

**THE IMPACT OF OIL EXPLORATION ON THE SOCIAL-ECONOMIC WELFARE
OF PEOPLE IN ALBERTINE REGION : A CASE OF HOIMA DISTRICT**

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**UGANDA CHRISTIAN
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DECLARATION

I **MWESIGWA WILLIAM** declare that this report is original and has not been submitted elsewhere for any award. The quotations, illustrations, and citations have been duly referenced.

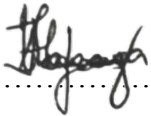


Signature: **Date:** 17/10/2024

APPROVAL

This is to certify that this research report was performed under my supervision.

Mr. Mugerwa James

Signature.....

Date..... 18th Oct 2024.....

DEDICATION

I dedicate this report to my beloved parents for their endless support, love and sacrifice. My special thanks to my siblings for their support both academically and financially. Last but not least, thanks to all my friends for their prayers and support throughout my period of study.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Firstly, I thank the almighty God who has been the source of my strength, wisdom and wellbeing as I was in the course of compiling this report.

Heartfelt gratitude to my research supervisor **Mr. Mugerwa James** for his constant guidance on different valuable insights that have been very much instrumental in determining the outcome of this research report. Am truly grateful for his unwavering support during this course.

I acknowledge the contribution of all the participants in Albertine Region from the different researchers whose journal articles I have used during this study. For their pioneering in research has given a foundation upon which I built my study.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

Freq	: Frequency
UBOS	: Uganda Bureau of Statistics
MWE	: Ministry of Water and Environment

ABSTARCT

This study investigated the impact of oil exploration on social economic welfare of people in Albertine region, Hoima district and it was aimed to (i) establish the impact of oil exploration on land acquisition, (ii) assess its impact on the health of residents, and (iii) determine its influence on infrastructural development in the Albertine region, Hoima district. The study employed a descriptive research design with both qualitative and quantitative approaches to gather data on perceptions and factual impacts. Surveys and interviews were conducted to collect primary data, supplemented by literature reviews and secondary sources. The sample comprised 97 respondents randomly selected from communities directly affected by oil exploration activities in Hoima district. Simple random and purposive sampling techniques were utilized to ensure representation across diverse socio-economic and geographic segments. The study found a mixed perception among respondents regarding the fairness of compensation for land acquired due to oil exploration. While transparency and community consultation were recognized in some cases, concerns over adequacy and inclusivity persisted. The study concludes that while oil exploration in the Albertine region, Hoima district, has brought economic opportunities and infrastructure development, it has also raised significant challenges. These include concerns over land acquisition practices, adverse health impacts linked to environmental pollution, and the need for sustainable infrastructural investments aligned with community needs. Thus the study recommended to enhance transparency and fairness in land acquisition processes through improved communication, inclusive consultations, and equitable compensation frameworks, the study further recommended to strengthen environmental monitoring and regulatory enforcement to mitigate health risks associated with oil exploration, focusing on air and water quality management and community health assessments, and finally to promote community-driven infrastructural projects that prioritize long-term sustainability and local development needs, ensuring equitable access and benefit-sharing among affected communities.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Oil exploration is a vital endeavor aimed at extracting mineral and oil deposits to drive the economic development of nations blessed with such resources. While these activities offer the promise of economic growth and prosperity, they also come with significant challenges. Some communities may feel inadequately compensated for the loss of livelihoods and environmental damage caused by exploration activities, leading to social tension and conflict (Lane, 2001; Burns, 2004).

Africa boasts abundant mineral and fossil fuel resources, but limited knowledge about their quantities and distribution poses a challenge to comprehensive assessment and equitable exploitation. Despite the emergence of new oil and gas discoveries on the continent, the populations are yet to fully benefit. Nigeria's experience illustrates this paradox: despite being the world's fourth-largest oil exporter, its human and physical capital development lags far behind what could have been achieved with better utilization of oil revenues (African Development Report, 2007).

In Uganda, oil exploration covers various sedimentary basins, with the Albertine graben being the most promising. This region, spanning districts like Nwoya, Hoima, and Bulisa, holds significant reserves, making it a focal point for exploration efforts. The discovery of 6.5 billion barrels of oil and gas in the Albertine graben presents a considerable opportunity for economic transformation through job creation, revenue generation, and infrastructure development (Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development, 2016).

The Ugandan government has made substantial investments in the petroleum sector, including human resource capacity building and specialized equipment procurement for data collection. These efforts have attracted foreign investment and led to the discovery of commercial oil and gas reserves in 2006. However, tensions persist between local and national interests regarding the distribution of benefits from exploration projects.

Beyond mere compensation for losses and impacts, mining projects must provide tangible benefits that contribute to sustainable development at the community level. However, this endeavor is complicated by technical limitations, inefficient negotiations, inadequate taxation, and poor transparency in revenue utilization (Mayer Brown, 2011).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Ideally, in as much as exploration activities are of great importance to the economic developments of a nation, it also poses grave dangers to human beings living around such areas of exploration (Sharma and Arora, 2012). The positive impact could range from increased employment opportunities, increased trade volumes, stabilization of the exchange rates and rapid economic growth (Sharma and Arora, 2012) while the negative effects would include lack of respect to cultural and social concerns (Omoredede, 2014).

According to Hoima local government report (2019), there has been increase of value for land by 25%, UBOS report (2020) shows a 1.7% population increase in the area from 2018-2019, and new infrastructure development by 17.5% development and of new infrastructures. However land problems, rate of infrastructure development as well as immigration of population and increased human activity all have created considerable gaps on the social and economic welfare of people (UBOS, 2020).

Currently, there remains lack of comprehensive empirical evidence regarding the overall effects of oil exploration on the social and economic welfare of people in the Albertine region, Hoima district. Many consequences, such as displacement, occupational dislocation, and economic transformations, have not been systematically studied and documented. Recognizing this gap, the study aimed to assess the specific impacts of oil exploration activities on the social and economic well-being of communities in the Albertine region, Hoima district.

1.2 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this was to investigate the impact of oil exploration on social economic welfare of people in Albertine region, Hoima district.

1.3 Research Objectives

The specific objectives of this research study were as follows:

- (i) To establish the impact of oil exploration on land acquisition in Albertine region, Hoima district.
- (ii) To assess the impact of oil exploration on health of people living in Albertine region, Hoima district.
- (iii) To determine the impact of oil exploration on infrastructural development in Albertine region, Hoima district.

1.4. Research Questions

The study was guided by the following objectives

- (i) What is the impact of oil exploration on the acquisition of land among the Hoima community in Albertine region, Hoima district?
- (ii) What is the impact of oil exploration on the health of people living in Albertine region, Hoima district?
- (iii) ^{Type text here} What is the impact of oil exploration on infrastructural development among the Hoima community in Albertine region, Hoima district?

1.5 Scope of the study

1.5.1 Geographical Scope

The study was in Albertine region, Hoima district. Focusing in two divisions of Kahoora and Mparo respectively focusing on the impact of oil exploration on the social, economic wellbeing of communities.

1.5.2 Time Scope

The study took into consideration the time when serious oil exploration activities started in 2006 under Hardman resources up to 2021.

