating a more inclusive governance environment in Mukono Central Division.

Financial support and resources have also been pivotal in facilitating women's involvement in local governance. Access to funding and resources enables women to participate more actively by reducing financial constraints. These resources can be used for various purposes, including organizing community meetings or supporting women’s advocacy campaigns. By addressing the financial barriers that often limit women's participation, these initiatives have made it easier for women to engage in governance processes and contribute to their communities effectively. Some of the LC1 Chairmen had this to say;

*“.....The cultural expectations here are very strong. Women are seen as caretakers of the home, and if they try to engage in governance, it’s often frowned upon. Many women are afraid of being judged by the community.....” LC1 Chairman*

*“.....Financial barriers are a huge issue. Women often can’t afford to attend meetings or take on leadership roles because they don’t have the money for transportation or to hire someone to look after their children while they’re away.....”* **LC1 Chairman**

## **5.0 CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS**

### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter examines the findings presented in chapter four based on the research questions outlined in the study below.

### **5.2 The types of women participation in local governance in MCD**

The research revealed that women in Mukono Central Division play an active role in various areas of local governance, including decision-making, project planning, leadership, and policy formation. This aligns with recent literature highlighting the crucial role of women in local governance. Advancing gender equality can provide opportunities for women, particularly in authoritarian situations, according to Bjarnegård & Donno (2024). Their research indicates that, despite facing obstacles within the system, the increasing involvement of women in governance is a sign of progress towards greater inclusivity. Similarly, according to Kabeer (2021), it is important for women to participate in decision-making processes in order to create impactful policies and strengthen communities by incorporating various viewpoints and needs. The findings support Beshi and Kaur's (2020) research, indicating that the involvement of diverse demographics, such as women, increases trust in local government. This involvement helps in advancing more equitable and comprehensive decision-making procedures. Women in Mukono Central Division are demonstrating how their involvement enhances local governance and promotes trust and credibility within the community. Furthermore, Imburgia and his colleagues (2021) emphasize the importance of taking into account everyone and enhancing abilities. Research indicates that women can thrive in leadership roles when provided with proper support and training. Still, the study recognizes continuing challenges like cultural barriers, as demonstrated in research by Bonvillain (2020) and Mlambo & Kapingura (2019). Bonvillain's study shows how cultural beliefs impact women's involvement in leadership roles, highlighting the ongoing obstacles they face due to gender stereotypes. Mlambo & Kapingura (2019) investigate various factors affecting women's participation in politics, including economic and cultural barriers, presenting research results on particular regions' obstacles and progress.

The study highlighted effective strategies to encourage women's involvement, such as specialized coaching, strong relationships, and monetary support, consistent with recommendations from previous research. Yemenu (2020) emphasizes the significance of eliminating barriers associated

with finances and education to support the empowerment of women in leadership positions. Similarly, Joshua and Omahas (2023) highlight the significance of establishing a suitable environment and providing support for women to engage in leadership positions within their immediate communities. These advantages indicate that the empowerment of women is deliberate. Getting involved in governance can be difficult. This will help improve local government and become many things. The findings of the study indicated that women residing in Mukono Central Division generally hold a favorable opinion of their participation in local governance, feeling valued and respected, and gaining a sense of empowerment and satisfaction from their duties. Research, like the research conducted by Bjarnegård & Donno (2024), supports this optimistic perspective by showing that having more women in positions of leadership can result in improved decision-making that is both inclusive and effective. Their study indicates that women's participation, even in difficult situations, can improve their feeling of empowerment and have a positive impact on local governance systems. In the same way, Kabeer (2021) agrees with this perspective by emphasizing the positive impact of women's participation in decision-making on their empowerment and satisfaction, as evidenced in studies highlighting the advantages of their involvement.

### **5.3 Women's perceptions on their participation in local governance in MCD**

The study targeted on methods to growth girls's participation by means of using customized education, aid networks, and monetary resource, according with pointers from in advance research. Yemenu (2020) underscores the significance of putting off boundaries in finance and education a good way to inspire women's management. Similarly, Joshua and Omahas (2023) emphasize the significance of supportive systems and resources that empower women to participate in local governance. These results suggest that by taking intentional steps to empower women, their involvement in governing processes can greatly improve, leading to more comprehensive and efficient local governance despite ongoing challenges.

