

**WOMEN'S POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL COMMUNITY  
GOVERNANCE  
STRUCTURES IN BUGUJJU TOWN MUKONO MUNICIPALITY  
UGANDA**

**WIINNIE AYO O ATIMANGO**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN  
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MUKONO**

**September, 2024**



**UGANDA CHRISTIAN  
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**DECLARATION**

I KIWEWA YUNIA, hereby declare that this dissertation was written entirely by me under the supervision of Madam keren kiconco Bitu and has never been submitted by anyone to another organization for consideration for any award.

Signature: WF

Date: 04 September 2024

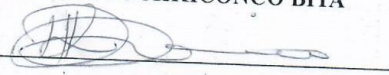
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**APPROVAL**

This is to certify that this dissertation titled "The influence of Gender-based violence to women empowerment in Kimyendde sub county Mukono District" was under my supervisor and the dissertation is now ready for presentation to the department of Undergraduate studies in the social sciences school at Uganda Christián university.

**MRS. KEREN -HAPPUCHKICONCO BITA**

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Date:

06/09/2024

## **DEDICATION**

This dissertation is dedicated to my parents and Uganda Christian University as a token of my appreciation for profound impact they have had on my life. Your unwavering support has empowered me to strive for greatness, I am honored to have been groomed under your guidance. With heartfelt gratitude.

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## **ABSTRACT**

Gender based violence in all its all types has led to limitation of women empowerment in kimenyedde sub county and globally. This has resulted into high dependence of women limited access of women in decision making and political participation and pursuing career goals resulting to cases of increased submission to male decision making by women, limiting girl child education, limited representation of women's needs, high rated of violence against adult women. Recognizing all this, this study seeks to increase the awareness of this women suppression by university students, the factors causing this problem, and developing different strategies that can address the occurrence of this problem. This research is structured as follows: Chapter One that provides a detailed background ,the objectives, etc. Chapter Two provides a literature review of the existing academic literature of Gender Based Violence on women empowerment, Chapter 3 contains the methodology, the different methods of data collection ,analysis. Chapter 4 presents the findings after exploring the occurrence of Gender Based Violence on women empowerment outlining the key factors that lead to this problem. The final one is Chapter 5 which the different comprises conclusions and recommendations after the analysis of the data

## **Chapter one**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Introduction**

The chapter presents the background to the study, problem statement, purpose and specific objectives of the study, research questions, scope of the study, justification of the study, significance of the study, and theoretical/conceptual framework.

#### **1.2 Background to the Study**

Gender refers to the social and cultural roles, behaviors, and attributes that a society considers appropriate for men and women. It is not simply a binary concept limited to male and female, but rather encompasses a spectrum of identities that may or may not align with an individual's biological sex (Connell, 2012). Gender is a complex and multifaceted concept that includes aspects of identity, expression, and societal expectations. Understanding and respecting diverse gender identities is crucial for creating a more inclusive and equitable society (Jewkes & Morrell, 2018).

Women empowerment refers to the process of enabling women have access to resources, information, and opportunities to assert their rights, make decisions, and take control of their lives (United Nations 2023). Women empowerment enabled women to make life determining decisions through different societal problems by raising status of women through promoting girl child education, awareness, promoting literacy and training. The forms of women empowerment include Economic empowerment, Cultural empowerment, political empowerment and feminist approaches. This enables women to benefit off and control assets, income and resources(UNICEF 2023).

Gender-based violence (GBV) refers to any form of violence that is directed against individuals or groups based on their gender. This includes physical violence, sexual violence, and domestic violence, among others (Heise, 1998).

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a pervasive global issue. Globally, approximately 1 in 3 women (30%) have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime (World Health Organization, 2023). Globally, as many as 38% of murders of women are committed by an intimate partner, making intimate partner violence one

of the most common forms of violence against women. Women who have experienced intimate partner violence are more likely to experience depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues (World Health Organization, 2023).

In Africa, gender-based violence is a significant issue, with cultural and social norms often contributing to its perpetuation. According to UNICEF (2023), in some countries in sub-Saharan Africa, as many as 50% of women have experienced intimate partner violence. Access to education and economic empowerment are key factors in reducing the prevalence of gender-based violence in Africa (UNICEF, 2023).

In East Africa, gender-based violence remains a significant challenge, with women and girls disproportionately affected. According to a study by the East African Community (2022), the prevalence of gender-based violence varies across countries in the region, with rates ranging from 25% to 47%. Factors such as poverty, lack of access to education, and cultural practices contribute to the high prevalence of gender-based violence in East Africa (East African Community, 2022).

In Uganda, gender-based violence is a pervasive issue, with women and girls facing high levels of violence in both public and private spheres. According to the Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) (2021), 22% of women aged 15-49 have experienced sexual violence, while 56% have experienced physical violence. The Ugandan government has taken steps to address genderbased violence, including enacting laws and policies aimed at protecting women and girls from violence. However, challenges remain in terms of implementation and enforcement of these laws (Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2022).

Kimenyedde Sub-county faces high rates of gender-based violence against women and girls in low-income households. Despite efforts by the Ugandan government and civil society organizations to address gender-based violence, challenges such as illiteracy, cultural norms, and poverty continue to contribute to its prevalence (Uganda Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, 2023). It was against this background that the current study seeks to examine the influence of gender based violence on women empowerment in Kimenyedde Sub-County, Mukono District.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a pervasive issue in Uganda, significantly impacting women and girls across public and private spheres. According to the Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) (2021), 22% of women aged 15-49 have experienced sexual violence, and 56% have endured physical violence (Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2022). Despite concerted efforts by the Ugandan government and civil society organizations to address GBV through legislation and policies aimed at protecting women and girls, challenges such as illiteracy, entrenched cultural norms, and poverty persist, particularly in low-income households and rural areas (Uganda Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, 2023). This is worsened by the effective enforcement and implementation of laws intended to curb GBV face obstacles, including perceived relaxation of legal frameworks in some contexts. This relaxation potentially undermines the protection of women's rights and exacerbates the vulnerability of women and girls to violence (Uganda Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, 2023). This study seeks to examine the influence of GBV on women's empowerment specifically in Kimenyedde Subcounty.

### **1.4 Purpose of the Study**

To examine the influence of gender-based violence (GBV) on women's empowerment in Kimenyedde Sub-county, Mukono District.

### **1.5 Objectives of the Study**

- i. To establish the socio-cultural practices of gender that influence women empowerment in Kimenyedde Sub-county.
- ii. To examine the factors influencing gender-based violence practices on women empowerment in Kimenyedde Sub-county.
- iii. To suggest strategies towards minimizing gender-based violence practices towards women disempowerment in Kimenyedde Sub-county.

### **1.6 Research Questions**

- i. What are the socio-cultural practices of gender that influence women empowerment in Kimenyedde Sub-county?

- ii. What are the factors influencing gender-based violence practices towards women empowerment in Kimenyedde Sub-county?
- iii. What are the strategies towards minimizing gender-based violence practices towards women disempowerment in Kimenyedde Sub-county?

## **1.7 Scope of the Study**

This section covered the content scope, geographical scope, and the time scope.

### **1.7.1 Content scope**

The study focused on the influence of gender-based violence (GBV) on women's empowerment in Kimenyedde Sub-county, Mukono District. The study also assessed the socio-cultural practices of gender that influence women empowerment in Kimenyedde Sub-county, established the factors influencing gender-based violence practices towards women empowerment in Kimenyedde Sub-county, and suggested strategies towards minimizing gender-based violence practices towards women disempowerment in Kimenyedde Sub-county

### **1.7.2 Geographical scope**

The study was conducted in Kimenyedde Sub-county, which is located within Mukono District in the Central Region of Uganda. Mukono District is situated approximately 21 kilometers east of Kampala, the capital city of Uganda. Kimenyedde Sub-county was selected for its relevance to the study's focus on gender-based violence (GBV) and its influence on women's empowerment within a semi-urban and rural setting.

### **1.7.3 Time Scope**

The time line for the scope of research was 2020 – 2023. During this period, Kimenyedde Sub-county faced high rates of gender-based violence against women and girls in homesteads according to reports from Uganda Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (2023).

## **1.8 Justification of the Study**

This study was justified by the urgent need to address the high rates of gender-based violence (GBV) affecting homesteads in Kimenyedde Sub-county, Mukono District, Uganda. By understanding the specific forms and consequences of GBV in this area, interventions can be tailored to effectively combat GBV and promote women empowerment.

### **1.9 Significance of the Study**

This study may contribute to strategies to mitigate gender based violence against women and girls there by bringing attention to Local government, authorities and Organizations against gender based violence. The findings from this study may provide evidence-based insights to inform the development of policies and programs tailored to the specific needs of low-income households in addressing gender-based violence against women and girls.

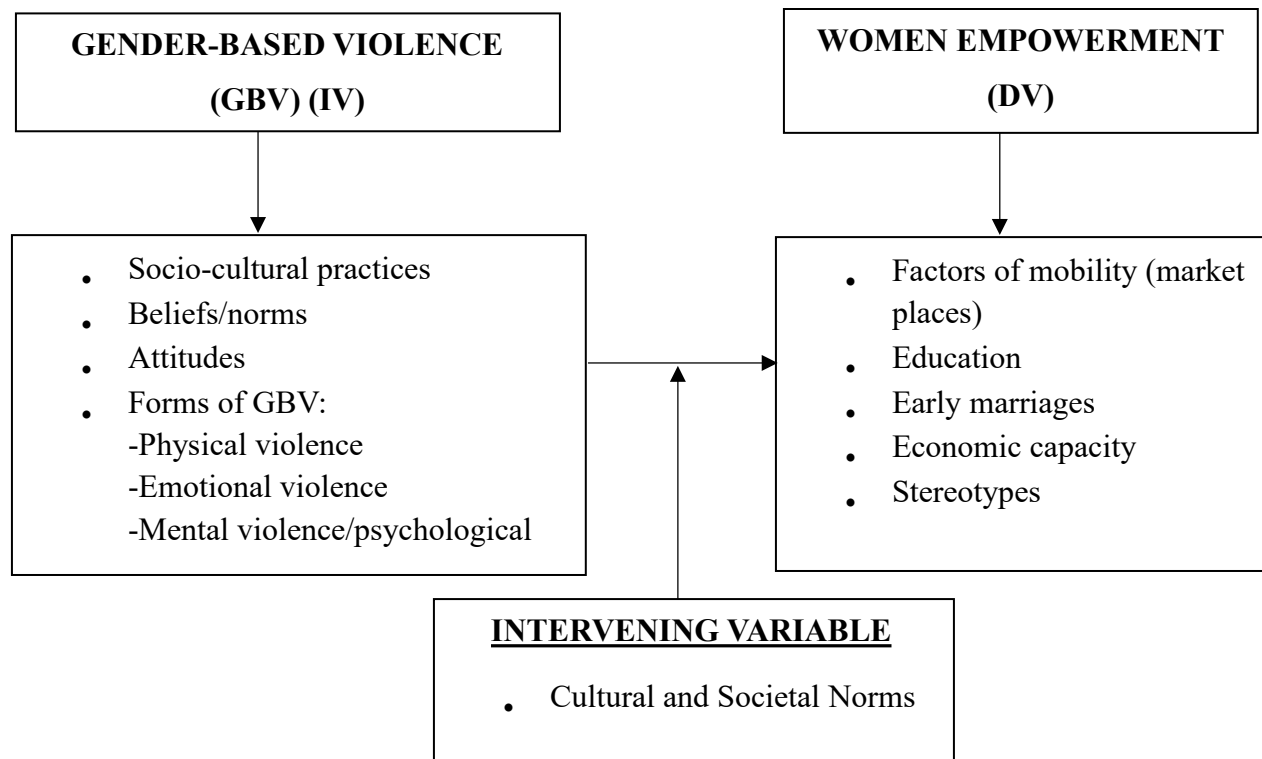
This study may also promote Gender Equality: By understanding the unique challenges faced by individuals in low-income households, the study can contribute to strategies that promote gender equality and empower women and girls, ultimately leading to improved social and economic opportunities for all community members.

This study may also create awareness among women and young girls to know the different forms of violence and know their rights. It may also fill knowledge gaps, by filling in this knowledge gap, the study can contribute to the academic literature and provide a deeper understanding of the intersecting factors that contribute to gender-based violence in this context.

### **1.10 Conceptual Framework**

The conceptual framework below illustrates the relationship between gender-based violence (GBV) and women empowerment.

**Figure 1.1: Conceptual Framework**



**Source:** Modified from Uganda Bureau of Statistics (2022)

The conceptual framework above illustrates the relationship between gender-based violence (GBV), encompassing socio-cultural practices, beliefs/norms, attitudes, women's empowerment and forms of gender based violence that's is Physical violence, Emotional violence and mental or psychological violence. Women's empowerment, a dependent variable, was assessed through factors such as mobility, education, early marriages, economic capacity, and stereotypes. It was hypothesized that GBV, as manifested in socio-cultural practices, beliefs/norms, and attitudes, influences women's empowerment in terms of mobility, education, early marriages, economic capacity, and stereotypes. Additionally, cultural and societal norms are identified as intervening variables that may influence women's empowerment outcomes.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter provides a comprehensive review of literature concerning the socio-cultural practices of gender that influence women empowerment, the factors influencing gender-based violence practices towards women empowerment, strategies towards minimizing gender-based violence practices towards women disempowerment in Kimenyedde Sub-county. The literature sources for this review were drawn from textbooks, journals, and articles focusing on GBV and women empowerment.

