

Assessment Of The Effect Of Government Programs On Women Empowerment In Rural Areas. A Case Study Of Busale Sub County, Kayunga District

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Abstract: *The focus of the research was to determine how government initiatives affected women's empowerment in the Busale Sub County of the Kayunga District. The study's conclusions were based on information from responses collected who gave the researcher reliable information related to the study's goals. The study's goals included identifying the various ways in which women are enabled through local government initiatives, determining whether community women are aware of the government's programs for women's empowerment, and determining the wellbeing of the women of Busale Sub County in the Kayunga District. According to the study's findings, 40% of respondents told the scientist that the city authority would embolden women in the community by continuing to support women's groups, followed by some other survey participants who said that by offering free education to the women, particularly through offering free schooling to the women. Yet, 20% of respondents said that women are always empowered through workplace gender balance, according to the study. And finally, 40% of the respondents told the researcher that another method the local government would empower women in the neighborhood was by empowering women groups. The study's findings also showed results showing that 55% of respondents told the researcher they were unaware of local government programs for women, followed by 25% of respondents who nonetheless said they were uninterested in the various government programs designed especially for women, and finally the study's findings showed results showing that yes, they were aware of the nearby government programs for women. In order for them to gain from them as well, the administration should also include some other groups in its programs, such as the disabled or children.*

Keywords: Government programs and women empowerment

Background of the study

According to the empowerment theory, the fundamental elements of the concept include efforts to obtain resources, involvement with others in achieving goals, and certain critical interpretations of the political and social context. Applying this broad concept to a level of study at the organizational level reveals that empowering involves organizational processes and structures that improve membership engagement and increase organizational goal accomplishment. At the local level, level equivalent to group efforts to raise the standard of living in a community as well as the relationships between local groups. Nevertheless, community and organizational strength go beyond the mere accumulation of strong individuals.

Several authors have defined the idea of female empowerment and its indicators. Empowerment was defined by Mondros and Wilson (2005) as a psychological state, a sense of competence, control, and entitlement that permits one to pursue concrete steps intended to increase one's power. According to Kanji (2011), empowerment is the process of increasing a people's ability to act in a way that does not endanger or restrict the power or capacity of others.

The process of empowerment involves enhancing the disempowered's capacity to make decisions on their own behalf, analyze and comprehend their issues, realize their capability to act on their own behalf, and gain more power and influence over the resources required for a dignified and sustainable life (Muro, 2018; Misana, 2016). According to Friedman (2016), the process of empowering women begins with consciousness, which connects awareness to action. Before the process is collective, people must first become aware. Women's empowerment, according to Ackerly (2017), is a change in a woman's surroundings that enhances her ability to live a fulfilling life. It is a change for the better in a woman's living circumstances as shown by her status in the household, health, education, and life experience in addition to internal traits like self-awareness and self-confidence.

The status of women is a global concern, and formal and informal initiatives around the world place a focus on discussions about women's rights.

It is possible to fulfill one's full personal power and potentialities, capacities and competencies of one's rights and possibilities for development in all areas of life through the multifaceted process of empowering. Hence, it is the process of learning how to make strategic decisions in life within the framework in which this capacity has already been defined (Klaus 2016).

Women are more likely than men to be impoverished in the Third World. According to Pearson (2013), there is compelling evidence that women in these nations have continually suffered losses in the development process. One reason for this characteristic is that most initiatives have tended to ignore the importance of economic, social, and cultural elements in the Third World.

Problem Statement

Due to the interplay between gender and various types of omissions in the Sub County, the status of women in Busale was not uniform. Limited education and training had a variety of effects on women's status, including poverty, family problems, divorce, abortion, school dropout, and sex trafficking. The continued absence of access to resources in the Sub County not only lowers women's life satisfaction, but also undermines their overall empowerment in Busale Sub County. This is concerning since women are key players in community change and the pleasure of coming generations. It is the duty of the government to implement the many programs that can help to improve economic well-being of women in Busale Sub County, thus the local government must reinforce the way they work to achieve all the goals established for women's empowerment in the sub County. The researcher must therefore look into how government programs affect female equality in Busale Sub County in light of the aforementioned factors.

