

A study on the effect of corruption practices on the implementation of government project in Uganda. A case study of Koch Goma town council

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Abstract: *The study's objectives were to assess the connection between corruption and the execution of government projects, to examine the effects of corruption on the execution of government projects, and to evaluate potential anti-corruption measures. Koch Goma town council served as the case study for the study, which focused on the impact of corrupt behavior on the implementation of national projects in Uganda. The investigation revealed that there are many projects that have failed in Koch Goma Town Council due to the evil practice of corruption, and that both the civil servants of the Town Council and Nwoya District executive are engaged in such act. The findings suggested that people have negative attitudes toward government projects. Road Maintenance Funds Koch Goma to Koch Lii Road, Koch Goma to Lila were mismanaged by the District and Town Council Officials. In order to improve the welfare of local farmers and build community capacity, NAADS, NUSAF I, II, and III were in place prior to Operation Wealth Creation. However, all of those projects failed due to corruption, and people lost faith in government projects because those who are most affected are not receiving any benefits. Also, the operation wealth creation is not being carried out properly. A recent example is when Gen. Salim Salle, the program's director, gave local musicians 10 billion Ugandan shillings during a conference in Gulu City in 2021. That demonstrates how misusing public resources and programs. The study also shows that a high level of corruption inside the government entities is the reason why individuals are not participating in government projects (programs). Prior to Operation Wealth Creation, NAADS, NUSAF I, II, and III were in place to improve local farmer welfare and community capacity building. However, all of those projects failed due to corruption, and people lost faith in government projects because those who are most affected are not receiving any benefits. However, the operations wealth creation is not being carried out efficiently. As evidence, the program's director, Gen. Salim Salle, gave 10 billion Ugandan shillings to local singers at a conference held in Gulu City in 2021. This demonstrates how public resources and programs are abused. The survey also shows that due to widespread corruption inside government institutions, citizens are not participating in government programs or projects.*

Background of the study.

When somebody is nominated or appointed to a public position, corruption must be endemic and have set in as a way of life. They have come back to exploit the situation. The executive branch of the government is in charge of offering its population necessary products and services. Security, healthcare, entertainment, transportation, water, land management and administration, among other vital services, are among these goods and services. Fundamentally, the purpose of government agencies is to efficiently and effectively deliver these public goods and services. If Uganda wants to fulfill the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), continue economic growth, reduce poverty, and create jobs as envisioned in the Economic Stimulus Strategy plan (ERS), an efficient and competent public sector is essential.

Effective land and administrative services are essential to achieving the MDGs and Uganda Vision 2030. The major projects designed to support Uganda Vision 2030 cannot be realized without effective and efficient administration and control of land resources. It is crucial that the services are accessible and reasonably priced if they are to be deemed efficient and effective.

Affordability is the client's capacity to pay for the services, whereas accessibility refers to the actual physical accessibility of the required services. The citizens must be able to physically access the services and be able to pay for them in order for service delivery to be efficient and effective. So, any factor that affects the accessibility and cost of the services would have a negative impact on the effectiveness and efficiency of the service delivery.

It is believed that the predominance of corruption in the public sector hinders the efficient and effective provision of services (Lawal, 2007). When services are purposefully delayed to solicit a bribe, an avenue for corruption is opened up; as a result, the efficiency and effectiveness of the goods and services will be undermined because accessibility and affordability can no longer be quarantined. Efficiency, according to Mihaiu, Opreana, and Cristescu (2010), is determined by the relationship between inputs (resources) and outputs (results). But, efficacy is determined by the proportion of outputs (results) to outcomes (effects). Hence, the link between the inputs, outputs, and outcomes must be examined in order to evaluate efficiency and effectiveness.

Measuring efficiency and effectiveness in the public sector is complicated by the fact that quantifying inputs and outputs is quite difficult.

Statement of the problem

It is believed that the predominance of corruption in the public sector hinders the efficient and effective provision of services (Lawal, 2007). When services are purposefully delayed to solicit a bribe, an avenue for corruption is opened up; as a result, the efficiency and effectiveness of the goods and services will be undermined because accessibility and price can no longer be controlled. Efficiency, according to Mihaiu, Opreana, and Cristescu (2010), is determined by the relationship between inputs (resources) and outputs (results). But, efficacy is determined by the proportion of outputs (results) to outcomes (effects). Hence, the link between the inputs, outputs, and outcomes must be examined in order to evaluate efficiency and effectiveness.