#### **2.2 The socio-cultural practices of gender that influence women empowerment**

A study by Kabeer (2021) revealed that traditional gender roles and societal expectations assign specific roles to women within the household, community, and workforce. Women are often expected to prioritize caregiving and domestic responsibilities over pursuing education or career opportunities. These roles limit women's access to education, economic opportunities, and decision-making power. For instance, cultural norms that prioritize boys' education over girls' or

restrict women from participating in certain professions can perpetuate gender inequalities and hinder women's economic and social advancement.

### **2.2.1 Early marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM)**

A research by Sen (2023) indicates that cultural practices such as early marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), and restrictions on women's mobility can severely constrain women's empowerment. Early marriage, for example, can disrupt girls' education and limit their opportunities for personal development and economic independence. Similarly, FGM and other harmful traditional practices reinforce gender-based violence and restrict women's bodily autonomy, perpetuating inequality and undermining their ability to make decisions about their own lives.

### **2.2.2 Male dominance and control over resources and decision-making processes**

Connell (2022) discusses how patriarchal structures within societies uphold male dominance and control over resources and decision-making processes. These structures marginalize women's voices and agency, reinforcing gender inequalities. Patriarchal norms dictate social hierarchies that privilege men's authority and restrict women's access to leadership roles, economic resources, and political participation. This systematic exclusion limits women's empowerment by denying them equal opportunities to influence and shape societal norms and policies.

### **2.2.3 Inheritance practices that favour men**

A study by Agarwal (2023) explores how familial relationships and dynamics influence women's empowerment and found out that in many cultures, inheritance practices often favor male heirs, perpetuating economic disparities between men and women. The division of labor within households assigns caregiving and domestic responsibilities predominantly to women, limiting their time and opportunities for pursuing education or employment. Familial expectations and norms regarding women's roles within the family can constrain their ability to assert their rights and achieve economic independence.

## **2.3 The factors influencing gender-based violence practices towards women empowerment**

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a persistent global issue that significantly impedes women's empowerment across various domains. The factors contributing to GBV are complex and multifaceted, encompassing socio-economic inequalities, cultural norms, legal frameworks,

health impacts, and intersectional discrimination. Socio-economic factors play a critical role in exacerbating women's vulnerability to GBV. Studies by Clark et al. (2021) and Thomas (2020) highlight how economic dependency and poverty intensify the risk of intimate partner violence (IPV) by limiting women's financial autonomy and resources to escape abusive situations. Economic empowerment programs have been shown to mitigate these risks by enhancing women's economic independence and decision-making capabilities (Thomas, 2020).

### **2.3.1 Cultural and social norms/practices**

Cultural and social norms also perpetuate GBV by reinforcing traditional gender roles and expectations. Research by Jewkes and Morrell (2023) underscores how entrenched beliefs about masculinity contribute to the normalization of violence against women. Similarly, UN Women (2021) documents the prevalence of harmful practices like child marriage and honor killings for example in ancient Ankole culture when a young girl got pregnant, she was thrown over the cliff, this violate women's rights and perpetuate cycles of violence. Addressing these norms is crucial for shifting societal attitudes and reducing GBV incidence.

### **2.3.2 Legal and Institutional responses**

The effectiveness of legal and institutional responses to GBV varies widely across contexts. Studies by UNICEF (2020) and Human Rights Watch (2021) highlight gaps in enforcement and the need for comprehensive legal protections and support services for survivors. The cases the have been in point include land wrangles, for example chasing away women and their children from their husbands properties after death of their spouses. Strengthening justice systems and ensuring accountability for perpetrators are essential to improving responses to GBV and enhancing women's safety.

### **2.3.3 Psychosocial and health impacts**

GBV also has great psychosocial and health impacts on survivors. Research by WHO (2023) and Campbell (2020) emphasizes the long-term trauma and health disparities caused by exposure to violence. Integrated health services that address both physical injuries and psychological trauma are crucial for supporting survivors and promoting recovery.

Intersectionality provides a critical lens for understanding how GBV intersects with other forms of discrimination based on race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation, and disability. Crenshaw (2022) and Hill Collins (2020) pioneered intersectional frameworks that highlight the unique vulnerabilities of marginalized women to multiple forms of violence and oppression. Adopting intersectional approaches in policy and practice is essential for addressing the diverse needs of women and ensuring inclusive responses to GBV.

## **2.4 Strategies towards minimizing gender-based violence practices towards women disempowerment**

Preventive strategies focus on changing societal norms and attitudes that perpetuate violence against women. Educational programs and public awareness campaigns play a crucial role in challenging harmful gender stereotypes and promoting gender equality (Jewkes & Morrell, 2021). For instance, community-based interventions in South Africa have shown success in reducing intimate partner violence by challenging norms that tolerate violence (Gupta et al., 2020).

### **2.4.1 Legal reforms and policy interventions**

Legal reforms and policy interventions are essential for providing a supportive framework for survivors and holding perpetrators accountable. Effective legislation, such as domestic violence laws and sexual harassment policies in workplaces, helps protect women and ensure their access to justice (Human Rights Watch, 2021). However, effective implementation and enforcement are critical to the success of these legal measures (UN Women, 2021).

### **2.4.2 Response of Health Sectors**

Health sector responses are pivotal in addressing the health consequences of GBV and providing essential services to survivors. Integrated health care approaches that combine medical treatment with psychosocial support are effective in addressing both immediate and long-term health needs of survivors (World Health Organization, 2023). There should an improvement by health sectors in their responses to treatment procedures of injuries that are as a result of GBV by quickening health sector responses. Accessible and responsive health services are crucial for ensuring that survivors receive comprehensive care and support.

### **2.4.3 Community involvement and participation**

Community-based interventions, including support groups and shelters for survivors, play a vital role in providing safe spaces and holistic support to women affected by GBV for example provision of legal assistance and advocacy to help women access justice and navigate the legal system, providing women with counseling and therapy to heal women from trauma of GBV. These initiatives not only provide immediate refuge but also empower women by fostering solidarity and resilience (Clark et al., 2021).

Furthermore, economic empowerment programs are instrumental in reducing women's vulnerability to GBV by enhancing their financial independence and opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship (Thomas, 2020). Access to economic resources enables women to make autonomous decisions and reduces their dependence on abusive partners.

### **2.5 Summary of literature Review**

In the context of the reviewed literature on socio-cultural practices of gender influencing women's empowerment and factors influencing gender-based violence practices towards women's disempowerment, there are several gaps that merit further exploration. Firstly, existing studies primarily focus on broad cultural norms and their impact on gender roles, such as education disparities and early marriage (Kabeer, 2021; Sen, 2023), but there is a need for more localized studies specific to Kimenyedde Sub-county in Mukono District. Secondly, while patriarchal structures and familial dynamics are discussed, there is limited research on how these specifically manifest in the local context and their nuanced effects on women's empowerment (Connell, 2022; Agarwal, 2023). Lastly, the literature lacks in-depth analysis on the intersectional nature of socioeconomic inequalities and cultural norms in perpetuating gender-based violence, particularly in the specific cultural and social context of Kimenyedde Sub-county (Clark et al., 2021; Thomas, 2020). Addressing these gaps would provide a more comprehensive understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities for promoting women's empowerment and reducing gender-based violence in the study area.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter summarizes how the study was conducted. It comprised of research design, study area, study population, sample size, procedure of data collection, data collection instruments, quality control, data analysis, ethical considerations and finally limitations to the study.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

This study adopted a cross-sectional research design to thoroughly analyze the findings and outcomes. By incorporating both qualitative and quantitative methods, the research took advantage of the strengths of each approach. Qualitative techniques was used to gather detailed insights into respondents' attitudes, opinions, and behaviors through interviews, providing subjective assessments and interpretations. Concurrently, quantitative methods produced

numerical data, which was analyzed using descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages (Mugenda & Mugenda, 1999). This integrated approach allows for triangulation, ensuring that the weaknesses of one type of data are offset by the strengths of the other.

### 3.3 Area of Study

The study was conducted in Kimenyedde Sub-county, which is located within Mukono District in the Central Region of Uganda. Mukono District is situated approximately 21 kilometers east of Kampala, the capital city of Uganda. Kimenyedde Sub-county was selected for its relevance to the study's focus on gender-based violence (GBV) and its influence on women's empowerment within a semi-urban and rural setting.

### 3.4 Population of the Study

The population of the study comprised 140 respondents residing in Kimenyedde Sub-county, Mukono District, based on the UBOS report (2024).

### 3.5 Sample Size

A sample size of 39 adult women residing in Kimenyedde Sub-county was determined using statistical table of Krejcie and Morgan (1970).

**Table 3.1: Sample size**

<b>Classification</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Accessible Sample Size</b>	<b>Frequency (%)</b>	<b>Techniques of Sampling</b>	<b>Data Collection tool</b>
Adult women	100	27	27%	Stratified random sampling	Interview guide
Community Leaders (men) (LC chairpersons)	30	7	23%	Purposive sampling technique	Interview guide
Women leaders	10	5	50%	Purposive sampling	Interview guide
<b>Total</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100%</b>		

**Source:** Kimenyedde Sub-county (2024)

### **3.6 Sampling Technique**

The study employed stratified and purposive sampling followed by selecting adult women ranging from 18 years to 50 years. These were randomly selected in three categories of 10 years range after categorising them in the strata of their age bracket:

18- 28 (years)

29-38 (years)

39-50 (years)

Furthermore, the adult women were purposively selected from strata, 9 women from each category, these were selected because of the related issues shared within the categories as women. Community leaders were selected specifically Local Chairpersons (LCs) and at least one woman representative in the communities. These were leaders from 7 villages out of 46 villages in Kimyende Sub-County and they were selected because of the task or role they play.

### **3.7 Variables and Indicators**

#### **3.7.1 Independent Variable**

Gender-based violence (GBV) was the independent variable, measured in terms of socio-cultural practices, beliefs/norms, and attitudes.

#### **3.7.2 Dependent Variable**

Women's empowerment, a dependent variable, was assessed through factors such as mobility, education, early marriages, economic capacity, and stereotypes.

### **3.8 Data Collection Methods**

This study used a mixed method of data collection. Both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods were used. Quantitative data was collected using questionnaires that were filled by women in Kimenyedde Sub-county. Qualitative data was obtained from key informant interviews with women leaders using interview guides.

### **3.9 Data Collection Instruments**

The study employed interview guide to collect the required data.

### **3.9.1 Interview Guide**

The interview guide was employed with semi-structured and open-ended questions. Here, adult women, women leaders, and local chairpersons (men) in Kimenyedde Sub-county were interviewed. The researcher pursued in-depth information around the topic. Interview guides were useful as follow-up to certain respondents, thereby investigating the respondents' responses further. The study used face-to-face discussions with open-ended questions, and replies were written down to get facts by examining and expounding on the questions, which helped the investigator get appropriate answers and meet study goals (Mugenda & Mugenda, 1999). The researcher also used interviews as the method was extremely sensitive, hence providing direct information. Interview guides are particularly valuable in qualitative research for their flexibility and ability to elicit detailed insights (Kvale & Brinkmann, 2009; Patton, 2015). Semi-structured interviews allow the interviewer to explore topics in depth while maintaining a consistent framework across participants (Bryman, 2016; Creswell & Creswell, 2018). Moreover, they facilitate the discovery of rich, contextual data by enabling participants to express their views freely (Rubin & Rubin, 2011).

### **3.10 Data Analysis**

Quantitative data was analyzed using descriptive statistics to assess the prevalence of GBV and its socio-economic impacts. Qualitative data was analyzed thematically to identify patterns, themes, and relationships within the data. The findings from the quantitative and qualitative analyses were integrated to provide a comprehensive understanding of the impact of GBV on homesteads in Kimenyedde Sub-county.

### **3.11 Ethical Considerations**

This study adhered to ethical guidelines for research involving human subjects. Informed consent was obtained from all participants, and their confidentiality and anonymity was maintained throughout the study. Participants were also provided with information on support services available to them.

### 3.12 Limitations to the Study

One limitation of this study was the potential for social desirability bias in self-reported data on GBV. Additionally, the study's cross-sectional design may limit the ability to establish causality between GBV and its impact on homesteads.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the analysis, interpretation, and discussion of the findings in alignment with the study objectives. The chapter begins with an overview of the respondents' background characteristics, followed by the objectives.

#### 4.2 Background Characteristics of Respondents

The table below illustrate the characteristics of the respondents in terms of age bracket.