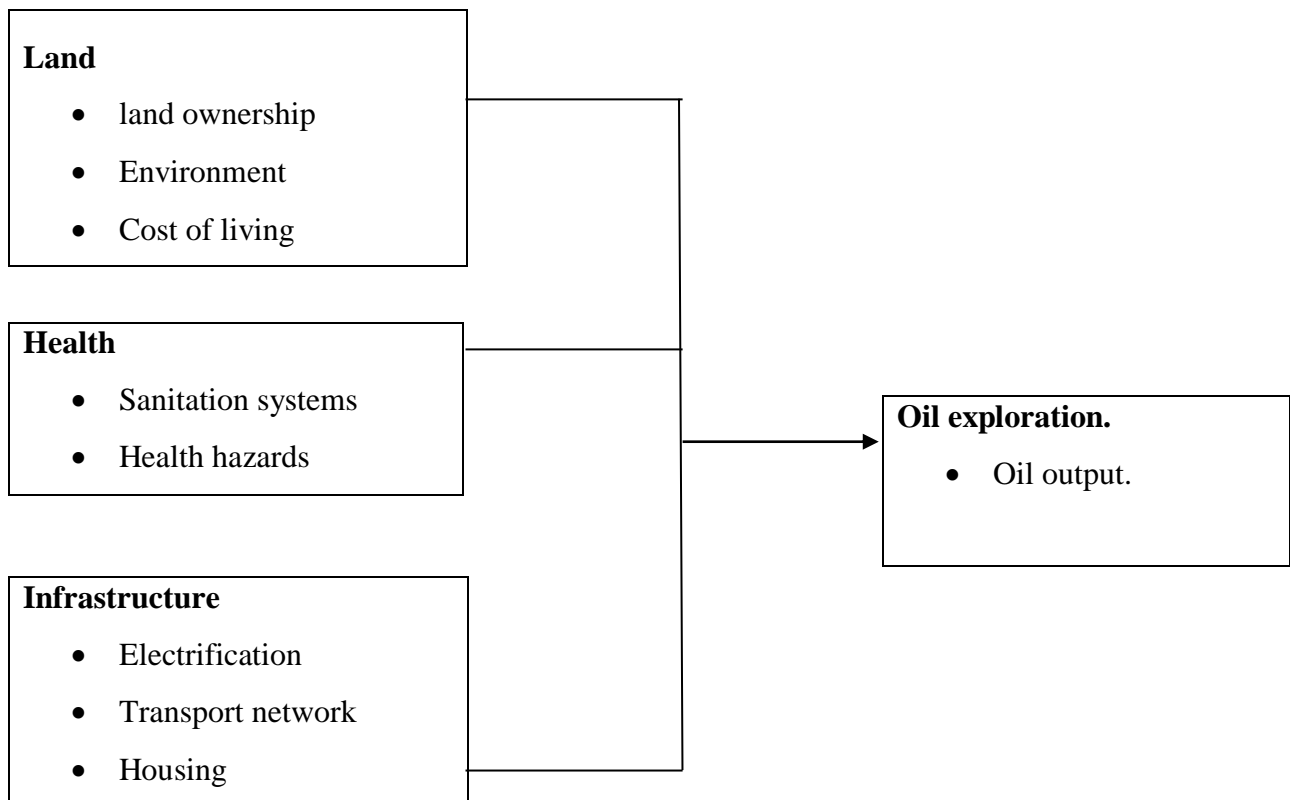
1.5.3 Content Scope

The study focused on how the people have been affected by oil exploration activities since 2006 when serious oil exploration began in the Albertine graben. The focus was in the local communities within Albertine region, Hoima district in the two divisions of Kahoora and Mparo.

1.6 Conceptual framework

INDEPENDENT VARIABLE (IV)

DEPENDENT VARIABLE (DV)



From fig 1 above, oil exploration was treated as the independent variable with policies and oil output as the main variables while land, health and infrastructure development was used to estimate the dependent variable that is to say the social economic welfare of people resulting from the impact of oil exploration in Albertine region, Hoima district..

1.7. Significance of the Study

This research finding will provide perceptions and understanding on the effect of exploration projects on the socio-economic development of communities in poor areas. The findings will provide valuable information to government, stakeholders in mining sector and the community leaders on how to manage and control exploration activities in order to benefit both the sector and the communities at large.

The findings of the research will be of importance to the stakeholders in the mining sector, as they will provide an understanding on the issues that exploration activities causes on the livelihood development of the communities residing in poor areas where exploration projects are common and provided recommendations on how to address the problem posed by the exploration activities to local people in the areas.

The findings of the study also will be of great significance to the government through the ministry of industrialization as they it will provide on the measures needed to be taken in order to protect the interest of the local communities residing in the poor areas where explorations is being done. It will also help them develop laws and regulations governing exploration activities for the interest of all stakeholders involved.

1.8 Justification of the study

Petroleum geologists have determined that the Mputa and Waraga oil fields in Buseruka Hoima have volumes of between 100 and 300 million barrels of oil. In the Waraga field, a maximum of 12,050 barrels of oil can be produced per day. According to Hardman's Chief Executive Office, the great news in the fact that flow tests from all the zones have exceeded the expectations of productivity. Additional recent exploration findings to Tallow oil partners in Area 3A have revealed the existence of up to 500 million barrels of oil at the Kingfisher well in Hoima. According to Reuben Kashambu, the commissioner for petroleum exploration and production, production is now possible as the issue of commercial capacity has been settled.

1.9 Operational definitions

Here are definitions for the operational terms used in the conceptual framework:

Oil Exploration: The process of searching for oil deposits beneath the Earth's surface through various geological, geophysical, and geochemical methods. In this context, it refers to the activities conducted by oil companies to identify and assess potential oil reserves in the Albertine region, Hoima district of Uganda.

Policies: Refers to the set of regulations, guidelines, and decisions formulated by governmental bodies or regulatory agencies that govern the exploration, extraction, and management of oil resources.

Oil Output: The quantity of oil extracted from the ground during a specific period, typically measured in barrels per day (bpd) or barrels per year.

Land Ownership: Refers to the legal right or title to land, including the ability to possess, use, control, and transfer land.

Environment: The natural surroundings, including air, water, soil, flora, and fauna, as well as the interactions between human activities and the natural ecosystem.

Cost of Living: The amount of money required to maintain a certain standard of living, including expenses for housing, food, healthcare, transportation, education, and other necessities.

Sanitation Systems: Infrastructure and facilities designed to manage and dispose of waste, maintain cleanliness, and prevent the spread of diseases within communities.

Health Hazards: Refers to conditions or factors in the environment that have the potential to cause harm to human health.

Electrification: The process of extending access to electricity to households, businesses, and communities.

Transport Network: The system of roads, highways, railways, ports, airports, and other transportation infrastructure that facilitates the movement of goods, people, and services within and between regions.

Housing: Refers to residential buildings, dwellings, and accommodations where people reside. Housing infrastructure includes individual homes, apartments, condominiums, and other types of shelter.

Wellbeing. Human wellbeing has many dimensions, income to pay food, clothing and shelter, access to clean water and sanitation, good health, security, access to social services and amenities, freedom of choice.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

The main purpose of this literature review was to identify and examine what had been done by other scholars and researchers in relation to the impact of oil exploration on social economic welfare of people. This chapter is broken down into the following sections: Empirical review of the study objectives, knowledge cap from the review of literature, theoretical framework of the study, and the critical review of theories that guided this study.

2.2 Empirical Review of the Study Objectives

This section provides a review on what other scholars have done in respect to exploratory projects and socio-economic development.

2.2.1 Oil Exploration Activities and Land Acquisition among Communities in Poor Areas

The law provides that the owner of a piece of land owns everything up to the sky and down to the center of the earth and whatever is attached to the land becomes part of the property of the owner (Barros, D. B., Hemingway, A. P., & Cavalieri, S. 2024). . Therefore any mineral deposits should belong to the land owner. But the law in many countries around the world including Uganda also provides that the right of occupancy could be revoked in the public interest which includes the requirement of land for mining purposes or oil pipelines or for any purpose connected there with (Okoth, 2012).

Landlessness, expropriation of land removes the main foundation upon which peoples productive systems, commercial activities, and livelihoods are constructed. This is the principal form of de-capitalization and pauperization of displaced people, as they lose both natural and human-made capital. This however interferes with the social setup of these communities as it requires them to move out of these regions (Arce, 2004).

Oil exploration in impoverished regions often leads to a surge in land leasing, with speculators aiming to profit from inflated prices fueled by the presence of oil deposits. Multinational companies often lobby governments for secretive agreements, perpetuating corruption and exclusion of local communities from decision-making processes (Okoth, 2012). This dominance by central governments and oil companies further marginalizes communities, exacerbating social and economic disparities.

The extensive exploration and exploitation of oil in impoverished regions frequently results in the displacement of families from their ancestral lands without adequate compensation, deepening alienation and impoverishment (Okoth, 2012). Limited engagement with affected communities perpetuates a cycle of marginalization and undermines social stability, highlighting the need for more inclusive approaches to address these challenges.