Despite statistics on recorded complaints of corruption existing, according to the Inspectorate of Government Report (2009), there is no information on the effectiveness of the institution in carrying out its legally mandated duties, which include investigating and prosecuting corruption cases in Uganda. This paper examines corruption in the Koch Goma town council in the Nwoya east county Nwoya district through a case study.

Specific objectives of the study.

1. To assess the relationship between corruption and implementation of government projects.
2. To analyze the effects of corruption on implementation of government projects.
3. To assess the possible remedies to corruption

Hypothesis of the study

Ho: There is no relationship between corruption and implementation of government projects.

Ha: There is a relationship between corruption and implementation of government projects.

Ho: There is no relationship between the effects of corruption and implementation of government projects.

Ha: There is a relationship between the effects of corruption and implementation of government projects.

Ho: There is no relationship between the remedies of corruption and implementation of government projects.

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Research questions

1. What is the relationship between corruption and implementation of government projects?
2. What are the effects of corruption on implementation of government projects?
3. What are possible remedies to corruption?

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research design

The method used by the researcher was cross-sectional. Data from a sample of a population at a specific period was collected via surveys. A cross section is cost-effective since the researcher used data from a sample that was rectified at a specific period, claims Martin (2005, PP.212).

Partners in the study

According to Marriam Webster, population refers to all of the citizens or residents of a nation, region, or space. The Koch Goma town council was used to choose the study's participants. Particularly rural homes made up the study's population.

Sample and sampling procedure

The researcher conducted a probability sample using a structured random process. This was done because, according to Majundar (1996), simple random sampling has minimal data collecting costs and is straightforward to operate.

The researcher sampled 50 respondents in total, including 5 local leaders and 45 rural households. thus they might offer thorough information.

The procedure for gathering data.

The researcher started by receiving an introduction letter from the university. The researcher then asked the local leaders for their support in conducting the study. As a method of data collection, printed card copies of questionnaires were given to the people living there and the representatives of Koch Goma town council.

Data collection instruments

The researcher collected both primary and secondary data. The primary and secondary data will be collected to enable the researcher find answers to the research questions identified in chapter one.

The researcher used questionnaires and interview guide in collecting data from the respondents. Because they provided insights into unexplored dimensions of social problems

Questionnaire:

Among the target group, literate respondents filled out the questionnaires. This method was chosen for this group because it guarantees responder confidentiality and anonymity. It is also perfect for this group because they are literate, which means the surveys are easy for them to read, comprehend, and complete. Twenty items made up the questionnaire the researcher used to gather the data needed for the study.

Interview routines:

The researcher employed semi-structured, in-depth qualitative interviews with preset questions that were included in questionnaires for the study. They rely on a list of themes and questions in interview guides. Schedules for interviews are created expressly for stakeholders. The technique is appropriate for this group of respondents because it provides the researcher with opportunity to interact freely with the respondents and thus gets additional information like gestures relayed. It also gives room for more probing on the subject matter from the informant. Interview schedule enables the researcher to verify and guide the kind of information necessary for the stud

Data processing and analysis

Analysis was based on data gathered from the questionnaires filled by the respondents. The questionnaires were read through and comparisons were made between answers given by each respondent. The researcher used SPSS to reach hid out comes

The distributed questionnaires were later be collected from the respondent for analysis. The copies were decoded, analyzed, grouped into frequencies and percentages and finally computed. Tables were used for their presentation for easier understanding and clear illustration.

RESULTS

Background information of respondents.

Respondents were asked to provide information relating to their age, sex, marital status, education level, and their occupation which are reflected in the table below.

Table one: showing gender of respondents.

	Frequency	Percentage
Male	35	70
Female	15	30

Total	50	100
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(Source: field research finding)

The data in the table 1 above indicated that the majority of the respondents 70% were male while 30% were female. The finding indicated that both sexes were represented in the investigation thus implying that valid and reliable findings we're obtained since they were not gender biased. The highest number of male respondents was due to the fact that male is so much concerned with the problem is contributing to the implementation of government projects which delayed development process.