**Table 4.1: Age of respondents**

Information	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Age	18- 28 years	6	15.4

	29-38 years	24	61.5
	39-50 years	9	23.1
	<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Source: Primary Data 2024*

Table 4.1 reveals that the majority of respondents, 61.5%, fell within the age bracket of 29-38 years, followed by those in the age bracketed of 39-50 years, 23.1%, while 15.4% were in the age bracket of 18- 28 years. These results indicate that all respondents were 18 years and above, suggesting a mature demographic capable of providing meaningful insights into the influence of gender-based violence (GBV) on women's empowerment in Kimenyedde Sub-county, Mukono District.

### **4.3 The socio-cultural practices of gender that influence women empowerment**

The first objective of the study was to establish the socio-cultural practices of gender that influence women empowerment in Kimenyedde Sub-county. Respondents(adult women, women leaders and LC Chairpersons) were interviewed on a series of questions related to this objective, and they stated the following;

“Early Marriage often results in girls being removed from school at a young age, limiting their educational opportunities and, consequently, their economic independence and social empowerment. Early marriage also perpetuates gender inequality by reinforcing traditional roles where women are expected to prioritize family obligations over personal development and career aspirations” 40% of the adult women.

“Female Genital Mutilation is a harmful cultural practice that not only violates women's and girls' rights but also has long-term physical and psychological effects. It is often justified by traditional beliefs that aim to control women's sexuality and maintain their purity, thereby reinforcing gender discrimination. FGM limits women's empowerment by subjecting them to harmful practices that undermine their health, autonomy, and dignity” 60% of both the adult women and women leaders.

“In many societies, traditional gender roles and patriarchal norms reinforce male dominance and female subordination, leading to the normalization of violence against women and other marginalized genders” 63% of the adult women.

“GBV is often a tool used by perpetrators to exert power and control over their victims, maintaining dominance within relationships or communities” 80% of the respondents.

“Limited access to education and a lack of awareness about rights and gender equality can perpetuate harmful practices and attitudes that lead to GBV” 100% of the leaders.

“The stigma associated with being a victim of GBV, along with societal tendencies to blame victims, can lead to underreporting and a lack of action, perpetuating the cycle of violence.” 40% of the adult women.

#### **4.4 The factors influencing gender-based violence practices towards women empowerment**

The second objective of the study was to examine the factors influencing gender-based violence practices on women empowerment in Kimenyedde Sub-county. Respondents were interviewed on a series of questions related to this objective, and these are what they had to say;

“In many societies, cultural beliefs and traditions perpetuate gender inequality, where women are viewed as subordinate to men. These norms often justify and normalize violence against women as a means of control” 40% of the women leaders.

“Patriarchal structures and mindsets that prioritize male dominance over women create an environment where gender-based violence is more likely to occur. This power imbalance perpetuates the belief that men have the right to control women, often through violence” 70% of the respondents.

“Women's economic dependence on men makes them more vulnerable to violence, as they may lack the financial resources or support networks to leave abusive relationships. Economic hardship or inequality can worsen stress and conflict, leading to higher incidences of violence” 92% of all the respondents.

“Limited access to education for women and girls restricts their ability to advocate for their rights, recognize abuse, and seek help. It also perpetuates cycles of ignorance about gender equality and women's rights within communities” 90% of the leaders.

“High levels of alcohol and substance abuse are frequently associated with increased aggression and violence, including gender-based violence. In many cases, perpetrators of violence may use substances as a coping mechanism for stress, worsening violent tendencies” 60% of the all the respondents.

“Weak legal frameworks and inadequate enforcement of laws against gender-based violence contribute to impunity for culprits. Women may also face barriers in accessing justice, such as lack of awareness of their rights, fear of stigmatization, or mistrust in the legal system” 50% of both the adult women and women leaders.

“Women who are socially isolated, either due to geographical location, cultural practices, or intentional control by their partners, are more vulnerable to violence. Isolation can prevent them from seeking help or escaping abusive situations” 70% of the leaders

“Some religious understandings are used to justify the subordination of women and the use of violence to enforce male authority. These misunderstandings can spread harmful practices and hinder women's empowerment” 40% of the women leaders.

“Exposure to violence in childhood, whether as a victim or a witness, can lead to the normalization of violence in adulthood. Children who grow up in abusive households are more likely to either become perpetrators or victims of gender-based violence later in life” 70% of the leaders.

#### **4.5 Strategies towards minimizing gender-based violence practices towards women disempowerment**

The third objective of the study was to suggest strategies towards minimizing gender-based violence practices towards women disempowerment in Kimenyedde Sub-county. Respondents were interviewed on a series of questions related to this objective, and they stated that;

“Regular community meetings, workshops, and campaigns can be organized to educate the public about the negative impacts of GBV. These programs can aim to change harmful cultural norms and attitudes that perpetuate violence against women and girls” 60% of the leaders.

“Local authorities may work to enforce existing laws against GBV more effectively. This includes training law enforcement officers on handling GBV cases, improving access to legal services for victims, and ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable” 65% of the male LC Chairpersons.

“Initiatives that promote the economic empowerment of women, such as vocational training, microfinance programs, and education, can help reduce their dependence on abusive partners” 70% of the leaders.

“Establishing or enhancing support services such as counseling, safe shelters, and medical care for GBV survivors is crucial. These services can provide immediate assistance and help survivors recover from the trauma of violence” 60% of the leaders.

“Programs that involve men and boys as partners in the fight against GBV are essential. These initiatives can focus on changing harmful masculinities, promoting gender equality, and encouraging men to speak out against violence” 40% of the LC Chairpersons.

“Educating children and youth about gender equality and non-violent conflict resolution in schools can help to foster a culture of respect from an early age. Schools can also serve as safe spaces where students can report abuse” 80% of the women leaders.

“Engaging religious and cultural leaders in anti-GBV efforts can be highly effective, as these leaders hold significant influence in the community. By advocating against GBV, they can help shift social norms and practices” 70% of all the respondents.

“Village savings and loan associations can help reduce economic dependency by providing women with financial resources and decision-making power” 30% of the leaders.

“Establishing other reporting mechanisms can allow victims and witnesses of GBV to report cases anonymously. These systems can ensure that cases are followed up and provide a channel for support and intervention” 65% of the adult women.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents discussion, conclusions and recommendations of the study findings in accordance with the study objectives.

#### **5.2 Discussion**

This section shows discussion of the findings in accordance with research objectives and questions.

##### **5.2.1 The socio-cultural practices of gender that influence women empowerment**

Findings for the interviews revealed the following statements from the respondents;

“Early Marriage often results in girls being removed from school at a young age, limiting their educational opportunities and, consequently, their economic independence and

social empowerment. Early marriage also perpetuates gender inequality by reinforcing traditional roles where women are expected to prioritize family obligations over personal development and career aspirations” 95 % of all the respondents.

“Female Genital Mutilation is a harmful cultural practice that not only violates women's and girls' rights but also has long-term physical and psychological effects. It is often justified by traditional beliefs that aim to control women's sexuality and maintain their purity, thereby reinforcing gender discrimination. FGM limits women's empowerment by subjecting them to harmful practices that undermine their health, autonomy, and dignity.” 60% of the women leaders.

“In many societies, traditional gender roles and patriarchal norms reinforce male dominance and female subordination, leading to the normalization of violence against women and other marginalized genders” 63% of the adult women.

“GBV is often a tool used by perpetrators to exert power and control over their victims, maintaining dominance within relationships or communities” 80% of the respondents.

“Limited access to education and a lack of awareness about rights and gender equality can perpetuate harmful practices and attitudes that lead to GBV” 100% of the leaders.

“The stigma associated with being a victim of GBV, along with societal tendencies to blame victims, can lead to underreporting and a lack of action, perpetuating the cycle of violence.”40% of the adult women.

The above findings are in line with a study by Kabeer (2021), who revealed that traditional gender roles and societal expectations assign specific roles to women within the household, community, and workforce. Women are often expected to prioritize caregiving and domestic responsibilities over pursuing education or career opportunities. These roles limit women's access to education, economic opportunities, and decision-making power. For instance, cultural norms that prioritize boys' education over girls' or restrict women from participating in certain professions can perpetuate gender inequalities and hinder women's economic and social advancement.

However, findings are also in line with research by Sen (2023) who indicates that cultural practices such as early marriage, female genital mutilation (FGM), and restrictions on women's mobility can severely constrain women's empowerment. Early marriage, for example, can disrupt girls' education and limit their opportunities for personal development and economic independence. Similarly, FGM and other harmful traditional practices reinforce gender-based violence and restrict women's bodily autonomy, perpetuating inequality and undermining their ability to make decisions about their own lives.

The above findings are also in agreement with Connell (2022) who discusses how patriarchal structures within societies uphold male dominance and control over resources and decision-making processes. These structures marginalize women's voices and agency, reinforcing gender inequalities. Patriarchal norms dictate social hierarchies that privilege men's authority and restrict women's access to leadership roles, economic resources, and political participation. This systematic exclusion limits women's empowerment by denying them equal opportunities to influence and shape societal norms and policies.

The above findings also align with a study by Agarwal (2023) who explores how familial relationships and dynamics influence women's empowerment and found out that in many cultures, inheritance practices often favor male heirs, perpetuating economic disparities between men and women. The division of labor within households assigns caregiving and domestic responsibilities predominantly to women, limiting their time and opportunities for pursuing education or employment. Familial expectations and norms regarding women's roles within the family can constrain their ability to assert their rights and achieve economic independence.

### **5.2.2 The factors influencing gender-based violence practices towards women empowerment .**

Findings from the interviews on the factors influencing gender-based violence practices on women empowerment in Kimenyedde Sub-county revealed the following statements from the respondents;

“In many societies, cultural beliefs and traditions perpetuate gender inequality, where women are viewed as subordinate to men. These norms often justify and normalize

violence against women as a means of control” 50% of both the adult women and women leaders.

“Patriarchal structures and mindsets that prioritize male dominance over women create an environment where gender-based violence is more likely to occur. This power imbalance perpetuates the belief that men have the right to control women, often through violence” 63% of adult women.

“Women's economic dependence on men makes them more vulnerable to violence, as they may lack the financial resources or support networks to leave abusive relationships. Economic hardship or inequality can worsen stress and conflict, leading to higher incidences of violence” 92% of all the respondents.

“Limited access to education for women and girls restricts their ability to advocate for their rights, recognize abuse, and seek help. It also perpetuates cycles of ignorance about gender equality and women's rights within communities” 100% of the leaders.

“High levels of alcohol and substance abuse are frequently associated with increased aggression and violence, including gender-based violence. In many cases, perpetrators of violence may use substances as a coping mechanism for stress, worsening violent tendencies” 60% of adult women.

“Weak legal frameworks and inadequate enforcement of laws against gender-based violence contribute to impunity for culprits. Women may also face barriers in accessing justice, such as lack of awareness of their rights, fear of stigmatization, or mistrust in the legal system” 50% of the adult women.

“Women who are socially isolated, either due to geographical location, cultural practices, or intentional control by their partners, are more vulnerable to violence. Isolation can prevent them from seeking help or escaping abusive situations” 30% of the leaders.

“Some religious understandings are used to justify the subordination of women and the use of violence to enforce male authority. These misunderstandings can spread harmful practices and hinder women's empowerment” 40% of the leaders.

“Exposure to violence in childhood, whether as a victim or a witness, can lead to the normalization of violence in adulthood. Children who grow up in abusive households are more likely to either become perpetrators or victims of gender-based violence later in life” 70% of the leaders.

The above findings are in line with studies by Clark et al. (2021) and Thomas (2020), who highlight how economic dependency and poverty intensify the risk of intimate partner violence (IPV) by limiting women's financial autonomy and resources to escape abusive situations. Economic empowerment programs have been shown to mitigate these risks by enhancing women's economic independence and decision-making capabilities (Thomas, 2020).

This is also in line with a research by Jewkes and Morrell (2023) who underscores how entrenched beliefs about masculinity contribute to the normalization of violence against women. Similarly, UN Women (2021) documents the prevalence of harmful practices like child marriage and honor killings for example in ancient Ankole culture when a young girl got pregnant, she was thrown over the cliff, this violate women's rights and perpetuate cycles of violence. Addressing these norms is crucial for shifting societal attitudes and reducing GBV incidence.

The above findings also align with studies by UNICEF (2020) and Human Rights Watch (2021) that highlight gaps in enforcement and the need for comprehensive legal protections and support services for survivors. The cases the have been in point include land wrangles, for example chasing away women and their children from their husbands properties after death of their spouses. Strengthening justice systems and ensuring accountability for perpetrators are essential to improving responses to GBV and enhancing women's safety.

The above findings are also in agreement with a research by WHO (2023) and Campbell (2020) that emphasizes the long-term trauma and health disparities caused by exposure to violence. Integrated health services that address both physical injuries and psychological trauma are crucial for supporting survivors and promoting recovery.

### **5.2.3 Strategies towards minimizing gender-based violence practices towards women disempowerment**

Findings from the interviews on the strategies towards minimizing gender-based violence practices towards women disempowerment in Kimenyedde Sub-county revealed the following statements from the respondents;

“Regular community meetings, workshops, and campaigns can be organized to educate the public about the negative impacts of GBV. These programs can aim to change harmful cultural norms and attitudes that perpetuate violence against women and girls”60% of the leaders.