Specific Objectives of the study

1. To identify the different ways how women are empowered through local government programs.
2. To assess whether the women in the community are aware of the women empowerment programs brought by the government.
3. To assess the well-being of women of Busale Sub County in Kayunga District.

Research Questions

1. What are the different ways how women are empowered through local government?
2. Are the women in the community aware of the women empowerment programs brought by the government?
3. How is the well-being of women of Busale Sub County in Kayunga District?

Hypothesis of the study

HO: There is no relationship between ways how women are empowered through local government programs and women empowerment.

Ha: There is a relationship between ways how women are empowered through local government programs and women empowerment.

Ho: There is no relationship between women awareness in the community and women empowerment

Ha: There is a relationship between women awareness in the community and women empowerment

Ho: There is no relationship between well-being of women of Busale Sub County and women empowerment

Ha: There is a relationship between well-being of women of Busale Sub County and women empowerment

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

The Researcher adapted to a quantitative research design because the target population of the study comprised of the big number of respondents of which data collection was required, the use of quantitative measures like use of percentages.

Study Population

According to Greg Lawrings (2015), population was defined as the inhabitants of a particular place. The study population will include the population description and the population sampling design.

The targeted population was on 300 women and 25 government officials. The researcher used a sampling technique to get a sample. However, as the sample size increases more and more, the biasedness tends to disappear and as it continues to increase indefinitely, the sample mean converges to the true population parameter.

Table 1: Target Population

Respondents	Target Population
Women	300
Government officials	25
Total	325

Population and Sampling technique

The population from which the sample was taken involved the women of Busale Sub County in Kayunga District. The respondents were got from various villages in the Sub County and at Kayunga District Local government.

Table 2: Sample Size

Respondents	Target Population	Sample Size	Percentage
Women	300	250	83%
Government Officials	25	20	80%
Total	325	270	

Source: Field data (2021)

The researcher used a sample size of 250 respondents out of the 300-target population which was 83% of women in the Sub County and 20 respondents from the 25 government officials which is 80% of the government official in Kayunga District using stratified sampling technique because it was the most effective when handling heterogeneous populations. Respondents from different villages was then selected using simple random sampling technique to make the results objective.

Research Instruments

The researcher developed both primarily and secondary sources of information and data. In collecting Primary Data, the researcher used questionnaires as tools for collecting data. For Secondary Data, publications by re known authors in this field for example magazines, articles, books and News Papers were used by the researcher to gather information that was required.

Questionnaires

The targeted demographic was literate and so able to complete the questionnaires, so this selection of tool was made. The responders had enough time to think about their responses. Furthermore self-administered, questionnaires provide a quick way to get data from a sample of a sizable population.

Data Collecting Method

In order to facilitate easy and accurate data collection from the respondents, the investigator first made sure that he got their agreement for the study. In order to construct questionnaires that would prevent having too much or too little information, the researcher moved ahead and requested appointments from government officials and women who resided in various communities. When it was time to collect data, the researchers interviewed the respondents.

Data Analysis

This involved, tabulation of the collected data using SPSS. A quantitative method was used in computation of percentages and totals. Tables were used to present and summarize data for easy interpretation and display of information.

RESULTS**Demographic profile of respondents****Gender composition of respondents**

Table 3: Gender Composition of respondents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Male	160	67
Female	80	33
TOTAL	240	100

Source: Primary Data 2020

From table 3, it can be seen that the majority of respondents were males that was (160) representing 67% of the total number of respondents, 80 respondents were female representing 33% of the respondents. This is an indication that gender sensitivity was taken care off so the findings therefore cannot be doubted on gender grounds; they can be relied for decision making.

Education level of the respondents

Table 4: Education level of respondents

Education level	Frequency	Percentage
O Level	40	15
A Level	70	31
Diploma	110	46
Degree and above	20	8
Total	240	100

Source: primary data 2020

Table 4 above clearly indicated that 40 respondents were O level certificate holders with a percentage of (15%) of the sample size followed by 70 respondents who presented results showing that they finished A level and they had (31%) of the sample size, 110 respondents had diplomas and they had a percentage of (46%) of the sample size and finally 20 respondents presented results indicating that they had Degrees and other qualifications which were above and they had a percentage of (08%) of the sample size.