To promote social stability and empower impoverished areas, effective engagement between governments, multinational corporations, and local communities is essential. This engagement should prioritize citizens' rights over ethnic affiliations and include measures such as robust land acquisition laws, fair taxation on oil activities, and equitable profit redistribution to ensure communities benefit from oil operations (Arce, 2004). Such measures can contribute to poverty alleviation and foster inclusive economic development in resource-rich but economically disadvantaged regions.

Conclusively, human welfare and redistribution of resources should emerge as the key agenda as oil drilling goes on in poor areas. The respective governments and the multinationals should therefore ensure economic rights for the local Hoima communities. If not, social justice actors should contest and block further exploration and exploitation of oil until the poor people's grievances are addressed (Okoth, 2012).

2.2.2 Oil Exploration Activities and the people's Health

Case studies worldwide reveal that natural resource extraction and development projects near indigenous territories are major sources of abuse of indigenous rights. Health hazards from oil exploration, often downplayed, contribute significantly to disease burdens in affected communities. Oil spills contaminate water, air, and crops with carcinogenic hydrocarbons, like polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and benzene (Arce et al., 2004).

Scholars like Burns (2001) and Crosby (2009) have overlooked the potential connections between exploration projects and community livelihood development, particularly in impoverished areas. Despite advancements in enhancing the livelihoods of disadvantaged populations, there remains a lack of consensus on how exploration projects impact the livelihood development of poor communities (Ledgerwood, 2002).

This study aims to bridge this gap by examining how exploration operations can contribute to sustainable livelihood development in poor areas, with a focus on both social and economic dimensions. By delving into the specific ways in which exploration projects influence the

livelihoods of poor communities, this research seeks to provide comprehensive insights into the potential benefits and challenges associated with such initiatives (Ledgerwood, 2002).

Ultimately, the findings of this study aim to inform policies and practices that can effectively enhance the well-being and development prospects of impoverished communities affected by exploration activities. Through a nuanced understanding of the relationship between exploration projects and livelihood development, this research seeks to pave the way for more inclusive and equitable development strategies in resource-rich but economically disadvantaged regions (Burns, 2001; Crosby, 2009).

2.2.3 Oil Exploration Activities and the Infrastructural Development.

Communities can receive compensation and substantial flows of revenue when a large exploration project is established, which can act as an important catalyst for change and growth. These monetary flows can transform the economic and social basis of the poor communities around the area. The types of payments and the way they are used are very important to contribute to sustainable development at the community level (Gulati, 2003).

There can also be significant infrastructure improvements in the poor areas with the construction of a large exploration projects. Most exploration projects of any size are served by good transport network, water supplies, sanitation systems, and electricity. If these are restricted to use by the company, and designed solely for company objectives, they may be of little relevance communities in poor areas. With some advance planning and a willingness to consult with the community, however, these can bring lasting benefits at little or no added cost. And the development of infrastructure may facilitate other forms of economic activity, such as tourism (Gulati, 2003).

Scholars such as Burns (2001) and Crosby (2009) have given limited attention to the potential linkages between exploration projects and community livelihood development, particularly in impoverished areas while the concept of development has been central to exploration companies' practices, no study specifically evaluates how exploration projects impact the livelihood development of poor communities (Ledgerwood, 2002)..

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the Research design, study population, sample size and selection, sampling techniques, data collection methods, data collection instruments, procedure of data collection, reliability and validity of instruments and data analysis

3.1 Research Design

The study adopted a mixed-methods research design to comprehensively explore the social and economic effects of oil exploration in the Albertine region, Hoima district. This approach integrates both quantitative and qualitative methods to provide a more thorough understanding of the research topic. Quantitative methods was utilized to analyze data on key indicators such as economic transformation and influx of people, while qualitative methods was employed to delve into the nuanced social impacts of oil surveying and mapping

3.2 Study population

In this study, the target population of 110 was drawn from Albertine region, Hoima district and included those involved in or with knowledge about the social economic effects of oil exploration activities on the wellbeing of the communities and included; 60 area residents, 25 Municipal administrators, 15 officials of oil companies, and 10 Officials from Ministry of Water and Environment

3.3 Determination of sample size

A sample of 97 respondents was selected basing on a table for determining sample size by Krejcie and Morgan, 1970, p.608) random sampling was used to reselect the respondents.

Table 1: Category, target population, sample size and sampling technique

Category	Target population	Sample size	Sampling techniques
Municipal administrators	25	21	Purposive sampling
Officials of oil companies	15	14	Purposive sampling
Area residents	60	52	Simple random sampling
MWE Officials	10	10	
Total	110	97	

Source: Krejcie and Morgan, 1970, p.608).

3.4 Sampling techniques and procedure

The study used simple random sampling and purposive sampling. Simple random sampling was used to enable respondents have equal chances of being selected while purposive sampling was used on the key informants and in this case, respondents who were knowledgeable or experts in the area of oil and gas.

3.5 Data collection methods

The primary sources for this study encompassed survey responses from area residents, municipal administrators, and officials of oil companies, providing firsthand insights into the social and economic effects of oil exploration in the Albertine region. Additionally, interviews with key informants such as government administrators, experts from oil companies, and community leaders offered in-depth perspectives on the impact of exploration activities on local communities. Official documents and reports from government agencies, direct observations, and academic literature supplemented these primary sources, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter.

3.6 Data collection instruments

The data collection instruments for this study included structured questionnaires and interview guides. The questionnaire consisted of a series of standardized questions designed to gather quantitative data on various aspects of the social and economic effects of oil exploration. The interview guide provided a framework for conducting qualitative interviews with key informants, facilitating in-depth discussions and exploration of their perspectives and experiences. Both instruments were carefully crafted to align with the research objectives and ensure the systematic collection of relevant data.

3.7 Pretesting (Validity and reliability)

3.7.1 Validity

Validity refers to the extent to which a research study accurately measures what it intends to measure. In this study, validity was ensured through several strategies. Firstly, the questionnaire and interview guide was developed based on a thorough review of relevant literature and consultation with experts in the field. This helped ensure that the questions and prompts are aligned with the research objectives and intended constructs

3.7.2 Reliability

According to Mugenda and Mugenda (1999) reliability refers to the measure of the degree to which research instrument yields consistent results or data after repeated trials. Cronbach's Alpha coefficient was used to measure reliability of the instruments. The questionnaire was pretested using ten (10) respondents within the division and the reliability results were computed using the Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) and the scores were evaluated as below;

Strongly agree	Agree	Not sure	Disagree	Strongly disagree
1	2	3	4	5

3.8 Data analysis

The quantitative data involved information from questionnaires only. Data from the field was too raw for proper interpretation. It was therefore be vital to put it into order and structure it, so as to derive meaning and information from it. The raw data obtained from the questionnaires was cleaned, sorted and coded. The coded data was entered into computer, checked and statistically analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) software package to generate descriptive and inferential statistics. Descriptive analysis was applied to describe the primary variable and associated indicator items related to the study objectives.

3.9 Measurement of variables.

The variables of the study were measured using the five Likert scale. Different variables were measured at different levels. The variables were measured at nominal and ordinal scale. The nominal scale measurement was used in the first part of the questionnaire (demographics) which compromised items with some common set such as sex, age, marital status, designation and level of education of respondents. According to Mugenda and Mugenda (1999), nominal scales are assigned only for purposes of identification but do not allow comparisons of the variable being measured.

3.10 Anticipated limitations of the study.

In the process of carrying out research, a number of limitations were anticipated which included

Some targeted respondents were not willing to set aside time to respond to the investigator's questions and this ended up frustrating the researcher's efforts to collect substantial data. The researcher was faced by a problem of some rude hostile respondents. The study required a lot of time to be dedicated to collecting substantial data from one respondent to another making observations, continuous review of literature, data analysis and report writing.