“Local authorities may work to enforce existing laws against GBV more effectively. This includes training law enforcement officers on handling GBV cases, improving access to legal services for victims, and ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable”65% of the LC Chairpersons.

“Initiatives that promote the economic empowerment of women, such as vocational training, microfinance programs, and education, can help reduce their dependence on abusive partners” 70% of the leaders.

“Establishing or enhancing support services such as counseling, safe shelters, and medical care for GBV survivors is crucial. These services can provide immediate assistance and help survivors recover from the trauma of violence”60% of the leaders.

“Programs that involve men and boys as partners in the fight against GBV are essential. These initiatives can focus on changing harmful masculinities, promoting gender equality, and encouraging men to speak out against violence” 40% of the LC Chairpersons.

“Educating children and youth about gender equality and non-violent conflict resolution in schools can help to foster a culture of respect from an early age. Schools can also serve as safe spaces where students can report abuse” 80% of the leaders.

“Engaging religious and cultural leaders in anti-GBV efforts can be highly effective, as these leaders hold significant influence in the community. By advocating against GBV, they can help shift social norms and practices” 70% of all the respondents.

“Village savings and loan associations can help reduce economic dependency by providing women with financial resources and decision-making power” 30% of the respondents.

“Establishing other reporting mechanisms can allow victims and witnesses of GBV to report cases anonymously. These systems can ensure that cases are followed up and provide a channel for support and intervention” 65% of the adult women.

The above findings are in line with Jewkes & Morrell (2021) who stated that educational programs and public awareness campaigns play a crucial role in challenging harmful gender stereotypes and promoting gender equality. For instance, community-based interventions in South Africa have shown success in reducing intimate partner violence by challenging norms that tolerate violence (Gupta et al., 2020). The above findings are also in line with the Human Rights Watch (2021) and UN Women (2021) which revealed that legal reforms and policy interventions are essential for providing a supportive framework for survivors and holding perpetrators accountable. Effective legislation, such as domestic violence laws and sexual harassment policies in workplaces, helps protect women and ensure their access to justice (Human Rights Watch, 2021). However, effective implementation and enforcement are critical to the success of these legal measures (UN Women, 2021).

The above findings also show a degree of agreement with World Health Organization (2023) which revealed that health sector responses are pivotal in addressing the health consequences of GBV and providing essential services to survivors. Integrated health care approaches that combine medical treatment with psychosocial support are effective in addressing both immediate and longterm health needs of survivors.

There should be an improvement by health sectors in their responses to treatment procedures of injuries that are as a result of GBV by quickening health sector responses. Accessible and responsive health services are crucial for ensuring that survivors receive comprehensive care and support. This is also in line with Clark et al. (2021), who states that community-based interventions, including support groups and shelters for survivors, play a vital role in providing safe spaces and holistic support to women affected by GBV for example provision of legal assistance and advocacy to help women access justice and navigate the legal system, providing

women with counseling and therapy to heal women from trauma of GBV. These initiatives not only provide immediate refuge but also empower women by fostering solidarity and resilience.

The above findings are further supported by Thomas (2020) who stated that economic empowerment programs are instrumental in reducing women's vulnerability to GBV by enhancing their financial independence and opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship. Access to economic resources enables women to make autonomous decisions and reduces their dependence on abusive partners.

### **5.3 Conclusions**

This section shows conclusion of the findings in accordance with research objectives and questions.

#### **5.3.1 The socio-cultural practices of gender that influence women empowerment**

Findings revealed that the socio-cultural practices such as early marriage and female genital mutilation significantly hinder women's empowerment by limiting their educational, economic, and social opportunities. These practices reinforce traditional gender roles that prioritize male dominance and perpetuate gender inequality, leading to a cycle of disempowerment and violence against women. Addressing these harmful practices is crucial for promoting gender equality and empowering women to achieve their full potential in society.

#### **5.3.2 The factors influencing gender-based violence practices towards women empowerment.**

Findings indicate that the factors influencing gender-based violence practices in Kimenyedde Subcounty are deeply rooted in cultural beliefs, patriarchal structures, and economic dependence, which perpetuate gender inequality and disempowerment of women. Additional contributors include limited access to education, substance abuse, weak legal frameworks, social isolation, religious misinterpretations, and the intergenerational cycle of violence. These factors collectively create an environment where gender-based violence is normalized and women's empowerment is severely restricted. Addressing these issues is essential for breaking the cycle of violence and promoting gender equality.

### **5.3.3 Strategies towards minimizing gender-based violence practices towards women disempowerment**

Findings showed that the strategies to minimize gender-based violence in Kimenyedde Sub-county focus on community education( 60% of the leaders), stronger law enforcement( 65% of LC Chairpersons) , and economic empowerment of women( 80% of the women leaders). Key approaches include organizing public awareness campaigns, enhancing legal support, providing services for survivors, and engaging men and boys in the fight against GBV. Additionally, involving religious and cultural leaders, educating youth, and establishing anonymous reporting mechanisms are essential for creating a supportive environment that challenges and changes harmful norms, ultimately empowering women and reducing violence.

### **5.4 Recommendations**

The study recommends that efforts should be made to eradicate harmful practices like early marriage and female genital mutilation by implementing comprehensive education and advocacy programs that challenge traditional gender roles and promote gender equality.

To address the factors influencing gender-based violence, a multi-faceted approach is needed, including cultural transformation, economic support for women, improved education, stronger legal frameworks, and targeted interventions to combat substance abuse and religious misinterpretations.

In addition, strengthening strategies to minimize gender-based violence should include expanding community education, enhancing legal frameworks and support services, empowering women economically, involving men and boys in advocacy, and utilizing anonymous reporting systems to create a safer environment for women.

### **5.5 Areas of future research**

To the future researcher, more research should be done on the following;

- i. The effectiveness of specific interventions in reducing gender-based violence.
- ii. Examine the impact of economic empowerment programs on women's autonomy.
- iii. Investigate the role of religious and cultural leaders in changing harmful practices.
- iv. Assess the long-term outcomes of educational initiatives on gender equality.

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## APPENDIX I: TABLE FOR DETERMINING SAMPLE SIZE

*Table for Determining Sample Size from a Given Population*

<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>S</i>
10	10	220	140	1200	291
15	14	230	144	1300	297
20	19	240	148	1400	302
25	24	250	152	1500	306
30	28	260	155	1600	310
35	32	270	159	1700	313
40	36	280	162	1800	317
45	40	290	165	1900	320
50	44	300	169	2000	322
55	48	320	175	2200	327
60	52	340	181	2400	331
65	56	360	186	2600	335
70	59	380	191	2800	338
75	63	400	196	3000	341
80	66	420	201	3500	346
85	70	440	205	4000	351
90	73	460	210	4500	354
95	76	480	214	5000	357
100	80	500	217	6000	361
110	86	550	226	7000	364
120	92	600	234	8000	367
130	97	650	242	9000	368
140	103	700	248	10000	370
150	108	750	254	15000	375
160	113	800	260	20000	377
170	118	850	265	30000	379
180	123	900	269	40000	380
190	127	950	274	50000	381
200	132	1000	278	75000	382
210	136	1100	285	100000	384

Note.—*N* is population size.  
*S* is sample size.

## **APPENDIX 2: AN INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR ADULT WOMEN, COMMUNITY LEADERS AND WOMEN LEADERS ON THE INFLUENCE OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE ON WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN KIMENYEDDE SUB-COUNTY, MUKONO DISTRICT.**

### **Introduction**

I am Kiweewa Yunia, a student at Uganda Christian University, pursuing a Bachelors of Governance and International Relation. I am conducting a study on the influence of gender based violence on women empowerment in kimyende Sub-County, Mukono District. It is made up of semi structured and open ended questions. The semi structured questions will point at specific answers, the open ended questions will seek wider knowledge or a broader perspective.

### **Adult women**

- i. What is your age bracket?  
18-28  29-38  39-50
- ii. What do you consider to be gender based violence? iii. What do you think are the causes of gender based violence? iv. What are the factors that influence gender based violence practices on women?
- v. What are the Socio-cultural practices of gender that influence women empowerment in kimyende Sub-County?
- vi. What do you think you can best do to avoid violation?
- vii. How has gender based violence affected women empowerment in kimyende Sub-County?
- viii. As leaders, how have you tried to help victims of GBV?
- ix. What strategies have been in place to minimize GBV in kimyende Sub-County?

**Thank you for your time**



**UGANDA CHRISTIAN  
UNIVERSITY**

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

July 23rd, 2024

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: INTRODUCTORY LETTER FOR RESEARCH**

This is to introduce to you **KIWEWA Yunia** Registration number **J22B56/030**, a student of Uganda Christian University, pursuing Bachelor's degree in Governance and International Relations. She is expected to carry out research in the final year under the guidance of a university supervisor in partial fulfillment for the requirements of the above mentioned award.

**Topic: The Influence of Gender Based Violence on Women Empowerment in Kimenyedde Sub County, Mukono District."**

The purpose of this communication is to request your office to allow her collect data

Yours faithfully,

**Doreen Kukugiza**  
Coordinator, Research & Fieldwork Programmes  
Tel: 0773395349  
Email: [dkukugiza@ucu.ac.ug](mailto:dkukugiza@ucu.ac.ug)



A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa



**WOMEN'S POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT IN LOCAL COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE  
STRUCTURES IN BUGUJJU TOWN, MUKONO MUNICIPALITY,**

**UGANDA.**

**BY**

**AYOO WIINNIE ATIMANGO**

**REG NO; J22B56/031**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES IN  
PARITIAL FULFILLMENT FOR THE REQUIREMENT OF A DEGREE OF  
BACHELOR OF GOVERNANCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF UGANDA  
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY MUKONO**

**September, 2024**

**DECLARATION.**

I AYO WINNIE ATIMANGO , REG NO: J22B56/031 do hereby declare that this research report has never been published by any other person and so is purely done by myself with a close guidance of my academic supervisor.


Signature.....

Name: AYO WINNIE ATIMANGO

Date:..... 5th Sept 2024

**APPROVAL**

This research report has been submitted by AYOO WINNIE ATIMANGO, REG NO:  
J22B56/031 with the approval of my academic supervisor.

Signature:  .....

Name: **MRS. KERENHAPPUCH KICONCO**

Date: 5<sup>TH</sup> SEPT - 2024 .....

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The study examined women's political involvement local community governance structures in Bugujju town, mukono municipality Uganda. This research was guided by objectives which included: analyzing the factors influencing women political participation in local government structures, establishing the role of local structures and suggesting possible strategies that can enhance more women political involvement in local community structures within Bugujju Mukono municipality.

The study utilized a cross-sectional methodology, collecting data data from a sample population at a single point in time where quantitative method of data collection was used. The data was collected using interviews as a method of data collection, employing purposive sampling, and random sampling. A sample size of 70 respondents who were women in leadership positions, female leaders, community members and local government officials.

The findings showed that while Bugujju as a community has tried several measures to elevate the low level of women political involvement in local community structures. Provision of resources and financial support to overcome obstacles like funding shortages, capacity building and leadership training a strategy suggested by the community to navigate politics advocate and addressing social cultural barriers which will foster gender equality and promote inclusive governance.

Finally the study recommended the need for establishment of robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to regularly gauge the effectiveness of initiatives promoting women's participation, mobilization of male leaders and stakeholders as champions of gender equality, training initiatives that empower women in Bugujju town with skills and confidence to take on leadership and lastly launching of community-wide education and awareness initiatives to confront and transform harmful social and cultural norms.

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### **1.1 Background of the Study:**

The presence and influence of women have become more conspicuous across various spheres of life (Jabeen and Iqbal, 2010). In the last three decades, a noticeable shift emerged to the extent which women engaged and participated in domains spanning political, economic, and social realms (Kurebwa, 2014). These transformations owe their existence to global awareness campaigns propagated through conferences, workshops, symposiums, and discussions that have sought to tackle gender-related matters and devise strategies for progress (Ndlovu & Mutale, 2013). This heightened global focus on the representation and participation of rural women within local governance, as evidenced by the expanding body of literature, international summit pronouncements, official policy documents, and dialogues, suggests the significant potential possessed by women (Jabeen and Jadoon, 2008).

Despite these collective efforts and the growing enthusiasm among women to actively engage in decision-making processes, the presence and active participation of women in Uganda's local governance still remain remarkably limited due to their marginalized status (Kiyaga-Nsubuga & Olum, 2009).

The measurement of a nation's development is now linked to the extent of women's involvement and engagement in local governance (Kurebwa, 2014). Despite some progress in augmenting women's presence and participation in decision-making processes, the barriers to their entry into local governance persist (Esuruku, 2013).

In Uganda, rural women continue to find themselves on the periphery of political and socioeconomic activities, despite the collaborative efforts of the central government, civil society, and the international community (Kurebwa, 2014). The local governance structure in Uganda faces increasing pressure from women's movements to facilitate comprehensive female involvement through the formal channels of governance that have materialized and evolved since the enactment of the Local Government Statute in 1993 (Golooba-Mutebi, 2008). This statute

marked a pivotal juncture by establishing the legal framework for decentralization and the creation of local governments as official entities with elected representatives and amplified decision-making authority as part of the decentralization process (Goetz 1998).