Table 2: Age of the respondents.

	Frequency	Percentage
18-25	10	20
26-35	15	30
36-45	20	40
46+	5	10
Total	50	100

(Source: field research finding)

The above table revealed that the respondents with the age 46 and above years of age represented by 10% contributed the lowest number of respondents who took part in the study, followed by 20% that were in the age bracket of 18-25years of age, 30% between the age of 26-35 years of age, and lastly respondents between the age bracket of 36-45 presented 40% which is the highest percentage as shown in the table above. The highest percentage of respondents with the age group of 36-45. The researcher predominantly targeted person with knowledge and experience of economic development of the Uganda and know how government projects are implemented and it's important to communities.

Table 3: Education level of the respondents.

	Frequency	Percentage
Primary	5	10
Secondary	20	40
Diploma	15	30
Bachelor	10	20
Master	0	00
Total	50	100.

(Source: Field of research Finding)

The table 3 above indicates that 10% of the respondents obtained primary level of education, 40% obtained secondary education, 30% obtained Diploma level of education, 20% obtained Bachelor and 00% obtained Master certificates. The finding imply that the researcher targeted respondents with a knowledgeable, well understanding and focus citizen who knows the danger of corruption practices on the development of communities and nation at large.

Table 4: Marital Status of respondents.

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	20	40
Married	30	60

Total	50	100.0
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(Source: Field research finding)

The study finding in the table 4 above shows that 40% of respondents are singles and 60% of respondents are married. These implied that the majority are married couples.

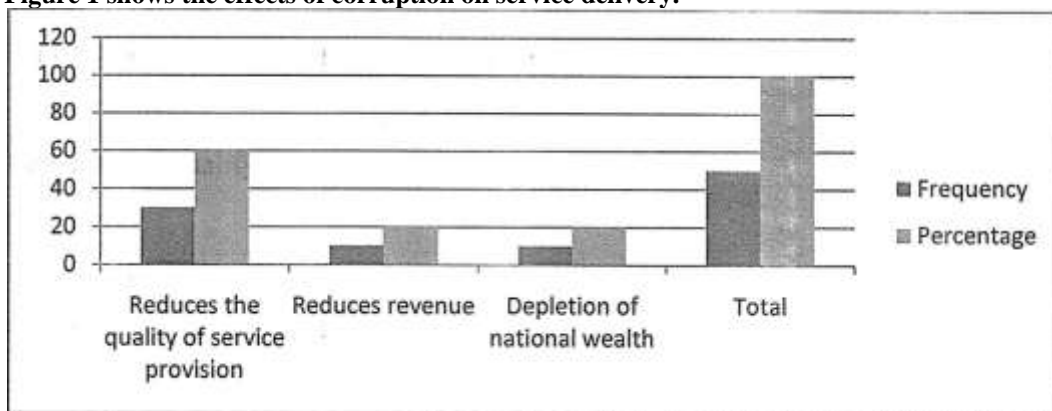
Corruption practices and implementation of government projects.

A total number of 50 respondents agreed that corruption affects service delivery and further said that this is mainly as a result of diverting funds that would have been meant for provision of services such as education, health facilities and transport.

Table 5: showing the effects of corruption practices on implementation of government projects.

Effects of corruption on government projects	Frequency	Percentage
Reduces the quality of service provision	30	60
Reduces revenue	10	20
Depletion of national wealth	10	20
Total	50	100

Figure 1 shows the effects of corruption on service delivery.



Source: Primary data

From the above findings, 60% of the respondents agreed that corruption has affected service provision through reducing the quality of service delivery as stressed by a respondent.