Age distribution of respondents

Table 5: Age distribution of respondents

Respondents age	Frequency	Percentages
15-19	30	12

20-29	60	27
30-39	100	43
40+	50	19
Total	240	100

Source: Primary Data 2020

According to the table above, 30 respondents with a percentage of (12%) of the respondents had their age ranging from (15-19) followed by 60 respondents who had their age ranging from (20-29) with a percentage of (27%), 100 were the majority and their age was in the range of (30-39) with a percentage of (43%) of the respondents and finally respondents who had the age bracket of 40+ years were 50 with a percentage of 19% of the respondents

Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation of findings

This section involved the findings of the study which aimed at investigating the effect of government programs on women empowerment in rural communities. The findings of the study was based on research questions of the study as follows:

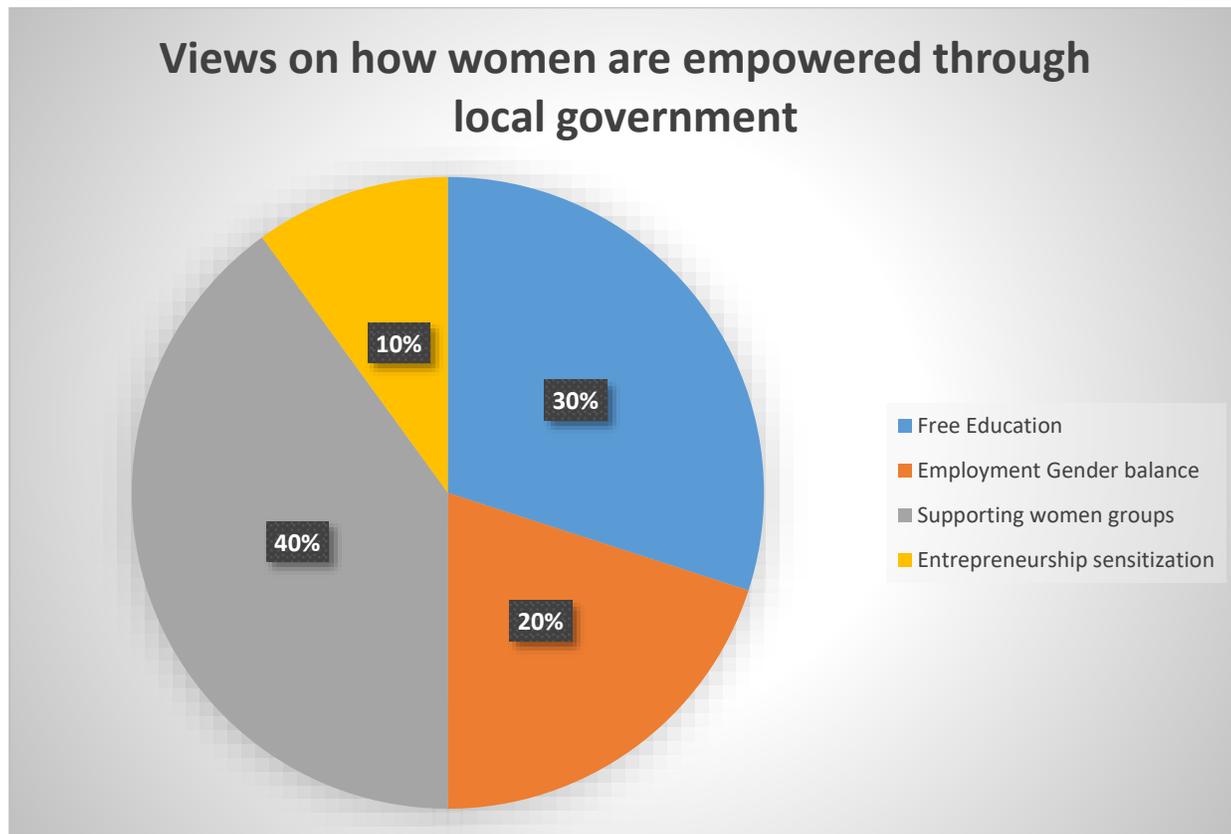
What are the different ways how women are empowered through local government?