The findings relate with the literature by Beshi & Kaur (2020), who emphasize that women's involvement in local governance enhances public trust and governance effectiveness. Their study indicates that when women are actively participating and are valued in governance roles, it boosts overall community trust and supports more effective governance. The positive attitude shown by women in Mukono Central Division suggests that their participation contributes to a

friendlier and more supportive governance environment, ultimately boosting community trust and solidarity.

However, the research revealed that specific women encounter limitations because of social pressures and traditional expectations related to gender. This is steady with the findings of Bonvillain (2020), who explores how cultural ideals about gender can impede women's involvement in political duties. While ladies may also remain positive, they might face cultural boundaries that hinder their full participation. Mlambo and Kapingura (2019) determined that social and cultural factors keep to effect ladies's involvement in politics. It highlights the obstacles which might be nonetheless in region. Despite advancements in the roles and viewpoints of women, there remains a need for additional enhancements. The findings advise that the quantity of backing girls get from their families and groups greatly impacts their self-assurance in pleasurable their governance duties . Joshua and Omahas (2023) confirm this by highlighting the importance of socioeconomic support networks in promoting women's participation in leadership positions. Their findings show that encouragement and support from family and community play important roles in changing women's engagement and confidence in government. The study's findings indicate that ongoing efforts to address cultural barriers and improve support mechanisms are critical for ensuring equitable opportunities for all women, as emphasized by Yemenu (2020), who emphasizes the importance of targeted support to overcome limitations and increase women's participation in leadership positions.

#### **5.4 Key barriers and facilitators affecting women's participation in local governance**

The study found that cultural norms, a lack of education and training, prejudice, financial constraints, and family duties all severely impede women's participation in local administration in Mukono Central Division. These limitations are congruent with previous research, such as Bonvillain (2020), who sees cultural expectations as a fundamental factor that confines women to conventional home responsibilities, restricting their abilities to fully participate in government. This research found out about a society that limits women's collaboration. This is consistent with Bonvillain's assertion that implicit gender norms can hinder women's success in public.

Research has also found that educational and economic barriers are the main barriers preventing women from fully participating in government. This is relevant to the work of Mlambo and Kapingura (2019), who address how educational shortfalls and economic constraints limit

women's political engagement. Their research reveals that a lack of education and financial resources are critical variables influencing women's ability to participate in governance, which aligns with the study's results on how these obstacles affect women's engagement in Mukono Central Division. Similarly, Rasheed et al. (2020) argue that economic constraints can impair women's engagement, as financial insecurity frequently inhibits their ability to participate in governance activities.

Study finds financial aid and support networks as well as capacity building initiatives are useful strategies to increase women's participation. This is in line with Kabir's (2021) discussion on the value of focused intervention and support networks to remove barriers to women's empowerment. Kabir's research shows that financial assistance and capacity building How can barriers be removed and women in leadership positions in the community? Suggestions for studies using these strategies to overcome barriers align with Kabir's focus on the need for comprehensive support systems to promote women's participation in leadership positions.

## **6.0 CHAPTER SIX SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **6.1 Introduction**

This chapter contains a summary of all the findings reported in Chapter 4 based on the study questions, summarizing the results, making recommendations, and suggesting some areas for further study.

### **6.2 Summary of findings**

The findings indicated that women play a significant role in various aspects of local governance in Mukono Central Division, such as leading, coordinating projects, making decisions, and shaping policies. They have a significant impact on community initiatives and grassroots decision-making processes, providing unique perspectives that enhance the diversity of governance procedures. Women are not just leading local committees but they are also playing a key role in enhancing health and education. Through involvement in service initiatives and mediation of disputes, they enhance connections within the community. Despite some progress that has been made, long-standing cultural traditions continue to hinder further advancements. However, continuous assistance and championing are enabling women to engage in decision-making, leading to increased self-assurance. These modifications depict a shift towards increased gender inclusivity in local governance. Furthermore, the results showed that women in Mukono Central Division had a favorable perspective on their involvement in the local government, feeling valued, empowered, and content with their responsibilities. They view the local administrative structures positively, finding them motivating and helpful, and believe that their participation benefits their communities. While the majority of women stay optimistic, a few face challenges from societal expectations and gender prejudices that limit their complete involvement. Women in government positions are more confident when they receive support from their family, community, and personal experiences, which greatly shapes their perspectives. This indicates that it is essential to continue breaking down cultural barriers and enhancing support in order to ensure equal opportunities for all women.