3.11. Ethical considerations

The researcher was availed with the letter from the department of oil and gas management of Uganda Christian University authorizing him to conduct research and he introduced it to the officials in Albertine region.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, INTERPRETATION AND PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents data analysis, interpretation and presentation of results

4.1 Bio data of participants

The following table provides a detailed breakdown of the demographic characteristics of the respondents who participated in the study on the socio-economic impacts of oil exploration in the Albertine region, Hoima district. The table includes data on age, gender, marital status, period of stay in the region, and education level.

Table 4. 1 Bio data of participants

		FREQ	PERCENT
Respondent by age	Under 25	7	7.5
	25-34	22	23.7
	34-45	36	38.7
	4.00	28	30.1
	Total	93	100.0
Respondent by gender	Male	66	71.0
	Female	27	29.0
	Total	93	100.0
Respondent of marital status	Single	9	9.7
	Married	73	78.5
	Divorced	5	5.4
	Widowed	6	6.5
	Total	93	100.0
Respondent by period of stay in the region	0-3 years	10	10.8
	4-6 years	16	17.2
	7-9 years	41	44.1
	Over 9 years	26	28.0
	Total	93	100.0
Respondent by education level	Certificate	27	29.0
	Diploma	16	17.2
	Degree	17	18.3
	Professional qualification	9	9.7
	Master	3	3.2
	Others specify...	21	22.6
	Total	93	100.0

Source : Primary Data, 2024

The age distribution of respondents shows a diverse participation across different age groups. The largest age group is 34-45 years old, comprising 38.7% of the respondents, followed by those aged 25-34 years at 23.7%. The category labeled as 4.00, which seems to indicate an older age group, constitutes 30.1%, and those under 25 years are the smallest group at 7.5%. This indicates that the majority of the respondents are in their prime working age, actively engaged in socio-economic activities influenced by oil exploration.

Gender representation shows a significant disparity, with males making up 71% and females 29% of the respondents. This gender imbalance reflects the societal roles or employment patterns in the region, where males are more directly involved or affected by oil exploration activities. It also highlights the need for more inclusive approaches in research and community engagement to ensure that the perspectives of women are adequately represented and addressed.

Marital status data indicates that a majority of the respondents are married, accounting for 78.5%. Single individuals make up 9.7%, divorced respondents are 5.4%, and widowed individuals constitute 6.5%. The high % of married respondents suggests that household and family dynamics significantly influence the socio-economic impact of oil exploration. Married individuals likely have different priorities and concerns compared to single or divorced individuals, particularly regarding land acquisition and health impacts.

The duration of stay in the region shows that a significant portion of the respondents, 44.1%, have lived there for 7-9 years, and 28% have been there for over 9 years. This long-term residency indicates a deep familiarity with the region's socio-economic changes and the impacts of oil exploration. Those with shorter stays, such as 0-3 years (10.8%) and 4-6 years (17.2%), provide insights into recent developments and immediate effects of oil exploration activities.

Educational attainment among the respondents varies, with 29% holding certificates and 22.6% specifying other forms of education. Diploma holders constitute 17.2%, degree holders 18.3%, those with professional qualifications 9.7%, and a small % with master's degrees at 3.2%. This diversity in education levels indicates that respondents possess a range of skills and knowledge, influencing their perspectives on the socio-economic impacts of oil exploration. Higher educational attainment correlates with greater awareness and critical assessment of the changes brought by oil exploration activities.

4.2 Analysis of the Study Objectives

To analyze the study objectives' findings participants who strongly disagreed and those who disagreed were combined into one category of who opposed the items. In addition, participants who strongly agreed and those who simply agreed were combined into another category of those who concurred with the items. Another category was that of those participants who neither agreed nor disagreed, the undecided with the items. Thus, the three categories of participants were compared. Interpretation was then drawn from the comparisons of the three categories as shown in the following table. The findings were supplemented by interview content.

Table 4. 2 Descriptive statistics on the impact of oil exploration on land acquisition.

Items	Disagree		Neither		Agree		mean	std. dev
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
The compensation received for land acquired due to oil exploration is fair.	47	51	19	20	27	29	2.570	1.386
I feel well-informed about the land acquisition process related to oil exploration.	22	24	32	34	39	42	3.280	1.155
The land tenure system in our community has been negatively affected by oil exploration.	45	48	12	13	36	39	2.710	1.426
There are concerns about the transparency and fairness of land acquisition processes.	38	41	4	4	51	55	3.151	1.489
Land values in our community have increased due to oil exploration.	7	8	6	6	80	86	4.022	0.967
Local residents have had sufficient involvement in decision-making regarding land use for oil exploration.	38	41	33	35	22	24	2.774	1.190
Measures should be implemented to ensure local communities benefit more from land acquisition for oil exploration.	4	4	0	0	89	96	4.226	0.754
GRAND MEAN AND STANDARD DEVIATION							3.247	1.195

Source: Primary Data, 2024

The grand mean of 3.247 indicates a generally positive perception of the impact of oil exploration on land acquisition in Hoima district, with some variability in responses. The standard deviation of 1.195 reflects differing levels of agreement among respondents regarding fairness, transparency, and community involvement in the process.

The descriptive statistics indicates that majority of respondents, 51%, disagree that the compensation received for land acquired due to oil exploration is fair. This suggests a prevalent dissatisfaction with the compensation process. Meanwhile, 20% of respondents are undecided, indicating uncertainty or lack of information about the fairness of compensation. Only 29% agree that the compensation is fair, pointing to a minority who view the process positively. The mean score of 2.570, which is below the midpoint of the scale, further reinforces the overall negative sentiment towards compensation fairness. Additionally, the standard deviation of 1.386 indicates a considerable variance in responses, reflecting diverse opinions and possibly varying experiences with compensation processes. This highlights a critical area for improvement, where ensuring fair and transparent compensation practices could enhance community satisfaction and trust in the oil exploration activities.

As a Municipal administrator, the process of land acquisition for oil exploration projects in Hoima district involves stringent adherence to legal frameworks, community consultations, and compensation negotiations to ensure equitable outcomes for all stakeholders involved.

The descriptive statistics on how well-informed respondents feel about the land acquisition process related to oil exploration in the Albertine region, Hoima district, show a varied distribution of opinions. A notable 42% of respondents agree that they feel well-informed about the land acquisition process, suggesting that a significant portion of the community has access to and understands the relevant information. However, 24% of respondents disagree, indicating that nearly a quarter of the population feels inadequately informed. The remaining 34% are undecided, reflecting uncertainty or partial awareness about the process. The mean score of 3.280, slightly above the midpoint, indicates a general tendency towards agreement but with substantial room for improvement. The standard deviation, although not provided in this case, would help in understanding the spread of responses. This data implies a need for enhanced communication and transparency in the land acquisition process to ensure that a larger proportion of the community feels adequately informed and confident in their understanding of the procedures involved.

a local resident said, *the key concerns regarding land acquisition for oil exploration include uncertainty about compensation fairness and the long-term impacts on community livelihoods and environment.*

The descriptive statistics shows that nearly half of the respondents, 48%, disagree that the land tenure system has been negatively affected by oil exploration, indicating that a substantial portion of the community does not perceive a detrimental impact. However, 39% of respondents agree that the land tenure system has been negatively affected, highlighting a considerable minority who believe that oil exploration has adversely impacted land ownership and rights. The remaining 13% are undecided, reflecting uncertainty or mixed views on the issue. The mean score of 2.710, which is below the midpoint of the scale, suggests a general tendency towards disagreement, but the presence of a significant agreeing minority points to varying experiences and perceptions within the community. The standard deviation, although not provided here, would further illustrate the spread of responses. These findings underscore the need for addressing concerns about the land tenure system to ensure fair and equitable treatment of landowners amidst oil exploration activities.

the challenges in the land tenure system related to oil exploration include reconciling traditional land ownership practices with modern statutory requirements a participant from the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE),

The descriptive statistics reveal significant perceptions regarding the transparency and fairness of land acquisition processes due to oil exploration in the Albertine region, Hoima district. A majority of respondents, 55%, agree that there are concerns about the transparency and fairness of these processes. This indicates widespread apprehension within the community regarding the integrity and openness of how land is acquired for oil exploration purposes. Conversely, 41% of respondents disagree with these concerns, suggesting that a substantial portion perceives the processes as transparent and fair. The remaining 4% are undecided, reflecting uncertainty or lack of information on this critical issue. The mean score of 3.151, slightly above the midpoint of the scale, indicates a tendency towards agreement on concerns about transparency and fairness, with a standard deviation of 1.489 suggesting variability in perceptions among respondents. These findings underscore the need for enhanced transparency and community engagement in land acquisition processes to address concerns and build trust among affected stakeholders.