Over the past two decades, Uganda has implemented a range of decentralization reforms as part of a broader democratization endeavour (Prah, 2013). The transfer of authority from the central government to local administrations provided an avenue for women to engage in local politics and influence matters directly and indirectly linked to their well-being (Ahikire 2007). These decentralization reforms have also been strongly correlated with political representation and participation within local governance contexts (Goetz 1998).

As i delve into the realm of women's involvement in local governance, it's crucial to grasp the distinction between participation and representation, often erroneously interchanged. The notion that an increase in women's representation will automatically lead to heightened participation oversimplifies the issue. Representation and participation are two interrelated yet separate phenomena, particularly when scrutinizing women's roles in local political decision-making scenarios (Tolmay & Morna, 2010). Representation centers on the numerical presence of women in decision-making roles, affording only a partial view. Conversely, participation delves into women's active engagement once they assume these decision-making positions (Kethusegile-Juru, 2003). This inquiry, in line with Greenberg and Okani's 2001, centers on assessing whether women possess the opportunity to engage fully and exert influence over decisions. Political participation entails actions such as joining political parties, standing for elections, occupying official positions, participating in debates, and advocating for causes. These actions inherently involve public engagement and visibility, built on a foundation of confidence, skills, and resources (Greenberg and Okani, 2001).

As articulated by Haque (2003), the growing recognition lies in the understanding that pursuing women's representation and involvement across diverse social and public policy matters is pivotal to bolstering their trust in governance institutions. Local governance, often referred to as the government level closest to the populace, yields activities that reverberate through the lives of both women and men, significantly influencing their fundamental needs and thereby impacting the community's overall quality of life (Goetz, 2003). According to Kaufmann and

Kraay (2007), the foundation of the notion of good governance rests upon universally accepted values including equality, transparency, accountability, efficiency, participation, and responsiveness. This concept acknowledges the contributions of both genders to various developmental endeavors while integrating a gender perspective into its framework.

As outlined in the Worldwide Declaration on Women in Local Governance by the International Union of Local Authorities (IULA, 1998), local governments stand as the optimal entities to engage women in decisions pertaining to their living conditions and to harness their expertise and capabilities to foster sustainable development. Echoing this sentiment, Cornwall and Goetz (2005) emphasize that women's involvement in local government decision-making remains significantly limited, exacerbating the parallel under representation of women in institutions and processes shaping national-level decision-making. It's vital to recognize that the essence of women's presence in local government extends beyond numerical representation; it's about their dynamic involvement, contributing to policy determinations and resource allocation (Cornwall and Goetz, 2005). However, Hassim (1999) underscores that the mere presence of women in local government falls short if it doesn't manifest substantive authority to shape policy and political agendas.

As observed by Tolmay & Morna (2010), the representation and participation of women in local government politics stand as a driving force for their empowerment. This is especially true given the local level's closer proximity to the community, which heightens the potential for direct impact by women in politics. Nevertheless, a dearth of global evidence persists regarding women's concrete presence in rural local governments and their potential influence (Irwin, 2014).

#### 1.2 Statement of the problem:

Since gaining independence in 1962, Uganda has made notable progress concerning the representation and engagement of women in local governance (Tripp, 2012). However, the participation of rural women in decision-making processes remains limited and below par. Essential factors such as equal developmental opportunities, an enabling environment, and the acceptance of women as leaders, which are crucial for fostering complete individual participation, are yet to be fully realized (Tripp, 2012).

A critical issue is that women continue to face unequal access to and control over essential services provided by local governments due to their under representation in both political leadership and administrative roles at the local level. This under representation contradicts the pivotal role local Governments play as the closest governmental entity to citizens, ideally positioned to engage both women and men in decisions that impact their lives (Goetz, 2003).

Furthermore, as stated by Akpan (2015), women's socioeconomic growth is significantly hampered by the lack of an effective voice in local decision-making processes.

Despite the significant contributions that women make to community development, local planners and officials routinely ignore their unique requirements, failing to consult them or take their concerns into account (Akpan, 2015). The invisibility of women's contributions and unique demands is further perpetuated by the gendered dynamics ingrained in local government institutions and the predominate culture of male supremacy within local governance systems (Muriaas & Wang, 2012).

This research endeavour identifies a critical gap in the existing literature as it pertains to the comprehensive exploration of women's roles within Bugguju's local community governance. Previous studies, while shedding light on broader governance and gender dynamics, have tended to neglect the intricate interactions and unique challenges that women confront at the grassroots level. Failure to address this gap carries substantial repercussions, as it hinders the advancement of gender equality and the realization of women's full potential within the local governance landscape, ultimately impacting community development and social progress.

#### **Purpose of the Study:**

To understand the role of local community governance structures in women political participation within Bugujju town, Mukono Municipality.

#### **1.3.1 Objectives of the study:**

- i. To analyze the factors influencing women political participation in local government structures within Bugujju town, Mukono Municipality.
- ii. To establish the role of local structures in ensuring women political participation in local government structures in Bugujju town, Mukono Municipality.

- iii. To suggest strategies that can enhance more women political involvement in local community structures in Bugujju town, Mukono Municipality.

### 1.3.2 Research Questions:

- i. What are the factors influencing women political participation in local government structures within Bugujju town, Mukono Municipality?
- ii. What are the roles of local structures in ensuring women political participation in local government structures in Bugujju town, Mukono Municipality?
- iii. What are the strategies that can enhance more women political involvement in local community structures in Bugujju town, Mukono Municipality?

### 1.4 Significance of the study:

The significance of this study lies in the pivotal role that women's equal representation and participation play within the realms of political, social, and economic life, fostering a holistic advancement of women. Equitable representation and active participation in decision-making go beyond simple appeals to fairness and democracy to serve as conditions for the sincere consideration of women's interests, women's political engagement is a vital measure of the extent to which their political rights are being realized.

Additionally, the democratic foundation is substantially enriched by the systematic involvement of women, which also improves the effectiveness and raises the calibre of local government initiatives. It is essential to take into account the perspectives and experiences of both men and women in order to fulfil the dual mandate of local government to meet the needs of both groups. This calls for fair representation across all levels of decision-making, across a variety of industries, and across the whole range of duties assigned to local governments.

This study's significance extends to a range of stakeholders, including policymakers, governmental bodies, civil society organizations, women's advocacy groups, and researchers. Policymakers will benefit from comprehensive insights into the nuanced challenges and opportunities for enhancing women's involvement in local governance. Governmental entities stand to gain practical strategies for implementing more inclusive policies that genuinely represent the needs of women and men. Civil society organizations and women's advocacy groups can draw upon this research to strengthen their calls for gender-responsive governance,

while researchers will have a foundational resource to further explore this vital intersection of gender and governance. By addressing the existing gap in understanding and advocating for women's greater inclusion, this study contributes to the broader objectives of gender equality, inclusive development, and improved governance, benefiting communities and societies at large.

### 1.3 Scope of the Study:

#### 1.4 Geographical scope.

This research study focuses on examining women's participation in local governance within the unique context of Buggujju, a town located in central Uganda's Mukono Municipality. Positioned at an elevation of 1,220 meters and with coordinates 0° 21' 3" N, 32° 44' 16" E, Buggujju occupies a strategic location nearby the villages of Nabuti and Buluguma. The Mukono Municipality is approximately 21 km east of Kampala along the Kampala-Jinja Highway and situated around 24.5 kilometers east of Kampala, the capital and largest city of Uganda. The municipality encompasses an area of approximately 31.4 square kilometres, marked by its geographical coordinates at 00 21 36N, 32 45 00E and an average elevation of 1,246 metres (4,088 ft) above mean sea level.

The population of the municipality, as estimated by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) in 2020, stands at approximately 191,300 individuals, reflecting a notable increase of 17.6% since the 2014 census. A significant aspect is that women constitute more than 50% of this population, signifying the substantial representation of women within the demographic makeup of the town. This demographic diversity within the town forms a crucial backdrop for investigating the dynamics of women's involvement in local governance.

Within the broader context of Mukono Municipality, the administrative structure comprises 2 divisions, 11 sub-counties, 5 town councils, 55 parishes, 44 wards, and 607 villages, as reported by Mukono local government as of January 16, 2019. This intricate administrative configuration provides the foundation for understanding the channels through which women's participation is channeled within the local governance framework of Buggujju.

By concentrating on this specific geographic area and its dynamic population, this study aims to illuminate the challenges and possibilities for women's engagement in local governance, adding valuable insights to the discourse on gender-inclusive decision-making processes.

### **1.5 Content scope.**

This research topic explores the extent and impact of women's political involvement in local community governance structures in Bugujju, located within Mukono Municipality in Uganda. It aims to examine the roles women play in decision-making processes, the barriers they face in participating in local governance, and the strategies employed to overcome these challenges. The study will investigate how women's involvement influences community development, social cohesion, and the overall effectiveness of local governance. Through qualitative and quantitative analyses, the research will provide insights into the socio-political dynamics of Bugujju and offer recommendations for enhancing women's participation in local governance.

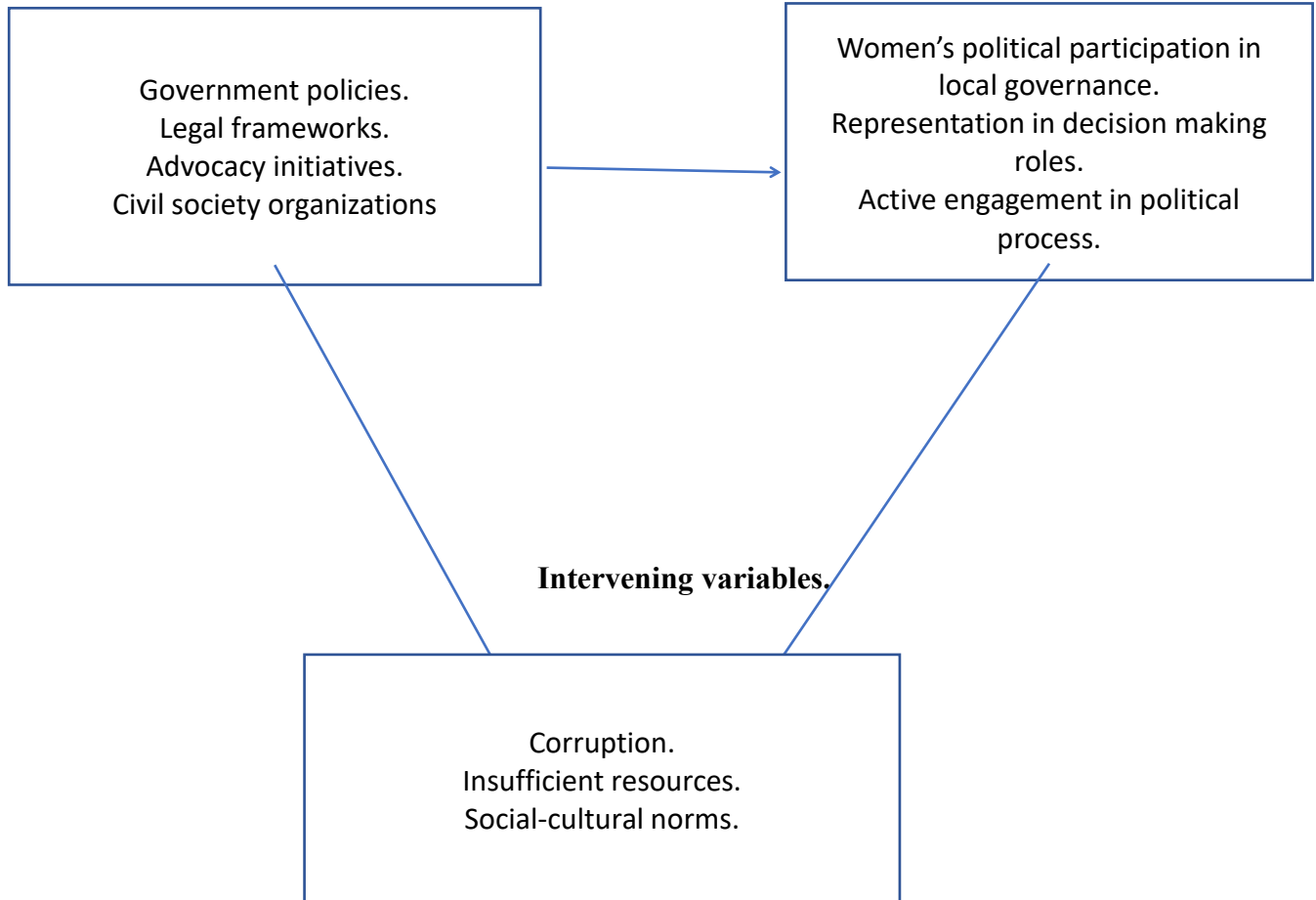
### **1.6 Time scope.**

The time scope of the study will span from the early 2021 to 2023. This period captures significant socio-political changes, including the implementation of gender-sensitive policies and the gradual increase in female political participation. From 2021 to 2023, women's political participation in Uganda saw a slight increase, with women holding approximately 34.9% of parliamentary seats in 2021, rising to about 35.7% by 2023. It examines the evolution of women's roles, challenges faced, and the impact of their involvement on community development and governance. Between 2021 and 2023, Uganda witnessed a gradual increase in women's involvement in local politics with female representation in Lc3 councils rising to around 35% and Lc5 councils reaching approximately 30%. The study also considers the influence of national and local legislation, as well as the cultural and socio-economic factors that have shaped women's participation in governance in Bugujju over the last five years.