Are the women in the community aware of the women empowerment programs brought by the government?

How is the well-being of women of Busale Sub County in Kayunga District?

Ways how women are empowered through local government

Figure 1: Views on how women are empowered

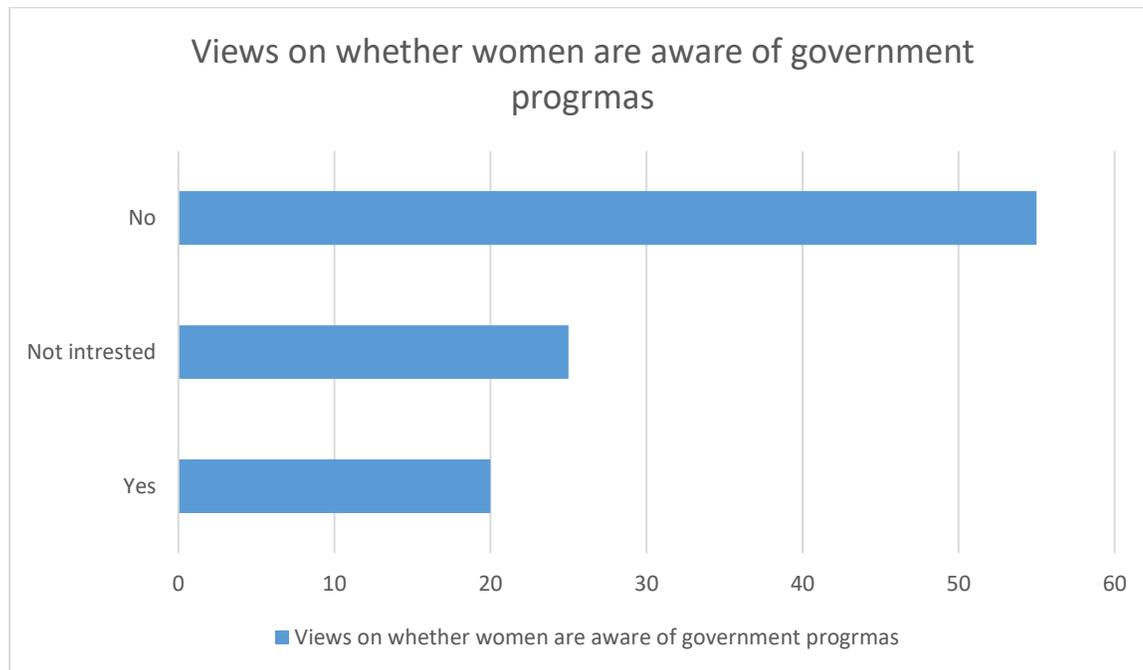


Research data: 2021

According to the findings of the study, the findings of the study presented results indicating that 40% of the respondents informed the researcher that the local government through supporting women groups the local government would empower the women in the community followed by some other respondents who informed the researcher that through providing free education to the women most especially through providing free education to the women. 20% of the respondents however informed the researcher that through employment gender balance, women are always empowered through employment gender balance. And finally 40% of the respondents informed the researcher that empowering the women groups was another way the local government would empower women in the community.