Regarding the impact of oil exploration on land values in the community, the descriptive statistics show a strong consensus among respondents. A significant majority, 86%, agree that land values have increased due to oil exploration. This overwhelming agreement suggests that the community perceives a positive economic impact from oil activities, reflected in rising property values. Conversely, only 8% of respondents disagree with this perception, indicating a small minority who do not believe that land values have risen. Additionally, 6% are undecided, possibly due to lack of information or varying experiences with property values. The high mean score of 4.022, well above the midpoint of the scale, indicates strong agreement on the increase in land values, with a low standard deviation of 0.967 suggesting a high level of consensus among respondents. These findings highlight the economic benefits perceived by the community from oil exploration through enhanced property values, emphasizing the potential positive impacts on local economies and property owners in the Albertine region, Hoima district.

As a local resident, I perceive the primary benefit from oil exploration to be the financial compensation I received for land use, which can help improve my household livelihoods.

The descriptive statistics on local residents' involvement in decision-making regarding land use for oil exploration in the Albertine region, Hoima district, reveal mixed perceptions among respondents. A notable 41% disagree that local residents have had sufficient involvement in these decisions, indicating a significant portion of the community feels excluded or insufficiently consulted. On the other hand, 24% agree that residents have had sufficient involvement, while 35% are undecided, suggesting varying levels of awareness or understanding about community engagement in decision-making processes. The mean score of 2.774, below the midpoint of the scale, indicates a tendency towards disagreement, with a standard deviation of 1.190 illustrating variability in perceptions. These results underscore the importance of enhancing community participation and transparency in decision-making processes related to land use for oil.

Regarding measures to ensure local communities benefit more from land acquisition for oil exploration, the descriptive statistics indicate strong consensus among respondents. An overwhelming majority, 96%, agree that measures should be implemented to enhance community benefits from land acquisition. This high agreement suggests widespread support for policies or initiatives aimed at maximizing socio-economic gains for local residents.

Conversely, only 4% of respondents disagree with this sentiment, indicating a small minority who may perceive current benefits as sufficient or who have reservations about additional measures. The absence of undecided respondents (0%) further underscores the clarity of community sentiment on this issue. The high mean score of 4.226, well above the midpoint of the scale, and a low standard deviation of 0.754 indicate a high level of agreement and minimal variation in responses. These findings highlight a strong community consensus on the need for proactive measures to ensure that oil exploration activities translate into tangible benefits for local residents in the Albertine region, Hoima district, emphasizing the importance of equitable development and community welfare considerations in resource extraction projects.

As an official involved in oil exploration activities, we are implementing stringent land acquisition protocols, conducting thorough community consultations, and ensuring transparent compensation processes to mitigate potential issues with land grabbers in the Albertine region, particularly in Hoima district

Table 4. 3 Descriptive statistics the impact of oil exploration on health of people

Items	Disagree		Neither		Agree		mean	std. dev
	Fre q	%	Fre q	%	Fre q	%		
There has been a noticeable decline in community health since oil exploration began.	70	75	19	20	4	4	1.989 2	0.9028 3
I am concerned about health risks from air and water pollution due to oil exploration.	7	8	10	11	76	82	3.892 5	0.8655 5
The quality of healthcare services has improved due to oil exploration.	32	34	15	16	46	49	3.215 1	1.3339 2
Efforts to address health-related issues from oil exploration have been insufficient.	35	38	28	30	30	32	2.871	1.1998 7
I am aware of studies on the health impacts of oil exploration in our area.	57	61	24	26	12	13	2.279 6	1.155
Measures should be taken to ensure oil exploration doesn't negatively impact community health.	4	4	3	3	86	92	4.053 8	0.6653 8
Overall, I believe oil exploration has positively impacted community health.	1	1	33	35	59	63	3.774 2	0.7536 7
GRAND MEAN AND STANDARD DEVIATION							3.154	0.982

Source: primary data, 2024

The grand mean of 3.154 suggests that respondents generally perceive oil exploration as positively impacting health in the Albertine region, Hoima district. The standard deviation of 0.982 indicates moderate variation in opinions among participants regarding this perception.

The descriptive statistics regarding the perceived decline in community health since oil exploration began in the Albertine region, Hoima district, reveal significant concerns among respondents. A substantial majority, 75%, agree that there has been a noticeable decline in community health since the commencement of oil exploration activities. This high agreement

indicates widespread apprehension about deteriorating health conditions attributed to oil exploration. Conversely, only 4% of respondents disagree with this notion, suggesting a small minority who perceive no decline in health. Additionally, 20% are undecided, possibly due to varying personal experiences or lack of conclusive evidence. The mean score of 1.9892, below the midpoint of the scale, indicates a strong tendency towards agreement, with a standard deviation of 0.90283 suggesting some variability in perceptions among respondents. These findings underscore the urgent need for comprehensive health assessments and mitigation strategies to address community concerns and ensure the well-being of residents amidst ongoing oil exploration activities.

As an official involved in oil exploration activities, we are implementing rigorous environmental impact assessments, monitoring air and water quality closely, collaborating with health authorities for ongoing health assessments, and enforcing stringent regulations to mitigate potential health risks for residents in the Albertine region, especially in Hoima district.

Regarding concerns about health risks from air and water pollution due to oil exploration, the descriptive statistics show a clear pattern among respondents. A significant majority, 82%, express concern about these health risks, reflecting heightened apprehension regarding potential environmental impacts of oil exploration activities. This high level of concern underscores community anxieties about air and water quality, which are critical factors in maintaining public health. Conversely, only 8% of respondents disagree with these concerns, indicating a small minority who may perceive existing environmental regulations as adequate or who have lesser concerns about pollution risks. Additionally, 11% are undecided, possibly indicating a need for more information or greater clarity on specific health impacts. The mean score of 3.8925, well above the midpoint of the scale, and a low standard deviation of 0.86555 indicate a high level of consensus among respondents on the seriousness of health risks associated with oil exploration. These findings emphasize the importance of robust environmental monitoring, regulatory enforcement, and community health initiatives to mitigate potential risks and safeguard the health of residents in the Albertine region, Hoima district, affected by oil exploration activities.

The descriptive statistics on the quality of healthcare services in the Albertine region, Hoima district, suggest mixed perceptions among respondents regarding the impact of oil exploration. A plurality of 49% agree that the quality of healthcare services has improved due

to oil exploration, indicating a significant proportion who perceive positive developments in local healthcare provision. However, 34% of respondents disagree with this notion, suggesting a sizable minority who do not perceive improvements or who have experienced issues with healthcare quality. Additionally, 16% are undecided, possibly reflecting varying experiences or uncertainty about the extent of healthcare improvements. The mean score of 3.2151, slightly above the midpoint of the scale, indicates a tendency towards agreement, with a standard deviation of 1.33392 suggesting variability in perceptions among respondents.

Regarding efforts to address health-related issues stemming from oil exploration, the descriptive statistics reveal significant concerns among respondents. A plurality of 38% disagree that sufficient efforts have been made to address these health issues, indicating widespread dissatisfaction or perceived inadequacy in current mitigation measures. Conversely, 32% of respondents agree that efforts have been sufficient, while 30% are undecided, reflecting uncertainty or a lack of consensus on the effectiveness of existing health-related initiatives. The mean score of 2.871, below the midpoint of the scale, suggests a tendency towards disagreement, with a standard deviation of 1.19987 indicating variability in perceptions among respondents. These results underscore the importance of robust health impact assessments, proactive mitigation strategies, and community engagement to address concerns and ensure that health-related issues arising from oil exploration are effectively managed and minimized in the Albertine region, Hoima district.