## 1.7 Conceptual Framework.

### Independent variable

### Dependent variable.



The above conceptual framework shows the key variables and their relationship in the study on women's political involvement in local community governance structures. The independent variables include government policies, legal frameworks and advocacy initiatives. These elements represent the external conditions and structural mechanisms that can promote or hinder women's participation in political processes. Government policies may involve affirmative action, gender quotas, or support for women candidates, while legal frameworks refer to the laws that ensure equal opportunities and rights for women. Advocacy initiatives could involve efforts by NGOs or civil society groups to raise awareness and push for gender equality in political spaces.

The dependent variables are the outcomes related to women's political involvement in local governance. This includes their participation in local governance, representation in decision making roles, and active engagement in the political process. These outcomes are directly influenced by the independent variables. The framework explains that when supportive government policies, legal frameworks and effective advocacy initiatives are in place, there is likely to be an increase in women's political leading to greater representation in governance and more involvement in political decision-making processes.

The relationship between the independent and dependent variables is moderated by intervening variables. These factors that can either facilitate or obstruct the impact of the the independent variables on dependent variables include corruption, insufficient resources, and socio-cultural norms. Corruption can undermine efforts to promote women's participation, while insufficient resources may limit the effectiveness of policies and initiatives. Socio-cultural norms, particularly those that are patriarchal or discriminatory, can also hinder women's political involvement despite supportive policies and advocacy efforts. These intervening variables play a critical effort in determining whether the intended outcomes of increased women's political involvement are achieved.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW.

#### **2.1 Introduction.**

This chapter presents review of literature in line with study objectives, different studies and other sources that have been done in the past with subjects that relate to this study and draw gap of knowledge, which this study address to pursue in generating new knowledge.

#### 2.2 What is women political participation:

Women's political participation is when women have the same ability as men to participate in all aspects of political life and decision-making at all levels.

According to UN women, women's political participation is a fundamental requirement for democracy and gender equality. It allows women to directly participate in public decision-making and can lead to better accountability to women. The UNDP also says that empowering women to participate in politics can lead to more equitable and sustainable societies, which can result in better governance, increased economic stability and improved social cohesion.

#### 2.3. Extent of Women's Participation in Various Levels of Local Governance Structures:

In Uganda, women's participation in local governance structures varies significantly across different levels, from grassroots committees to district councils (Mwesigwa, 2021). The study indicated that women's representation in lower-level administrative units, such as village councils, is relatively higher compared to higher-level structures like district councils (Mwesigwa, 2021). However, despite some progress, women remain underrepresented in decision-making positions within local governance bodies, which poses challenges to the effective inclusion of women's perspectives in policy making and implementation processes (Jena et al., 2023). Women still face substantial obstacles due to deep-rooted patriarchal norms and a lack of political experience (Thelma & Ngulube, 2024).

In Nigeria and Kenya, women's political participation at the local level remains limited, with socio-cultural barriers and economic constraints being major factors (Okunade et al., 2023) and (Njiru et al., 2023) As reviewed in detail earlier, Several factors influence women's participation

in local governance structures. Socio-cultural norms and practices often limit women's access to leadership positions and decision-making spaces (Makama, 2013). In many communities, traditional gender roles confine women to domestic spheres, thereby reducing their visibility and influence in public affairs (Makama, 2013). This is compounded by structural barriers such as limited access to education, financial resources, and political networks, which constrain women's ability to participate actively in governance processes (Lassébie, 2020).

Furthermore, inadequate support mechanisms, including gender-sensitive policies and institutional frameworks, hinder women's meaningful engagement in local governance (Thelma & Ngulube, 2024). Conversely, according to Skagerlind (2021), in many parts of Sub-Saharan Africa and East Africa, women's participation in local governance remains limited, despite international and national efforts to promote gender equality. For example, in Kenya, while the 2010 Constitution guarantees gender representation in public offices, women still face significant hurdles, including political violence, socio-cultural discrimination, and economic barriers (Gayoye, 2020). Despite the challenges, empirical evidence from the study of Hessami and Da Fonseca (2020) suggests that increasing women's participation in local governance can have positive outcomes for both governance effectiveness and gender equality.

A study carried out by Cullen and McGing (2019) showed that when women are involved in decision-making processes, there is a greater likelihood of addressing issues that affect women and marginalized groups (Cullen and McGing, 2019). Women's participation contributes to the diversification of leadership styles, fostering more inclusive and responsive governance practices (Chikwe et al., 2024). In Rwanda, the inclusion of women in local governance has been linked to improvements in public service delivery and enhanced community welfare (Rwigema, 2022).

Similarly, in Kenya, a study carried out by Muthomi and Thurmaier (2020) stated that the “presence of women in local councils has led to increased attention to issues such as healthcare, education, and domestic violence, areas traditionally overlooked by male-dominated councils.” According to Gordon (2020), these examples underscore the transformative potential of women’s participation in governance, which not only enhances the representation of women’s interests but also improves the overall quality of governance.

Comparatively, similar trends are observed in other regions and countries, highlighting the global nature of these challenges. For instance, in a study carried out in India, women's representation in local governance significantly increased following the implementation of a quota system, reserving 33% of seats in local bodies for women (Mohapatra et al., 2023). As stated by Rummery (2020), “In Scandinavian countries, known for their high levels of gender equality, women's participation in local governance has been a key driver of social policies that support gender equality” and family welfare (Schmidt, 2019). These countries provide a model for how institutional frameworks and supportive policies can create an enabling environment for women’s active political participation (Schmidt, 2019).

## 2.4: Factors Influencing Women's Political Participation in Local Government Structures

### 2.4.1 Socio-Cultural Norms:

Deeply entrenched cultural and social norms play a pivotal role in constraining women's participation in local governance. In a study published by Mutangirwa (2016), socio-cultural norms significantly influence women's political participation by imposing barriers to their engagement in public life. Traditional gender roles confine women to domestic responsibilities, limiting their opportunities in political activities (Makama, 2013). These norms position political and leadership roles as predominantly male domains, discouraging women from pursuing such positions (Thelma & Ngulube, 2024). In local communities, these entrenched beliefs perpetuate the perception that women should prioritize household duties over public service, contributing to their under representation in local government structures (Thelma & Ngulube, 2024). Cultural beliefs regarding women's roles as caregivers and homemakers often prioritize domestic responsibilities over public engagement (Naheed et al., 2021). Prevalent stereotypes and biases undermine women's credibility and leadership potential, discouraging their active involvement in community decision-making processes (Nsana & Daka, 2023).

### 2.4.2 Institutional Barriers:

As stated by Collignon (2024), institutional barriers, including discriminatory practices within political parties and the absence of gender-sensitive policies, hinder women's political participation. Discrimination within political parties marginalizes women, making it difficult for them to run for office or hold leadership positions (Matloob et al., 2021). Additionally, the lack

of gender-sensitive policies further exacerbates these challenges, as women are left to navigate a political environment that does not accommodate their needs (Thelma & Ngulube, 2024). In Uganda, insufficient institutional support, such as limited training programs for women and inadequate legal protections, further marginalizes women in local governance (Ssali, 2020). Also Inadequate representation of women in key decision-making bodies and electoral processes has perpetuated a cycle of male dominance in governance (Thelma & Ngulube, 2024). Furthermore, limited access to resources, such as education, finance, and networks, disproportionately affects women's ability to compete in political arenas (Bade, 2024).

#### 2.4.3 Economic Constraints:

Hessami and Da Fonseca (2020) stated that economic factors pose significant barriers to women's political participation within local government structures, as limited financial resources impede women's ability to finance their political activities and engage effectively in the political arena (Alhassan et al., 2020). Economic dependency, coupled with pervasive poverty, restricts women's political ambitions and perpetuates their under representation (Emordi, 2021). In Uganda, as stated by Ssali (2020), the lack of economic opportunities and support mechanisms exacerbates these challenges, hindering women from competing on an equal footing with men.

#### 2.4.4 Political Dynamics:

Political issues, such as election systems, gender quotas, and party support, have a major impact on women's political participation, according to Lassébie (2020). Women's chances to participate in politics are restricted by discriminatory practices in political parties and election systems that disadvantage them (Lassébie, 2020). In Uganda, efforts to shift societal attitudes toward women leaders are crucial for fostering an environment where women can participate fully and effectively in political life (Irambona, 2023)

#### 2.4.5 Intersectionality and Marginalization

As stated by Mohammed (2022), age, ethnicity, social position, and disability contribute to women's marginalization in local governance. Women belonging to marginalized groups face intersecting forms of discrimination and exclusion, further marginalizing their voices and perspectives within governance processes. (Mohammed, 2022)

## 2.5. Strategies to Enhance Women's Political Involvement in Local Community Structures:

### 2.5.1 Policy Initiatives:

Initiating policy changes is essential to fostering an atmosphere that encourages women to participate in politics (Thelma & Ngulube, 2024). For example, quota systems have been put in place in a number of nations to guarantee a minimum percentage of female representation in local governing institutions (Lassébie, 2020). In Uganda, the Local Government Act mandates affirmative action to boost women's participation, yet its implementation remains inconsistent, particularly in rural areas like Bugujju (Mwesigwa, 2021). Effective policy implementation requires rigorous monitoring and enforcement to ensure that legal provisions translate into tangible participation (Gachoki and Mulu, 2023).

### 2.5.2 Advocacy Efforts:

Advocacy by civil society organizations is essential to raising awareness and lobbying for women's rights (Mpogazi, 2021). Organizations such as ActionAid, FIDA Uganda, and FIDA Kenya have been instrumental in advocating for increased women's representation in local governance in East Africa (Kanyi et al., 2022). These efforts include public campaigns, workshops, and community dialogues aimed at challenging patriarchal norms and promoting gender equality (Mpogazi, 2021). According to Piscopo et al. (2023), advocacy not only pressures policymakers to enact and enforce supportive laws but also educates women about their rights and opportunities in the political sphere.

### 2.5.3 Capacity-Building Programs:

Empirical studies by Wainaina et al. (2023) show that capacity-building programs are vital for equipping women with the skills and knowledge needed to participate effectively in local governance. Training initiatives often focus on leadership, public speaking, and understanding local government operations (Wainaina et al., 2023). According to Rwigema (2024), such programs significantly enhance women's confidence and capability to engage in political

processes. In Uganda, targeted training programs try to address specific barriers faced by rural women, such as limited access to education and resources (Mwiine, 2022).

#### 2.5.4 Grassroots mobilization campaigns:

Grassroots mobilization is a powerful strategy to enhance women's political involvement (Goyal, 2023), as mobilizing women at the community level can create a strong support network that encourages and sustains female participation in governance (Paalo, 2022). Grassroots campaigns often involve forming women's groups, which can collectively advocate for their interests and support members running for local office (Paalo, 2022). In Bugujju, mobilizing women through existing community structures, such as savings groups or cooperatives, can be particularly effective. Empowering Women through Gender-Inclusive

#### 3.5.5 Governance Practices:

According to Aberman et al. (2020), promoting gender-inclusive governance practices involves ensuring that local government processes and structures are accessible and responsive to women; this includes gender-sensitive budgeting, which allocates resources to address issues disproportionately affecting women, and creating platforms for women to voice their concerns and influence decision-making. Ensuring that local meetings and councils are held at times and places convenient for women and providing childcare facilities significantly increase women's participation (Kharouf et al., 2024).

## 2.6 Conclusion.

The review of literature reveals that multiple factors significantly influence women's political participation in local government structures, including socio-cultural norms, institutional barriers, economic constraints, political dynamics and intersectionality. Despite progress in some areas, women remain underrepresented in decision-making roles due to persistent socio-cultural barriers, inadequate institutional support and economic challenges. However various strategies such as policy initiatives, advocacy efforts, capacity-building programs, grassroots mobilization, and the promotion of gender-inclusive governance practices, have shown potential in enhancing women's political involvement in local governance. These strategies underscore in the importance of a multi-faceted approach to address the complex challenges hindering women's

political participation, ultimately contributing to more inclusive and effective governance. Continued efforts are necessary to create an enabling environment where women can fully participate in and influence local government structures.

## CHAPTER THREE

### RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Introduction

This research methodology section provides a detailed plan on how the study on women's political involvement in local community governance structures was conducted. The chapter reveals and discusses the research design, study population, sample size and sampling techniques, data collection methods and procedure, data analysis and presentation, and concludes with the limitations faced by the researcher during the study.