Whether women are aware of government programs

Figure 2: Views on whether women are aware of government programs

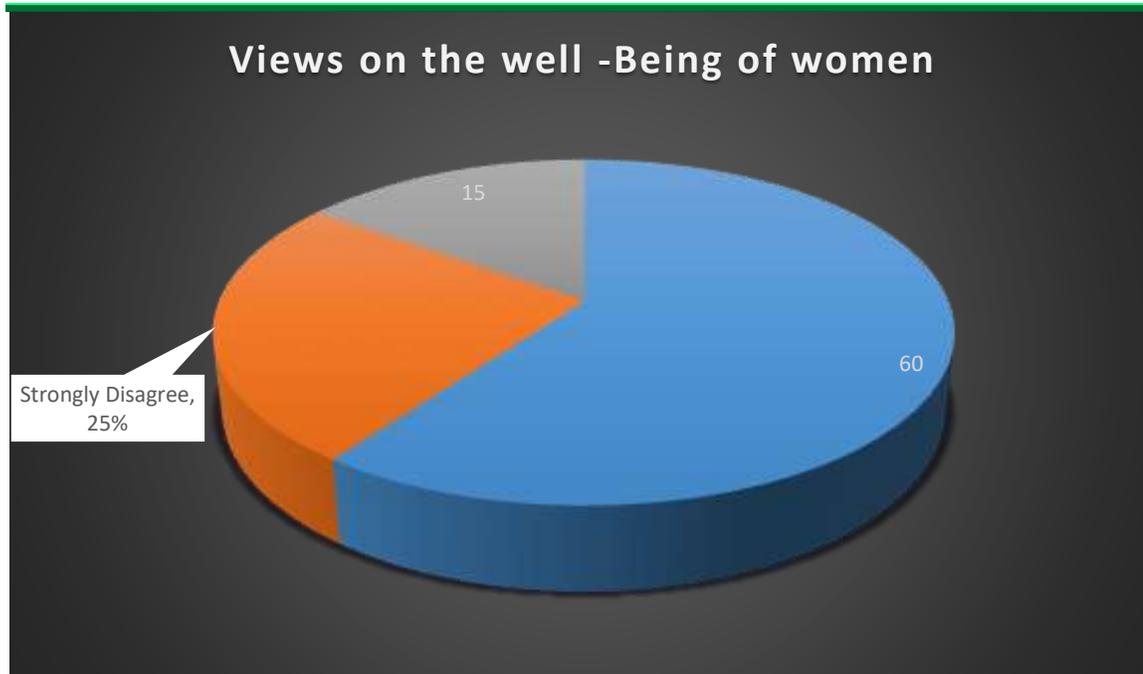


Research data: 2021

The findings of the study clearly indicated that 55% of the respondents informed the researcher that they were not aware of the government programs for women in the communities followed by 25% of the respondents who however informed the researcher that they were not interested in in the different government programs specifically for women and finally the findings of the study presented results indicating that yes they were aware of the local government women empowerment programs which caters for women's well-being.

The well-being of women

Figure 3: The well-being of women



Research Data: 2021

The figure above clearly indicated that 60% of the women strongly agreed that local government programs helped to improve their social well-being making them able to pay their kids school fees, make businesses, practice farming and saving money in their women groups followed by 25% of the women who presented results to the researcher indicating that they strongly disagree that the local government programs had not improved women’s well-being in the community and finally 15% of the respondents were not sure on whether the local government programs had improved the well-being of women or not.

Conclusions

Finally, the study's findings showed that the majority of respondents told the researcher that the city authority would embolden the women in the community by supporting women's groups, followed by some other respondents who told the researcher that the current regime would do this by giving women in the society access to free education, particularly women. Yet, some of the interviewees told the researcher that women are always given more authority through workplace gender balance. And finally, a handful of the respondents told the researcher that one more method the city authority would strengthen women in the community was by empowering the women groups. The study's findings also showed that the majority of survey participants told the scientist they were unaware of local government projects for women, and then some of the survey participants said they weren't interested in the various government initiatives specifically targeted at women, before the study's findings showed that the majority of the participants were aware of the local initiatives for women. Finally, the latest results showed that the majority of the women did agree that local government programs helped to improve their social well-being by enabling them to save money in their women's rights groups, start businesses, pay for their kids school fees, and engage in farming. This was followed by a small number of the women who proffered results to the research scientist implying that they strongly disagreed that the local authority initiatives had not improved women's well-being.

Recommendations

In relation to the findings of the study the effect of government programs on women empowerment in Busale Sub County in Kayunga District.

The researcher recommended that the government should always advertise the different empowerment programs such that people in the public gets to know about their existence.

The government should also cater for some other groups in their programs like the disabled or children in order to benefit too from them.

The researcher also recommended the women in the community to always make groups in order to benefit from government programs.

The researcher also recommended the entire community to always take serious government programs like NAADS.

Finally, the researcher recommended the women who were already in groups to use the money properly in order to be supported next time.

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