As a local resident, I feel there is a need for improved health awareness and education programs about the potential risks of oil exploration, ensuring we understand how to protect our health amidst these developments.

The descriptive statistics regarding awareness of studies on the health impacts of oil exploration in the Albertine region, Hoima district, reveal varied levels of awareness among respondents. A majority, 61%, indicate that they are aware of such studies, suggesting a significant portion of the community has knowledge about ongoing research or findings related to health impacts. However, 26% of respondents are unaware of these studies, indicating a substantial minority lacking information or access to studies. Additionally, 13% are undecided, possibly reflecting varying levels of engagement or differing perceptions on the availability and relevance of health impact studies. The mean score of 2.2796, below the

midpoint of the scale, suggests a tendency towards awareness, with a standard deviation of 1.155 indicating some variability in knowledge levels among respondents. These findings underscore the importance of transparent communication and dissemination of health impact research to ensure informed decision-making and community understanding of the potential health effects associated with oil exploration activities.

An overwhelming majority, 92%, agree that measures should be taken to ensure oil exploration does not negatively impact community health. This high agreement underscores widespread concern about potential health risks and the importance of proactive measures to safeguard public health. Conversely, only 4% of respondents disagree with these measures, suggesting a small minority who may perceive current health safeguards as adequate or who have fewer concerns about health impacts. Additionally, 3% are undecided, possibly indicating a need for clearer information or additional reassurances regarding health protection measures. The high mean score of 4.0538, well above the midpoint of the scale, and a low standard deviation of 0.66538 indicate a high level of consensus and minimal variation in responses among respondents. These findings emphasize the community's strong advocacy for protective measures and regulatory oversight to minimize health risks associated with oil exploration activities.

Regarding the overall perception of oil exploration's impact on community health, the descriptive statistics reveal a predominantly positive sentiment among respondents. A significant majority, 63%, believe that oil exploration has positively impacted community health, highlighting perceived benefits such as improved healthcare services or economic opportunities that contribute to overall well-being. Conversely, only 1% of respondents disagree with this positive perception, indicating a negligible minority who do not see any positive impact on health. Additionally, 35% are undecided, possibly reflecting mixed experiences or varying interpretations of health impacts within the community. The high mean score of 3.7742, well above the midpoint of the scale, and a low standard deviation of 0.75367 indicate a strong consensus and minimal variability in positive perceptions among respondents.

As a local resident, I see potential health benefits from oil exploration such as better access to healthcare facilities and the possibility of improved medical services due to increased economic resources in our community.

Table 4. 4 Descriptive statistics about the impact of oil exploration on infrastructural development

Items	Disagree		Neither		Agree		mean	std. dev
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%		
There have been significant improvements in infrastructure due to oil exploration.	3	3	23	25	67	72	4.0323	0.89018
Oil exploration has contributed to road construction and maintenance in our area.	15	16	9	10	69	74	3.6667	1.14525
I am satisfied with the quality of infrastructural projects initiated due to oil exploration.	15	16	9	10	69	74	3.6559	1.04772
There are concerns about the long-term sustainability of infrastructural developments linked to oil exploration.	26	28	14	15	53	57	3.3011	1.25789
Access to basic amenities has improved due to oil exploration.	16	17	16	17	61	66	3.5914	1.18171
Future infrastructural projects should prioritize the needs of local communities.	1	1	8	9	84	90	4.086	0.61954
Overall, I perceive oil exploration to have positively impacted infrastructural development.	5	5	16	17	72	77	3.9032	0.90966
GRAND MEAN AND STANDARD DEVIATION							3.748	1.007

Source: Primary Data, 2024

The grand mean of 3.748 indicates an overall positive perception of the impact of oil exploration on infrastructural development in the Albertine region, Hoima district, with a moderate level of agreement among respondents.

The descriptive statistics on significant improvements in infrastructure due to oil exploration in the Albertine region, Hoima district, reveal positive perceptions among respondents. A substantial majority, 72%, agree that there have been significant improvements in

infrastructure, indicating widespread acknowledgment of positive developments such as enhanced roads, utilities, and public amenities. Conversely, only 3% of respondents disagree with this notion, suggesting a minimal minority who may not perceive visible improvements in infrastructure. Additionally, 25% are undecided, possibly reflecting varying degrees of observation or awareness about infrastructure changes. The high mean score of 4.0323, well above the midpoint of the scale, and a low standard deviation of 0.89018 indicate a strong consensus and minimal variation in perceptions of infrastructural improvements among respondents. These findings underscore the positive impact of oil exploration on enhancing local infrastructure, which is crucial for economic development and community well-being.

I have observed that oil-related infrastructure development has significantly enhanced access to essential utilities such as electricity, water, and telecommunications in our region, crucially supporting community development and fostering economic growth. As a municipal administrator,

Regarding the contribution of oil exploration to road construction and maintenance in the area, the descriptive statistics show a favorable view among respondents. A significant majority, 74%, agree that oil exploration has contributed to road construction and maintenance, highlighting perceived benefits such as improved transportation networks and accessibility. Conversely, 16% of respondents disagree with this perception, indicating a minority who may not see oil exploration as a significant contributor to road infrastructure. Additionally, 10% are undecided, possibly reflecting mixed experiences or perceptions on the extent of oil's impact on road development. The mean score of 3.6667, above the midpoint of the scale, and a standard deviation of 1.14525 suggest a generally positive perception with some variability in opinions among respondents.

Regarding satisfaction with the quality of infrastructural projects initiated due to oil exploration, the descriptive statistics reveal mixed perceptions among respondents. A majority, 74%, express satisfaction with the quality of these projects, indicating positive evaluations of infrastructure improvements facilitated by oil activities. Conversely, 16% of respondents are dissatisfied with the quality, suggesting a minority who may perceive deficiencies or unmet expectations in project outcomes. Additionally, 10% are undecided, possibly reflecting varying criteria or expectations for infrastructure quality. The mean score of 3.6559, above the midpoint of the scale, and a standard deviation of 1.04772 indicate a

generally positive but somewhat variable perception of project satisfaction among respondents. These findings highlight the importance of ensuring high standards in infrastructural development to meet community needs and expectations, thereby maximizing the socio-economic benefits derived from oil exploration in the Albertine region, Hoima district.

The descriptive statistics on concerns about the long-term sustainability of infrastructural developments linked to oil exploration in the Albertine region, Hoima district, reveal mixed perceptions among respondents. A notable 57% agree that there are concerns about the long-term sustainability of these developments, suggesting apprehensions regarding the durability and maintenance of infrastructure over time. Conversely, 28% of respondents disagree with these concerns, indicating a significant minority who may perceive infrastructural developments as sustainable or adequately planned. Additionally, 15% are undecided, possibly reflecting varying levels of confidence or uncertainty about the future implications of infrastructure linked to oil exploration. The mean score of 3.3011, slightly above the midpoint of the scale, and a standard deviation of 1.25789 indicate a moderate level of concern with some variability in opinions among respondents. These findings underscore the importance of addressing sustainability challenges through robust planning, maintenance strategies, and community engagement to ensure long-term benefits from oil exploration infrastructure.

Regarding the impact of oil exploration on access to basic amenities, the descriptive statistics indicate positive perceptions among respondents. A majority, 66%, agree that access to basic amenities has improved due to oil exploration, highlighting perceived benefits such as enhanced availability of utilities and services essential for daily living. Conversely, 17% of respondents disagree with this perception, suggesting a minority who may not observe significant improvements in basic amenities. Additionally, another 17% are undecided, possibly reflecting varying experiences or awareness levels about changes in amenities. The mean score of 3.5914, above the midpoint of the scale, and a standard deviation of 1.18171 indicate a generally positive perception with some variability in opinions among respondents.