#### 3.2 Research design.

According to (Cooper and Schindler, 2003), they defined Research design as the general plan or road map of how the research is done based on the research questions. It also serves to ensure that evidence is obtained to enable the researcher get the response to the initial question( Rowley 2002). The study strategy adopts a quantitative design due to the fact that it allows multiple use of data collection methods such as interviews. Using interviews provided detailed and original data directly from the source.

#### 3.3 Sample size.

Population was composed of women in leadership positions, female leaders, local government officials who were purposively selected because they are most relevant in this study and community members who were randomly sampled because it helps to make unbiased generalization about a population. Women in leadership positions were interviewed at their places of work because they have experience and have witnessed women political involvement at their places of work. I collected information from 10 women in leadership positions in local government positions, 15 female leaders, 30 community members by randomly selecting them counting two households missing one in an area and 15 local government officials.

### 3.4 Sample size table

<b>Category of respondent.</b>	<b>Number of respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Sampling technique.</b>	<b>Data collection instruments.</b>
Women in leadership positions.	10	14.3	Purposive Sampling	Interviews
Female leaders	15	21.4	Purposive Sampling	interviews
Community members	30	42	Random sampling	Interviews
Local government officials.	15	21.4	Purposive sampling	Interviews.
Total	70	100%		

### 3.5 Population of the study.

The population for this study was the residents of Bugujju town in Mukono municipality in Uganda. The research focused on women political participation in local governance community structures within Bugujju. Without knowing the exact population size, an appropriate sample size of 70 households were selected to represent the diversity of Bugujju community in terms of women in leadership positions, community members, female leaders, and local government officials.

### 3.6 Sampling techniques.

Sampling design was used to select representative elements or respondents from the target or accessible population. In this research, I used both purposive and simple random sampling method, this involved selecting respondents randomly and random interviews of the chosen officials. This technique or design helped me get unbiased data since purposive sampling could enable me to deal with respondents who have adequate information about the hinderances of women participation in local government structures.

### **3.7 Data sources.**

Both primary and Secondary data were collected from among the women in Bugujju, in Mukono. The data included those related to factors hindering women's meaningful engagement and influence in local community governance.

#### **3.7.1 Primary data.**

I used the primary data to get information from the respondents by the use of face-to-face information and use of interviews to collect data from respondents. Primary source of data was used because it enables to observe and get information direct from the activities that take place in Bugujju, Mukono Central Division.

#### **3.7.2 Secondary data.**

Secondary data for this study was got from different sources like; reading publications and textbooks as well as journals, magazines and newspapers written by different authors concerning the participation of women in the various levels of local governance structures.

### **3.8 Data collection methods.**

#### **Interviews.**

Interview method of data collection is a qualitative research that involved a researcher asking questions to one or more people face to face to elicit information on a specific topic. Interviews helped to obtain rich and detailed data by exploring topics in greater depth. This method was applied to women in leadership positions, female leaders, community members and local government officials. The interview method of data collection involved gathering information directly from individuals through a structured or unstructured conversation. It is widely used in qualitative research but can also be applied in quantitative studies. The method helped to collect sensitive information about the study which is not possible to get using a questionnaire, it helped to obtain more detailed information about the study, however, it's time consuming as information was captured from highly designated respondents and took more resources to execute as schedules, meetings are always fixed and reschedules time and again.

### **3.9 Data processing analysis and presentation.**

#### **3.9.1 Data processing.**

Data collected was checked for completeness, categorized, coded and entered into a computer where it will be summarized into frequency tables.

#### **3.9.2 Data Presentation.**

Quantitative data was presented in form of descriptive statistics using frequency tables. Qualitative data was sorted and grouped into themes, The researcher thereafter evaluated and analyzed the adequacy of information in answering the research questions through coding of data, identifying categories and parameters that emerge in the responses to the variables of the study. Qualitative data was presented using narrative text.

#### **3.9.3 Limitations of the study.**

Financial constraints: Financing the research study was too costly in terms of feeding and processing of the report. Non-response: some owners of businesses in the community were busy attending to their businesses and spare no time for the me and lastly, there was language barrier with the few elders who couldn't speak English hence making communication difficult at some point. These challenges were however tried to be solved for example for the non-response I made early bookings for the times they are less fixed so as am attended to. For the case of language barrier I tried to use the common local language that most people know in the area.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION.

#### 4.0 Introduction.

This chapter presents and discusses the results of analysis that have been carried out to handle the specific objectives of the study in relation to the reviewed literature. The study was carried out using interviews on respondents which included 10 women in leadership positions, 15 female leaders, 30 community members and 15 local government officials. The chapter presents and discusses the results of analysis that have been carried out to tackle the objectives of the study which were;

- I. To establish the role of local structures in ensuring women political participation in local government structures in Bugujju town, Mukono Municipality.
- II. To analyze the factors influencing women political participation in local government structures within Bugujju town, Mukono Municipality.
- III. To suggest strategies that can enhance more women political involvement in local community structures in Bugujju town, Mukono Municipality.

The importance of this chapter is to present the results from interviews carried out with the above respondents on the research objectives.

#### 4.2 Role of local community structures in ensuring women political participation in local government structures in Bugujju town.

**Table 1: Showing role of local government structures**

<b>Role of local government structures</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage(%)</b>
Promoting awareness and advocacy	25	35.7
Facilitating access to resoucrees	40	57.1
Creating inclusive policies	5	7.1
Total	70	100

**Source:** primary data

From the interviews conducted with the selected respondents which were the community members, women in leadership positions, female leaders, community members and local government officials, they were asked the role of local community structures in ensuring women political participation in local government structures.

Facilitating access to resources: From the interviews conducted, facilitating access to resources was suggested by most of the respondents as the most effective role local community structures should adopt to enhance women political involvement in local government structures. This was represented by 57.1%. Local governments should ensure that women have access to resources for example funding and support networks. These are crucial for running effective campaigns and participating in local politics.

In the second position was promoting awareness and advocacy which was represented by 35.7% from the respondents. Under this, respondents suggested that local governments should engage in awareness campaigns and advocacy to challenge gender biases and encourage women's political participation, fostering a supportive environment for women candidates.

Creating inclusive policies: Lastly, 7.1% of the respondents said creating inclusive policies such as incentives for women candidates is another way local community structures can increase women political participation in local governments. Local governments can implement policies that promote gender equality and support women’s participation in politics.

*“.....women in leadership positions can collaborate with local authorities to champion gender equality and raise awareness among communities about the value of inclusive governance..”*

**Female leader.**

*“.....I personally advocate for the local government to increase access to vital resources, including clean water, affordable housing and support for small businesses...”Lc1*

**Table 2: Most effective role of local community structures in ensuring women political participation in local government structures.**

<b>Most effective role of local community structures.</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Promoting awareness and advocacy.	45	64.2
Facilitating access to resources.	15	21.6
Creating inclusive policies	10	14.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:***primary data*

From the interviews conducted with the selected respondents which were the community members, women in leadership positions, female leaders, community members and local government officials, they were asked the most effective role of local community structures in ensuring women political participation in local government structures and their responses included the following:

Promoting awareness and advocacy. This is the most effective role of local community structures in ensuring women political participation in local governance within Bugujju in Mukono

municipality. This was said by 64.2% of the respondents. This involves communicating the importance of women political participation to the public and to influence people to support it. Respondents pointed out that local community structures have greatly contributed in ensuring women political participation through reaching out to the general public using methods like public outreach campaigns, social media, writings like letters or sign petitions to raise awareness among others. This has encouraged many of the women within Bugujju to participate in politics.

The second most effective role of local community structures in ensuring women political participation is facilitating access to resources said by 21.6% of the respondents. Women within bugujju have faced several obstacles regarding resources to enable them in engage in politics. These resources include financial resources, support networks and mentorship among others. Respondents pointed out some of the roles the local community structures such as providing financial resources through women support programs for example UWEP ( Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program). The facilitation of access to resources has greatly improved women political participation in local government structures.

Thirdly, creating inclusive policies was the least said role being carried by local community structures with only a percentage of 14.2% by the respondents. Inclusive policies aim to include all people, regardless of their background or circumstances and to promote understanding, transparency and equal treatment. They help to create a culture or an environment where women feel safe, valued and respected in the political area.

#### 4.3 Factors influencing women political participation in local government structures within Bugujju town, Mukono Municipality.

**Table 3. Factors influencing women political in local government structures within Bugujju town, Mukono Municipality.**

<b>Factors influencing women political participation</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage(%)</b>
Economic factors	55	78.6
Social factors	5	7.1
Political factors	8	11.4
Institutional factors	2	2.9

<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>
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**Source:** *primary data*

From the interviews conducted with the selected respondents which were the community members, women in leadership positions, female leaders, community members and local government officials, they were asked the factors influencing women political participation in local government structures within Bugujju town, Mukono municipality and their responses included the following:

**Economic factors:** This was the major factor stated by most of the respondents with a percentage of 78.6% . Economic variables affect women’s ability to effectively campaign, access resources and financial independence, all of which have an impact on their political participation in local governance structures. Women who are financially independent are more likely to get involved in politics, but those who are not may find it difficult to do so because of the expenses of running for office. Respondents pointed out that economic factors contribute highly to influencing women political participation in local governance structures.

**Political factors:** From the findings, 11.4% highlighted political factors as another major factor that influences women political participation in local governance structures. Respondents pointed out political factors such as party policies, gender biases and lack of legislation that supports them. This limits their political participation in local government structures in the positions of leadership and decision making.

Another factor that influences women political participation in local government structures are the social factors which was cited by 7.1% of the respondents. Social factors such as gender norms and cultural expectations hinder women political participation in local government structures. Respondents emphasized cultural practices and limited access to education as factors that greatly hinder women political participation saying these elements may result in a lack of self assurance, less chances to assume leadership positions and inadequate community and family support. Furthermore, prejudices and attitudes held by society against women in leadership roles can deter them from participating in decision making processes.

Institutional factors: This factor was pointed out by 2.9% of the respondents pointing out that women political engagement in local government structures is greatly impacted by institutional variables like gender quotas, party backing and election processes. By reserving seats for women, quotas can improve representation and may not be enforced and complicated or biased election procedures may make it difficult for women to participate effectively.

*“.....us as women face economic barriers which make it hard for us to fund or campaigns and also social norms continue to favor men in positions of leadership...”* Female leader

*“....the economic struggles women go through make it hard for women to participate in politics, as many priotize family over public roles...”* Community member

*“.....women face social stereotypes persist, reducing the acceptance of women in leadership positions and also political parties need to support female candidates not only in lower positions but also in higher positions...”* Local government official

#### 4.4 Challenges women in local community leadership positions face.

**Table 4: What challenges do women in local community leadership positions face in bugujju town, mukono municipality.**

Challenges	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender biasness.	35	50
Lack of representation and role models	10	14
Work-life balance	12	17.1
Pay gap and unequal opportunities	13	18.9
<b>Total</b>	70	100

**Source:** *primary data*

From the interviews conducted with the selected respondents which were the community members, women in leadership positions, female leaders, community members and local government officials, they were asked the challenges women in local community leadership positions face in bugujju town, mukono municipality as below are some of their responses:

**Gender biasness.** A specific number of respondents, 50% said that gender biasness is one major challenge women in leadership positions face. Gender biasness against women is a tendency of treating women differently from men and often in a way that favors men. Local government structures tend allocate men more to better or higher leadership positions as compared to women for example positions such as the Mayor, Town clerk among others. These gender bias actions against women discourage a couple of women to continue participating in politics and even stop others from joining.

**Lack of representation and role models:** 14% of the respondents cited lack of representation and role models as a challenge women in leadership positions face within Bugujju. The lack of female role models and mentors can create a barrier for women aiming for leadership positions, as they have fewer examples to follow and learn from. This can lead to self perpetuating cycle where women remain underrepresented in leadership making it even harder for future generations to break through.

**Pay gap and unequal opportunities:** Pay gap and unequal opportunities was another challenge women in leadership positions face said by 18.9% of the respondents. A pay gap against women is the difference in earnings between men and women where men are more favoured in terms of payments. Respondents said that women in leadership face significant obstacles due to pay disparities and unequal access to opportunities, leading to lower earnings and limited career progression. These inequalities restrict access to vital connections and resources, making it essential to tackle them to achieve genuine gender parity in leadership.

**Work-life balance:** work-life balance was cited by 17.1% of respondents as a challenge women in leadership positions face. Women leaders face a difficult juggling act between their demanding careers and personal lives, exacerbated by societal pressures and unequal sharing of

household responsibilities. This can lead to chronic stress, burnout and lack of time for self care, family and professional development, ultimately threatening their overall well-being and success.

*“.....As a woman, I frequently encounter skepticism and questioning of my abilities, feeling pressured to continually demonstrate my competence and value , whereas my male peers seem to receive more trust and acceptance without needing to prove themselves to the same extent..”*

**woman in leadership position**

*“.....The lack of women representation in top leadership roles sends a discouraging message to young girls, making them less likely to envision themselves in similar power and leadership in the future...”* **Man in the community**

*“.....Juggling work and family obligations is an ongoing challenge frequently leaving me drained and depleted, as I strive to meet the demands of both spheres...”* **Local government official**

4.5 Suggest strategies that can enhance more women political involvement in local community structures in Bugujju town, Mukono Municipality.