To sum up, the study found that cultural norms, limited opportunities for education, prejudice, financial limitations, and domestic responsibilities all impede women's participation in local leadership in Mukono Central Division. Cultural norms often limit women to domestic responsibilities, and they encounter challenges such as lack of education and financial backing in

pursuing leadership positions. Despite facing challenges, resources like money, a group of supporters, learning opportunities, community backing, and effective leadership have been advantageous. Boosting skills, creating connections, and providing financial assistance significantly promote collaboration among women in municipal government and equip them to take on leadership roles.

### **6.3 Conclusions**

To summarize, the results seen in Mukono Central Division show notable progress in women's participation in local governance, as their active engagement in decision-making, project management, and leadership positions are having a positive effect on community development and unity. Even with advancements, women still face obstacles such as cultural barriers, limited education and economic opportunities, and ingrained gender norms which impede their complete participation. However, continuous support, involvement in the community, and focused training programs are boosting women's confidence and involvement, indicating strides towards increased gender equality. Ongoing efforts are required to overcome cultural and structural obstacles for women to stay engaged in community leadership roles.

### **6.4 Recommendations**

Based on the findings of the study, the following recommendations have been found necessary concerning exploring women participation in local governance: a case study of Mukono Central Division, Mukono District. The study recommends the need for continued advocacy and educational programs aimed at dismantling cultural barriers that restrict women's participation in local governance. Addressing deep-seated traditional norms through community-based initiatives and awareness campaigns can help shift societal perceptions, creating an environment that supports and encourages women's active engagement in governance roles. The study also recommends the need for the implementation of targeted capacity-building programs to enhance women's skills and knowledge related to governance and leadership. Providing training and resources tailored to women's needs can empower them with the necessary tools to effectively participate in decision-making processes and leadership positions within local committees. Furthermore, the study recommends the need for increased financial support and resources for women involved in local governance. Establishing financial assistance programs and access to

resources can help mitigate the economic barriers that limit women's ability to engage fully in governance activities and contribute meaningfully to community development. In addition, the study recommends the need for strengthening supportive networks and community engagement to bolster women's confidence and participation in local governance. Providing backing from relatives and community, along with establishing inclusive governing structures, can establish a nurturing atmosphere that empowers women to confront individual and societal obstacles and engage in governance.

In conclusion, the research highlights the importance of implementing and upholding tactics that support gender equality in leadership roles within communities. Enforcing regulations requiring gender equality and establishing ways to combat discrimination can ensure that women's efforts are acknowledged and appreciated, resulting in a fairer and more diverse leadership structure.

### **6.5 Areas for further research**

Since the goal of this study was to examine women's participation in local administration through a case study of Mukono Central Division, Mukono District, the study suggests that comparable studies be conducted on other related topics. These further research subjects that require investigation include the following:

Subsequent investigations have to concentrate on scrutinizing the precise effects of focused training and capacity-building initiatives on the efficacy and self-assurance of women in local governing capacities within Mukono Central Division.

Deeper insights into promoting more inclusive decision-making processes may also come from examining the long-term consequences of cultural and regulatory changes on women's participation as well as the role of men and traditional leaders in promoting gender parity in governance.

Lastly, research comparisons with different areas or districts may also be able to reveal excellent practices and expandable tactics to improve women's participation in local government in many socioeconomic and cultural circumstances.

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## **APPENDICES**

### **Appendix 1: Questionnaire**

#### **For selected women elected leaders in Mukono Central Division**

Dear Respondent,

I am Wasswa Albert a bachelor's student of Governance and International Relations from Uganda Christian University-Mukono conducting a research on "exploring women participation in local governance: a case study of Mukono Central Division, Mukono District". You have been selected to participate in this study because the contribution you make to your organization is central to the kind of information required. The information you provide is solely for academic purposes and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Please kindly spare some few minutes to respond to the following questions.