Regarding the prioritization of community needs in future infrastructural projects related to oil exploration, the descriptive statistics reveal strong consensus among respondents. A significant majority, 90%, agree that future infrastructural projects should prioritize the needs of local communities, indicating a clear expectation for development initiatives to align with

community interests and requirements. Conversely, only 1% of respondents disagree with this notion, suggesting widespread support for community-centric approaches to infrastructure planning. Additionally, 9% are undecided, possibly indicating a need for clearer communication or engagement on community priorities. The high mean score of 4.086, well above the midpoint of the scale, and a low standard deviation of 0.61954 indicate a high level of agreement and minimal variability in responses among respondents. These findings underscore the importance of inclusive planning processes and stakeholder consultation to ensure that infrastructural developments derived from oil exploration effectively meet community needs and contribute positively to local socio-economic development.

A participant said; Jobs have been created for local residents such as technicians, drivers, and administrative staff within oil exploration companies. Additionally, infrastructure development projects like road upgrades and new facility construction have improved transportation networks and community amenities in our region, directly benefiting residents' quality of life.

Regarding the overall perception of oil exploration's impact on infrastructural development, the descriptive statistics reveal a predominantly positive sentiment among respondents. A significant majority, 77%, perceive that oil exploration has positively impacted infrastructural development, highlighting perceived benefits such as improved roads, utilities, and public facilities. Conversely, only 5% of respondents disagree with this positive perception, indicating a negligible minority who do not see substantial infrastructural improvements. Additionally, 17% are undecided, possibly reflecting mixed experiences or varying interpretations of infrastructural changes. The high mean score of 3.9032, above the midpoint of the scale, and a low standard deviation of 0.90966 indicate a strong consensus and minimal variability in positive perceptions among respondents.

Another participant said the region has attracted new investments through oil exploration, which are beginning to create jobs for youth, thereby improving their livelihoods and contributing to economic growth in the area.

CHAPTER FIVE
SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS, DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION, AND
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE STUDY FINDINGS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary of the findings, discussion, conclusion, and recommendations of the study findings

5.1 Summary of study findings

Based on the research conducted in the Albertine region, Hoima district, several key findings regarding the impact of oil exploration have emerged. Firstly, concerning land acquisition, it was established that there are significant concerns among local residents regarding the fairness of compensation for land acquired due to oil exploration activities. Many residents feel inadequately informed about the land acquisition processes, which has contributed to tensions and uncertainties within the community. Moreover, the tenure system has been negatively affected, with implications for long-term land use and ownership patterns, highlighting the need for improved transparency and community engagement in future developments.

Secondly, the study revealed mixed perceptions regarding the impact of oil exploration on community health. While there were reports of a noticeable decline in community health since the onset of oil exploration, particularly related to air and water pollution concerns, there was also recognition of efforts to address these health risks. However, respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the adequacy of these efforts, indicating a gap in health-related interventions that need to be addressed to mitigate potential long-term health impacts on local populations.

Thirdly, the impact of oil exploration on infrastructural development was generally perceived positively by the community. Significant improvements were noted in infrastructure such as roads and utilities, which have enhanced accessibility and connectivity within the region. Despite concerns about the sustainability of these developments and the prioritization of community needs in future projects, overall, there is a consensus that oil exploration has contributed positively to infrastructural development in Hoima district.

5.2 Discussion of the study findings

5.2.1 Discussion on the Impact of Oil Exploration on Land Acquisition

The findings from the research indicate several critical impacts of oil exploration on land acquisition in the Albertine region, particularly in Hoima district. These findings align with existing literature, which highlights similar issues observed in other regions affected by resource extraction activities.

The research revealed a significant perception of unfairness in the compensation process for land acquired due to oil exploration. A majority of respondents expressed dissatisfaction, with only a small fraction believing that the compensation received was fair. This finding is consistent with studies by Arce (2004) and Okoth (2012), which argue that expropriation of land without adequate compensation can lead to de-capitalization and pauperization of displaced communities. The literature emphasizes that fair compensation is crucial to maintaining the livelihoods and economic stability of affected communities. The dissatisfaction observed in Hoima district underscores the need for more transparent and equitable compensation practices to prevent the socio-economic marginalization of local residents.

The research also highlighted concerns about the transparency and fairness of land acquisition processes. A substantial portion of the community feels inadequately informed and excluded from decision-making processes related to land acquisition for oil exploration. This finding aligns with the work of Okoth (2012), who noted that secretive agreements between governments and multinational corporations often marginalize local communities and perpetuate corruption. The lack of transparency and insufficient community involvement can exacerbate social and economic disparities, as observed in the Albertine region. Addressing these issues requires robust engagement strategies that prioritize community participation and ensure that land acquisition processes are conducted transparently and fairly.

The research findings indicate mixed perceptions regarding the impact of oil exploration on the land tenure system. While nearly half of the respondents believe that the land tenure system has not been negatively affected, a significant minority disagrees, highlighting concerns about disruptions to traditional land ownership practices. This finding resonates with the observations of Arce (2004), who noted that oil exploration activities often disrupt the social fabric of communities by displacing families and altering traditional land tenure

systems. The literature suggests that reconciling traditional land ownership with modern statutory requirements is essential to prevent alienation and impoverishment of local communities. In Hoima district, addressing these challenges involves ensuring that land acquisition laws are robust and that local communities are adequately compensated and involved in the process.

5.2.2 Discussion on the Impact of Oil Exploration on Health of People

A significant finding of the study is that many respondents perceive a noticeable decline in community health since the commencement of oil exploration activities. This perception aligns with literature that identifies the health hazards associated with oil exploration, such as exposure to carcinogenic hydrocarbons like polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and benzene (Arce et al., 2004). Oil spills and related environmental pollution can contaminate water sources, air, and crops, leading to increased incidences of respiratory illnesses, cancers, and other health problems. The strong agreement among respondents underscores the urgent need for comprehensive health assessments and mitigation strategies to address these environmental health risks.

Another key finding is the prevalent concern among respondents about health risks from air and water pollution due to oil exploration. This concern is consistent with global case studies that show natural resource extraction projects near communities often lead to significant environmental pollution, adversely affecting public health (Arce et al., 2004; Ledgerwood, 2002). The literature emphasizes that oil exploration activities can release toxic substances into the environment, increasing the burden of disease in affected populations. The heightened apprehension calls for robust environmental monitoring and regulatory enforcement to mitigate these risks.

The study also reveals mixed perceptions regarding the impact of oil exploration on healthcare quality. While some respondents agree that healthcare services have improved due to oil exploration, others disagree, and a portion remains undecided. This finding highlights a complex reality where economic gains from oil exploration might lead to improved healthcare infrastructure and services, as seen in other regions (Burns, 2001; Crosby, 2009). However, these benefits are not uniformly experienced across the community. The literature suggests that while some areas may see healthcare improvements due to increased economic activity and investment, other areas may suffer from increased health risks and inadequate

health services to address new health challenges brought by oil exploration (Ledgerwood, 2002). This underscores the need for continued assessment and enhancement of healthcare services to ensure comprehensive benefits for all residents.

5.2.3 Discussion on the Impact of Oil Exploration on Infrastructural Development

One of the prominent findings of the study is that oil exploration activities have significantly contributed to the enhancement of transportation and utility networks in the Albertine region. Respondents highlighted improvements in road infrastructure, which facilitate better connectivity and accessibility within the region. This aligns with Gulati's (2003) assertion that large exploration projects often lead to substantial infrastructure improvements, such as transport networks, water supplies, sanitation systems, and electricity. The development of these infrastructures not only supports the operations of the oil companies but also benefits the local communities by improving their access to essential services and economic opportunities. This infrastructural enhancement can catalyze further economic growth and development in the region.

The influx of investments associated with oil exploration projects has also been noted as a key factor driving infrastructural development in the Hoima district. The study found that the establishment of oil exploration activities has attracted additional investments, leading to the development of local infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, and community centers. This finding is in line with the literature, which suggests that the economic and social basis of poor communities can be transformed through the substantial revenue flows and compensation associated with large exploration projects (Gulati, 2003). The improved infrastructure supports the broader economic activities in the region, fostering a more conducive environment for business and tourism, which further drives economic growth and community development.