**Table 5: Strategies that can enhance more women political involvement in local community structures in Bugujju town, Mukono municipality.**

<b>Strategies to enhance more women political involvement</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Providing access to resources and financial support.	30	43
Addressing social-cultural barriers	10	14
Capacity building and leadership training	25	36
Engaging men as allies.	5	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** *Primary data*

From the interviews conducted with the selected respondents which were the community members, women in leadership positions, female leaders, community members and local government officials, they were asked the strategies that can enhance more women political

involvement in local community structures in Bugujju town, Mukono Municipality and their responses included the following:

**Providing access to resources and financial support:** The most commonly mentioned strategy that can enhance women political involvement pointed out by 43% of the respondents. Providing access to resources and financial support helps to remove obstacles like funding shortages, limited networks, and inadequate training which significantly boost women's involvement in local politics. Respondents emphasized that financial backing enables women to run effective campaigns and advocate for their interests. They added on that access to resources like mentorship, education, and skills training empowers women to participate and lead with confidence. By providing these supports, we can create a more inclusive environment that encourages women to take on governance roles and promotes gender equality.

**Capacity building and leadership training:** From the findings, 36% of the respondents pointed out capacity building and training which includes equipping them with skills, knowledge, and confidence to navigate complex political landscapes, advocate for their rights and shape decision-making processes. Respondents said that by strengthening women leadership capacities and understanding of governance, they can competitively pursue leadership roles, amplify their communities' voices and contribute to more representative and inclusive local governance.

**Addressing social-cultural barriers:** Addressing social-cultural barriers was mentioned by 14% of the respondents as one strategy of enhancing women political involvement. Breaking down social and cultural barriers enables women to participate more fully in local governance, overcoming discriminatory norms and stereotypes that restrict their involvement. This fosters gender equality, leading to more inclusive decision making processes. Respondents said that by eliminating these obstacles, women gain better access to resources, connections and leadership opportunities, allowing them to make more representative, response and equitable local governance, benefiting the community as a whole.

**Engaging men as allies.** Engaging men as allies was cited by 7% of respondents as an important strategy of enhancing women political involvement. Involving men as allies in local governance

helps to break down traditional gender norms and biases, promoting a more inclusive environment where women can participate fully. Respondents said that this collaborative approach encourages men to support women’s leadership, helps to remove structural barriers, and leads to more balanced decision making processes. By working together men and women can create a more equitable political landscape increasing women’s representation and influence.

*“.....women’s political participation requires access to essential resources and financial backing. To level the playing field, dedicated funding and programs are necessary to support and empower female candidates and leaders...”* **Woman in leadership position.**

*“.....male leaders should be urged to champion and mentor women, fostering a political environment that values and includes diverse perspectives and promotes gender equality..”* **LC1.**

*“.....Women deserve equal access to community resources , funding and opportunities to engage in local governance and decision-making, enabling them to contribute and shape their communities..”* **Community member**

**Table 6: How respondents envision the future of women’s political involvement in local governance.**

<b>Envisions from respondents</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage (%)</b>
Increase in the number of women political participation.	56	80
Gender equality in political representation.	5	7.1
Variety of various platforms and opportunities that foster women leadership in politics	5	7.1
Full representation of women in local governance.	4	5.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** *primary data*

From the interviews conducted with the selected respondents which were the community members, women in leadership positions, female leaders, community members and local government officials, they were asked how they envision the future of women's political involvement in local governance.

Increase in the number of women political participation. This was the most frequently mentioned envision of the future of women's political involvement in local governance highlighted by 80% of the respondents. The rising number of women in local politics demonstrates a growing acknowledgement of their leadership capabilities, fueled by gender equality advocacy, supportive policies and increased awareness of women's rights. Respondents said that with the on going efforts to ensure more women in the involvement in politics, there will be a great increase of the number of women running for political leadership positions.

Gender equality in political representation. 7.1% of the respondents mentioned that there would be more gender equality in political representation in the nearby future. Equal representation of women in politics guarantees their voices are heard, resulting in more diverse and inclusive decision making. Respondents said that there will be increased gender balance in governance thus reinforcing democratic institutions and promoting a sustainable community growth, ultimately leading to more equitable and responsive leadership in future.

Variety of several platforms and opportunities that foster women leadership in politics: 7.1 of the respondents said there will be a variety of several platforms and opportunities that foster women leadership in politics. Expanding women's leadership in politics relies on diverse platforms and initiatives, such as training, mentorship and advocacy which help remove obstacles and encourage female participation. Respondents mentioned that as women increasingly take on leadership roles, it cultivates a more inclusive and equitable political landscape, paving way for a brighter future.

Full representation of women in local governance: This is another envision by the respondents on future of women's political involvement in local governance cited by 5.8%. Respondents said that the growth of full representation in local governance signals a deepening dedication to gender equality and women's empowerment, leading to more diverse perspectives, policies that address community needs and stronger democratic governance which will amplify women's voices in the future.

*“.....we aspire to a future where women are fully represented in local politics, holding elected offices and leadership positions...”***Community member.**

*“.....our goal is to create a supportive ecosystem with various platforms both formal and informal, that offer guidance, connections, and skills development to empower women to take on political leadership...”* **woman in leadership position.**

*“.....Gender equality in politics is a top priority requiring the creation of an inclusive and equitable environment where women can engage and thrive without facing discrimination or obstacles, enabling their full participation and success..”***local government official**

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION.

#### 5.0 Introduction.

This chapter provides an overview of the research findings, emphasizing the literature review and the results presented in chapter four. It distills the main conclusions, offers recommendations, and identifies avenues for future research aligning with the study's research, aligning with the study's research questions.

#### 5.1 Summary of findings.

The study findings on the role of local structures in ensuring women political participation in local government structures in Bugujju town, Mukono Municipality revealed a number roles. Findings from interviews with various stakeholders reveal the most effective role of local community structures in ensuring women political participation in local government structures is providing access to resources with a percentage of 57.1%, including funding and support networks for campaigning. Secondly, raising awareness and advocacy is another effectively role represented by 35.7% involving local government led campaigns to challenge gender biases and create a supportive environment. A smaller group of 7.1% emphasizes the need for inclusive policies such as incentives for women candidates and gender equality policies to promote women's political engagement.

In addition, the findings reveal the various factors influencing women political participation in local government structures within Bugujju town, Mukono Municipality. Economic barriers, cited by 78.6% of respondents, are the most significant obstacle, including limited access to resources, financial dependence and the high cost of campaigning, which collectively restrict women's ability to engage in politics effectively. Political factors, identified by 11.4% of respondents encompass gender biases within party policies and inadequate legislation supporting women, limiting their leadership and decision making opportunities. Social factors as another factor mentioned by 7.1% of the respondents involve entrenched gender norms, cultural expectations, and limited educational opportunities, eroding women's self-confidence and community support. Furthermore, institutional factors noted by 2.9% of respondents which involves lack of enforcement of gender quotas, inadequate party support, and complex election procedures further impeding women's involvement. The study underscores the need for targeted

interventions to address these economic, social, political and institutional challenges, emphasizing the multifaceted nature of barriers to women's political participation and the necessity of enhancing women's representation and involvement in local government.

Lastly the findings pointed out several strategies that can enhance more women political involvement in local community structures in Bugujju town, Mukono Municipality. A significant majority of about 43% advocate for providing resources and financial and financial support to overcome obstacles like funding shortages, limited networks and inadequate training enabling women to run effective campaigns, gain mentorship and build confidence. Capacity building and leadership training cited by 36% of the respondents is the second most recommended strategy empowering women with essential skills , knowledge, and confidence to navigate politics advocate for their rights and engage in governance roles amplifying their voices in decision making. Addressing social cultural barriers was another strategy cited by 14% of the respondents is also vital involving challenging discriminatory norms and stereotypes fostering gender equality and promoting inclusive governance. Furthermore, engaging men as cited by 7% of the respondents is crucial in supporting women's leadership, break down gender biases, and promote balanced decision making. By implementing these strategies, the goal is to create an equitable political landscape increasing women's representation and influence in local governance and ultimately leading to more inclusive and effectively decision making processes.

## 5.2 Conclusions.

In conclusion, the research underscores the vital role of local community structures in boosting women's political engagement in Bugujju town. The findings reveal that empowering women through resource access, awareness and inclusive policies is crucial for their participation in local governance. Notably, awareness and advocacy emerge as the most effective strategy endorsed by the majority to challenge gender biases and create a supportive environment for women in politics.

The study identifies multiple factors influencing women's political participation, with economic factors being the most significant. Political, social and institutional factors also play a role with social norms and cultural expectations being notable barriers. To address these factors, targeted interventions are necessary including policy reforms, community sensitization, and promoting

gender equality within local governance structures. By doing so, we can create a more inclusive environment for women's political participation.

To boost women's political engagement in Bugujju town, the study proposes a comprehensive approach that includes empowering women with resources and training, challenging social and cultural obstacles, and enlisting men's support with the aim of achieving a future where women hold more political positions, gender equality is realized in political representation and diverse platforms support women's leadership, ultimately creating a more inclusive and equitable political environment.

### **5.3 Recommendations.**

The findings of the study on women political involvement in local governance structures in Bugju town, mukono municipality have necessitated the following recommendations.

The study recommends that local governments and community organizations should establish specialized funding initiatives and support systems to empower women candidates with the necessary financial resources to run effective political campaigns, including microfinance opportunities, targeted grants and mentorship programs that connect them with experienced leaders.

The study recommends establishment of robust monitoring and evaluation frameworks to regularly gauge the effectiveness of initiatives promoting women's participation, providing feedback on program, policy and advocacy outcomes and enabling data-driven adjustments and enhancements to optimize support for women's involvement in local governance.

Furthermore, the study recommends the mobilization of male leaders and stakeholders as champions of gender equality by fostering partnerships that encourage them to advocate for inclusive practices, mentor and support women in leadership positions, and actively dismantle systemic and cultural obstacles that hinder women's participation in politics, thereby promoting a more equitable inclusive political environment.

In addition, the study recommends training initiatives that empower women in Bugujju town with the skills and confidence to take on leadership roles focusing on political leadership, public speaking, governance and decision making. These programs should be tailored to address the

specific obstacles women in the area face, making them accessible and effective in equipping participants to actively engage in local governance and make meaningful contributions.

Lastly, the study recommends launching community-wide education and awareness initiatives to confront and transform harmful social and cultural norms that impede women's political engagement, engaging both men and women in the process. These campaigns should strive to foster a culture of gender equality, dispel stereotypes and cultivate a supportive environment that encourages and empowers women to take on leadership roles, ultimately promoting inclusive participation.

#### **5.4 Areas for further research.**

Since this study focused on investigating women's political involvement in local community governance structures in Bugujju town, mukono municipality.

Further research should investigate the complex interplay of various social identities, including age, education, economic status and ethnicity and how they collectively influence women's engagement in local governance in Bugujju, shedding light on the diverse challenges and experiences of women across different social contexts and positions.

In addition, conduction of a longitudinal study to evaluate the sustained effects of educational and empowerment initiatives on enhancing women's political engagement in Bugujju, investigating whether these interventions successfully transform entrenched gender norms, cultivate women's leadership capacities and boost their confidence in holding governance positions over time.

Lastly, identification and examination of effective strategies and best practices from other contexts that have successfully boosted women's political engagement in local governance, and assess their relevance and political effectiveness in Bugujju. This research could encompass a range of approaches, including community-based mobilization, leadership capacity building programs and advocacy initiatives to inform context specific solutions for enhancing women's political participation in Bugujju.

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## APPENDICES

### Appendix: Interview Guide

On the topic women political involvement in local community governance structures in Bugujju town, Mukono municipality. (women in leadership positions, female leaders, community members and local government officials.

1. How would you describe the concept women political participation?
2. What are your views on the role of women in local community governance?
3. What are some of the responsibilities of local governance structures in promoting women's political participation?
4. What are the barriers to women's political involvement in local community governance?
5. What challenges do female leaders encounter within local communities?
6. What strategies can be employed to enhance women political participation in local governance?
7. How do you envision the future of women's political involvement in local governance?

**Thank you for your time and cooperation.**



**UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: INTRODUCTORY LETTER FOR RESEARCH

This is to introduce to you **AYOO Winnie Atimango** Registration number **J22B56/031** a student of Uganda Christian University, pursuing Bachelor's degree in Governance and International Relations. She is expected to carry out research in the final year under the guidance of a university supervisor in partial fulfillment for the requirements of the above mentioned award.

Topic: **Women's Political Involvement in Local Community Governance Structures in Buguju Town, Mukono Municipality, Uganda."**

The purpose of this communication is to request your office to allow her collect data from your organization. Any assistance rendered to her will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully  
  
13 AUG 2024

Doreen Kukugiza  
Coordinator, Research & Fieldwork Programmes  
Tel: 0773395349  
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