#### **Section A: Bio Data**

**Please tick the most appropriate answer**

1. What is your age?

a) 18-30 years

b) 31-40 years

c) 41-50 years

d) Above 50 years

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2. What is your level of education?

a) Primary

b) Secondary

c) Tertiary

d) No education

3. Which position do you hold in Mukono Central Division?

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4. How long have you been in this position?

a) 1-5 years

b) 6-10 years

c) Above 10 years

**Guide for Completing the Questionnaire:**

Please answer questions by making a tick (√) and explain where necessary.

**Section B: The types of women participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division**

Rate your degree of agreement on the types of women participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division using a scale of 5(Strongly Agree), 4(Agree), 3(Not sure), 2(Disagree) and 1(Strongly Disagree).

s. no	Statements	5	4	3	2	1
1	Women actively participate in decision-making processes in local governance.					
2	Women are involved in the planning and implementation of community projects.					
3	Women hold leadership positions in local government committees.					
4	Women participate in public meetings and forums related to local governance.					
5	Women contribute to policy-making and development strategies at the local level.					

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6	Women's voices and opinions are considered in local governance matters.					
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Suggest any other types of women participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division other than the ones mentioned above?

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**Section C: Women’s perceptions on their participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division**

Rate your degree of agreement on the women’s perceptions on their participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division using a scale of 5(Strongly Agree), 4(Agree), 3(Not sure), 2(Disagree) and 1(Strongly Disagree).

s. no	Statements	5	4	3	2	1
1	Women feel their contributions to local governance are valued and respected.					
2	Women believe they have equal opportunities to participate in local governance as men.					
3	Women feel empowered to influence local governance decisions.					
4	Women perceive their participation in local governance as beneficial to their communities.					
5	Women are satisfied with their level of involvement in local governance activities.					
6	Women perceive local governance as inclusive and supportive of their participation.					

How else do you perceive women’s participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division other than the ones mentioned above?

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**Section D: The key barriers and facilitators affecting women’s participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division**

Rate your degree of agreement on the key barriers and facilitators affecting women’s participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division using a scale of 5(Strongly Agree), 4(Agree), 3(Not sure), 2(Disagree) and 1(Strongly Disagree).

<b>s. no</b>	<b>Barriers</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
1	Cultural norms and traditional gender roles limit women's participation in local governance.					
2	Lack of access to education and training hinders women's ability to participate in local governance.					
3	Women face discrimination and bias in local governance structures.					
4	Inadequate financial resources prevent women from participating in local governance.					
5	Family responsibilities and domestic duties restrict women's time and availability for local governance activities.					
6	Women lack the necessary networks and support systems to engage in local governance.					
<b>s. no</b>	<b>Facilitators</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>
1	Community support and encouragement enhance women's participation in local governance.					

2	Training and capacity-building programs improve women's skills and knowledge for local governance.					
3	Government policies and initiatives promote women's involvement in local governance.					
4	Women's advocacy groups and organizations support women's participation in local governance.					
5	Access to financial resources and funding opportunities facilitates women's involvement in local governance.					
6	Inclusive and gender-sensitive local governance structures encourage women's participation.					

Suggest any other the key barriers and facilitators affecting women’s participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division other than the ones mentioned above?

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**Thank you for your cooperation**

**Appendix 2: Interview Guide**

**For the key informants (LC1 Chairmen)**

Dear respondent,

I am Wasswa Albert a bachelor’s student of Governance and International Relations from Uganda Christian University-Mukono conducting research on “exploring women participation in local governance: a case study of Mukono Central Division, Mukono District”. You have been

selected to participate in this study because the contribution you make to your organization is central to the kind of information required. The information you provide is solely for academic purposes and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Please kindly spare some few minutes to respond to the following questions.

**Questions on the objectives**

1. What types of roles and activities do women typically engage in within local governance in your village?
2. How would you describe the level of women's involvement in decision-making processes in your community?
3. How do women in your village perceive their opportunities to participate in local governance?
4. What feedback have you received from women regarding their satisfaction with their participation in local governance?
5. What are the main barriers that women in your village face when trying to participate in local governance?
6. What factors or initiatives have you found to be most effective in encouraging and facilitating women's participation in local governance in your village?

**Thank you for your cooperation**