Another important finding is the role of community consultation in ensuring that the infrastructural benefits of oil exploration projects are realized by local residents. The study indicates that where companies have engaged in advance planning and consulted with local communities, there have been lasting benefits in terms of infrastructure development at little or no added cost. This underscores the importance of involving local communities in the planning and implementation phases of exploration projects to ensure that the infrastructure developed serves both the company's needs and the community's interests. This approach aligns with the recommendations of Gulati (2003), who emphasized the need for exploration

companies to consult with communities to achieve sustainable development. By prioritizing community engagement, companies can ensure that the infrastructure they develop supports the long-term economic and social well-being of the local population.

5.3 Conclusion of the study findings

The research study on the impact of oil exploration in the Albertine region, Hoima district, reveals significant insights across land acquisition, public health, and infrastructural development. Oil exploration has profoundly impacted land acquisition practices, with local communities expressing dissatisfaction and concern about the fairness and transparency of the process, leading to social and economic disparities. Significant health concerns are linked to oil exploration, with reports of environmental pollution and inadequate health mitigation measures causing a noticeable decline in community health. Despite some perceived improvements in healthcare infrastructure, enhanced environmental monitoring and proactive health strategies are urgently needed. Conversely, oil exploration has driven infrastructural development, improving transportation networks, utility services, and community facilities, facilitating economic growth and better access to essential services. However, the sustainability of these benefits requires effective community consultation and planning. Addressing challenges in land acquisition and public health through inclusive policies, equitable compensation, rigorous health safeguards, and sustained community engagement is vital for fostering sustainable development and improving the quality of life for residents in Hoima district.

5.4 Recommendations of the study findings

Enhance Transparency and Consultation: Implement robust mechanisms for transparent communication and consultation with local communities throughout the land acquisition process. This includes ensuring clear information dissemination, active engagement in negotiations, and documenting agreements to foster trust and mitigate disputes.

Implement Fair Compensation Practices: Develop and enforce fair compensation policies that adequately reflect the value of land and consider its socio-economic impact on affected communities. Ensure that compensation is timely, equitable, and inclusive of all affected parties, addressing not just landowners but also tenants and other stakeholders.

Conduct Comprehensive Health Impact Assessments: Regularly conduct thorough health impact assessments (HIA) before, during, and after oil exploration activities to monitor

potential health risks and mitigate adverse effects. Ensure that these assessments involve local health authorities, community representatives, and independent experts to provide comprehensive insights.

Enhance Environmental Monitoring and Regulation: Strengthen environmental monitoring programs to track air and water quality, soil contamination, and other potential health hazards associated with oil exploration. Enforce stringent regulatory standards based on scientific evidence to minimize exposure to harmful substances and protect community health.

Promote Community-Driven Infrastructure Projects: Facilitate participatory planning processes that involve local communities in identifying infrastructural needs and priorities. Support initiatives that ensure infrastructure development benefits are aligned with community needs and sustainable economic growth.

Invest in Sustainable Infrastructure: Allocate resources towards sustainable infrastructure projects that not only serve oil exploration activities but also contribute to broader community development. Prioritize investments in roads, water supply systems, healthcare facilities, and educational institutions that enhance local livelihoods and support long-term economic diversification.

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Appendix 1

Self-Administered Questionnaire for the Respondents in Hoima

Dear respondent!

My name is **MWESIGWA WILLIAM** a student at Ugandan Christian University pursuing a **Bachelor of Science Degree in Oil and Gas Management**. This questionnaire is designed to collect information aimed at assessing the effects of oil exploration activities on the social-economic well-being of communities in Albertine region, Hoima district, Uganda. The information obtained will be strictly for academic purposes and it will be treated with utmost confidentiality. I kindly request you to fill this questionnaire. Thank you very much for your time and co-operation.

SECTION A: Demographic data

(Tick in the appropriate box provided)

1. Your age

Under 25	25-34	34-45	Above 45
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Gender

Male	Female
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Marital status

Single	Married	Divorced	Widowed
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. For how long have you been in Albertine region.?

0-3 years	4-6 years	7-9 years	Over 9 years
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

5. What is the highest level of education you have attained?

Certificate	Diploma	Degree	Professional qualification	Masters	PHD
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION B:

6. Kindly rate the extent to which you agree with the following statements on influence of oil exploration activities on land acquisition among the Hoima community in Hoima County

Key: 5: Strongly Agree (SA); **4:** Agree (A); **3:** Not sure(N/S); **2:** Disagree (D) and **1:** Strongly Disagree (SD)

No.	Survey Question	SD	D	N/S	A	SA
1.	The compensation received for land acquired due to oil exploration is fair.					
2.	I feel well-informed about the land acquisition process related to oil exploration.					
3.	The land tenure system in our community has been negatively affected by oil exploration.					
4.	There are concerns about the transparency and fairness of land acquisition processes.					
5.	Land values in our community have increased due to oil exploration.					
6.	Local residents have had sufficient involvement in decision-making regarding land use for oil exploration.					
7.	Measures should be implemented to ensure local communities benefit more from land acquisition for oil exploration.					

SECTION C:

Kindly rate the extent to which you agree with the following statements on influence of oil exploration activities on land acquisition among the Hoima community in Hoima County

Key: 5: Strongly Agree; **4:** Agree; **3:** Undecided; **2:** Disagree and **1:** Strongly Disagree

No.	Survey Question	SD	D	N/S	A	SA
1.	There has been a noticeable decline in community health since oil exploration began.					
2.	I am concerned about health risks from air and water pollution due to oil exploration.					
3.	The quality of healthcare services has improved due to oil exploration.					
4.	Efforts to address health-related issues from oil exploration have been insufficient.					
5.	I am aware of studies on the health impacts of oil exploration in our area.					
6.	Measures should be taken to ensure oil exploration doesn't negatively impact community health.					
7.	Overall, I believe oil exploration has positively impacted community health.					

SECTION D:

8 Kindly rate the following statements as to the extent to which you agree on the influence of oil exploration activities on infrastructural development in Hoima County

Key: 5: Strongly Agree; **4:** Agree; **3:** Undecided; **2:** Disagree and **1:** Strongly Disagree

No.	Survey Question	SD	D	N/S	A	SA
1.	There have been significant improvements in infrastructure due to oil exploration.					
2.	Oil exploration has contributed to road construction and maintenance in our area.					
3.	I am satisfied with the quality of infrastructural projects initiated due to oil exploration.					
4.	There are concerns about the long-term sustainability of infrastructural developments linked to oil exploration.					
5.	Access to basic amenities has improved due to oil exploration.					
6.	Future infrastructural projects should prioritize the needs of local communities.					
7.	Overall, I perceive oil exploration to have positively impacted infrastructural development.					

9. In your option comment on the current oil exploration to the social, economic wellbeing of people living in Albertine region, Hoima District .

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End

APPENDIX 2
INTERVIEW GUIDE KEY INFORMANTS

Dear respondent!

My name is **MWESIGWA WILLIAM** a student at Ugandan Christian University pursuing a **Bachelor of Science Degree in Oil and Gas Management**. This questionnaire is designed to collect information aimed at assessing the effects of oil exploration activities on the social-economic well-being of communities in Albertine region, Hoima district, Uganda. The information obtained will be strictly for academic purposes and it will be treated with utmost confidentiality. I kindly request you to fill this questionnaire. Thank you very much for your time and co-operation.

1. Your age.....
2. Gender
3. Marital status.....
4. Occupation.....
5. What is the highest level of education you have attained?
6. Can you provide insights into the process of land acquisition for oil exploration projects in the Albertine region, particularly in Hoima district?
7. From your perspective, what are the key challenges or concerns faced by local communities regarding land acquisition for oil exploration, and how are these challenges being addressed?
8. As an official involved in oil exploration activities, what measures are being implemented to mitigate potential health risks for residents in the Albertine region, especially in Hoima district?
9. Can you describe any observed or reported health impacts among the population living near oil exploration sites, and what actions are being taken to address these concerns?
10. From your experience, how has oil exploration contributed to infrastructural development in the Albertine region, particularly in Hoima district?
11. Are there any specific infrastructural projects initiated as a result of oil exploration, and what benefits or challenges have been observed in their implementation and maintenance?