Li addition, a ratio of 10:10 respondents mentioned that corruption affects service delivery through reducing tax revenue and depletion of natural resources respectively

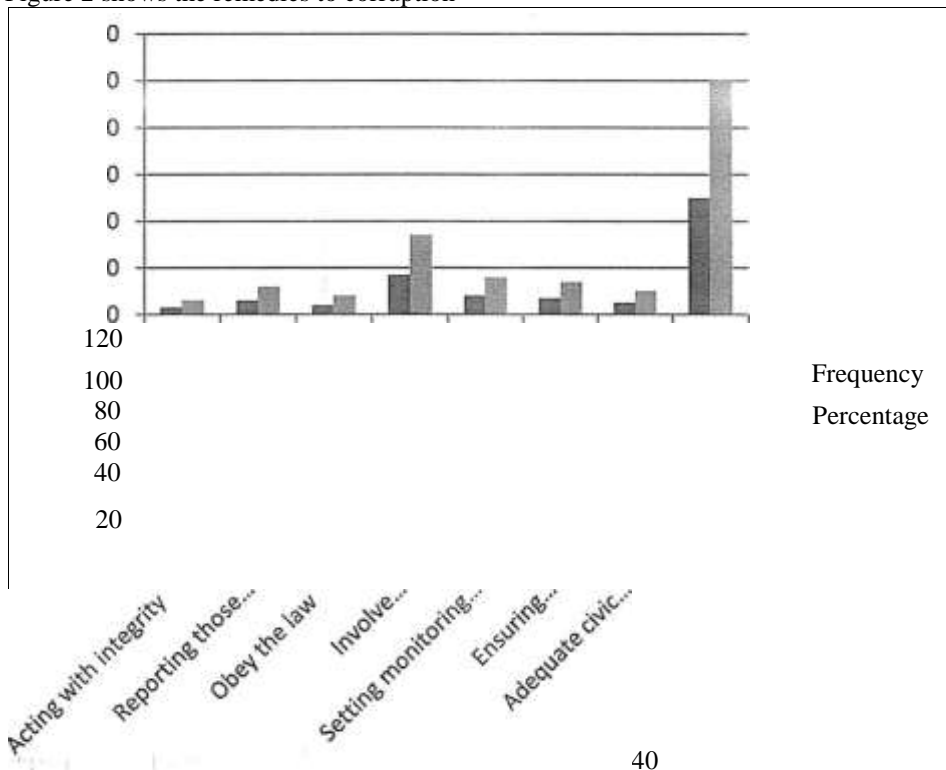
Remedies to corruption

Table 6: showing the remedies to corruption

Remedies to corruption	Frequency	Percentage
Acting with integrity	3	6

Reporting those who are corrupt to the appropriate authority	6	12
Obey the law	4	8
Involve participation of the locals	17	34
Setting monitoring teams for service delivery	8	16
Ensuring accountability and transparency	7	14
Adequate civic competence	5	10
Total	50	100

Figure 2 shows the remedies to corruption



Source: Primary data

From the above findings, 6% Of the respondents especially the local leaders mentioned that public officials should act with integrity in all their dealings with the government and always remember that public resources are intended for the benefit of the public, not for private gain.

12% of the respondents said that if there are suspicious that some form of corruption is taking place, they should report it, not only to them but to an appropriate authority. 8% of the respondents said that people should obey the law and encourage those around them to do the same and treat public resources respectfully.

34% of the respondents said that they should take part in the programs established by the government such that they have access to services delivered.

Conclusion

In conclusion, there are several corruption activities within the government institutions. The Ugandan government loses USD 1 billion annually, and politicians and those in positions of authority actively encourage corruption. Koch Goma Town Council, a government entity, imitates what occurs in other industries, indicating that the Ugandan government has a lot of work to do to combat corruption. The wicked practice of corruption is to blame for the failure of the NAADS, NUSAF, and RURAL ICT initiatives to reach the goal. The Operation Wealth Creation initiative is likewise failing to fulfill its duties in Koch Goma Town Council's Nwoya District.

Recommendation

The following should be emphasized in order to fight corruption practices in Koch Goma Town Council and Uganda at Large as far as government projects is concerned.

The Uganda government should carryout auditing with the help of Anti-Corruption bodies (IGG) in every phase of financial release of the Projects Funds hence creating fear in corruption officials across all government departments.

Government should sensitize the general public including the government officials about the danger of corruption and how it affects development, weakened the economy of the country and human development socially and economically. Involving all stake holders, general Public (citizens), civil society organizations in fight against corruption by reporting any forms of corruption to the responsible people and offices.

Corruption can be ended, government should arrest, confiscate the properties of top government officials who are corrupt and sent them in jail for life, that will help to minimize and combat corruption in the country. Those one holding lower offices will just end corruption practices automatically since laws is taking action from top to bottom.

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