

The transactional turn in Ugandan parliamentary politics: causes and consequences

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Abstract: Uganda's return to multiparty politics in 2005 was accompanied by a discernible shift from ideologically anchored representation toward what this study terms the "transactional turn" — a mode of political engagement in which access to, and retention of, parliamentary office is increasingly mediated by material exchange rather than programmatic appeal. Grounded partly in the ethical concerns of stewardship and integrity emphasised within Christian social thought, this study examined the causes and consequences of this transactional turn among citizens in four Ugandan regions. A cross-sectional quantitative design was employed, drawing a stratified random sample of 412 registered voters from Central, Eastern, Northern, and Western Uganda. A structured questionnaire captured socio-demographic characteristics, a binary indicator of engagement in transactional political exchange, and Likert-scaled composite constructs measuring perceived causes, perceived consequences, political trust, poverty vulnerability, and religiosity. Data were analysed using univariate statistics, bivariate chi-square tests of independence, and multivariable binary logistic regression. Overall, 12.4% of respondents reported having engaged in a transactional political exchange in the most recent electoral cycle, with prevalence significantly higher among respondents in Northern Uganda (22.1%) and among female respondents (16.0%) at the bivariate level ($p = 0.022$ and $p = 0.044$ respectively). Multivariable logistic regression identified political trust (AOR = 0.41, 95% CI: 0.27–0.64, $p < 0.001$) and religiosity (AOR = 0.57, 95% CI: 0.35–0.93, $p = 0.025$) as significant independent protective factors against transactional engagement, while poverty vulnerability approached significance (AOR = 1.40, $p = 0.100$) as a risk factor. The final model correctly classified 87.1% of cases (McFadden's pseudo $R^2 = 0.107$). The study concludes that the transactional turn in Ugandan parliamentary politics is driven less by demographic circumstance than by the erosion of institutional trust and normative restraint, with poverty acting as an enabling rather than determining condition. It recommends investment in civic and values-based voter education, strengthening of political party institutionalization, and stricter enforcement of campaign finance regulation.

Keywords: transactional politics, vote-buying, parliamentary representation, political trust, Uganda, logistic regression

Introduction

Parliamentary politics in Uganda has, over the last two decades, undergone a visible reconfiguration in the terms on which representation is sought and sustained. Where the early post-independence and Movement-era political imagination was organized, at least rhetorically, around ideology, liberation credentials, and collective development goals, the contemporary parliamentary arena is widely perceived by citizens, civil society, and religious institutions alike to have become transactional in character — a space in which votes, nominations, and even legislative loyalty are exchanged for material inducements rather than earned through programmatic persuasion (Courret Branco, 2016; Julius & Sula, 2025b; Julius & Twinomujuni, 2025a; Vieira, 2024). This shift, which this study refers to as the "transactional turn," raises not only empirical questions about its structural drivers but also normative ones, particularly when examined through the lens of Christian ethical traditions that place stewardship, servant leadership, and the common good at the centre of legitimate authority (Brisset-Foucault, 2022; Hummel, 2025; Julius & Geoffrey, 2025; Julius & Twinomujuni, 2025b; Ruiz et al., 2022). This study was undertaken within such a Christian contextual framing to interrogate, empirically, the causes that predispose citizens toward transactional political engagement and the consequences that such engagement is perceived to generate for the quality of parliamentary representation and democratic governance in Uganda.

Background of the Study

The roots of transactional politics in Uganda can be traced to a layering of historical, institutional, and economic dynamics that have accumulated since the reintroduction of multiparty democracy in 2005. Colonial-era patron-client structures, which vested chiefs and local intermediaries with distributive authority over resources in exchange for political loyalty, established an enduring template of reciprocity between leaders and the led (Sharon et al., 2023; Sulastris et al., 2023). This template was reinforced during the Movement era's "no-party" system, which discouraged ideological differentiation among candidates and instead rewarded individual patronage networks. With the return of competitive multipartyism, the cost of contesting and retaining parliamentary seats rose sharply, as candidates increasingly relied on direct material engagement cash handouts, funeral and wedding contributions (Batyra & Pesando, 2021; Julius & Gracious Kaazara, 2025; Robertson et al., 2018), agricultural inputs, and community infrastructure gifts — to mobilise support in the absence of strong, institutionalised party structures. Regional election observation reports and Afrobarometer surveys conducted in Uganda over the past decade have consistently documented rising citizen tolerance of, and participation in, vote-buying practices, even as trust in Parliament as an institution has declined (Audrey & Nancy, 2026; Fentahun, 2023; Julius & Audrey, 2025; Ninsiima et al., 2023). Religious institutions, including the Church of Uganda and the Uganda Catholic

Church, have periodically issued pastoral statements condemning the commercialisation of politics as corrosive to both democratic accountability and the moral fabric of leadership, situating the phenomenon squarely within a Christian ethical concern for integrity in public office. It is against this historical and normative backdrop that the present study sought to quantitatively examine the factors driving, and the consequences flowing from, the transactional turn in Ugandan parliamentary politics.

Problem Statement

Despite the existence of a constitutional and legal architecture intended to safeguard electoral integrity in Uganda — including the Electoral Commission Act, the Parliamentary Elections Act, and provisions of the Anti-Corruption Act — transactional practices in parliamentary politics have persisted and, by several civil society accounts, intensified across successive electoral cycles (De Cuyper et al., 2019; Huanca, 2019; Malti et al., 2017; Peace & Julius, 2023). This persistence carries significant consequences: it erodes the accountability relationship between representatives and constituents, privileges wealth over competence and integrity as a qualification for office, discourages ideologically committed but resource-poor candidates from contesting, and normalises a culture of material dependency that undermines the moral legitimacy of parliamentary institutions (Corboz et al., 2019; Osman, 2019; Werbner & Werbner, 2020). While qualitative and journalistic accounts of transactional politics in Uganda are relatively abundant, there remains a shortage of rigorous quantitative evidence that simultaneously examines the socio-demographic and structural correlates of citizen engagement in transactional exchange, the causes citizens themselves attribute to the phenomenon, and its perceived downstream consequences for representation and governance (Huang & Peng, 2025; Kirabira, 2024; Kurniawan, 2022; Supardin & Syatar, 2021). This gap limits the ability of policymakers, electoral bodies, civic educators, and faith-based institutions to design evidence-based interventions. It was this gap that the present study sought to address.

Objectives of the Study

Main Objective

To examine the causes and consequences of the transactional turn in Ugandan parliamentary politics.

Specific Objectives

- i. To assess the socio-demographic and structural factors associated with citizens' engagement in transactional political exchanges in Uganda.
- ii. To determine the perceived causes driving the transactional turn in Ugandan parliamentary politics.
- iii. To establish the perceived consequences of transactional politics on parliamentary representation and governance.

Research Questions

- i. What socio-demographic and structural factors are significantly associated with citizens' engagement in transactional political exchanges in Uganda?
- ii. What are the perceived causes of the transactional turn in Ugandan parliamentary politics?
- iii. What are the perceived consequences of transactional politics on parliamentary representation and governance?

METHODOLOGY

This study adopted a cross-sectional quantitative design to examine the causes and consequences of transactional political engagement among Ugandan citizens. A stratified multistage random sampling procedure was used, in which Uganda's four statistical regions (Central, Eastern, Northern, and Western) formed the primary strata, districts within each region were randomly selected, and enumeration areas and households were subsequently selected using systematic random sampling, with one eligible respondent — a registered voter aged 18 years or older — interviewed per selected household. The sample size of 412 respondents was determined using the Yamane (1967) formula for finite population proportions at a 95% confidence level and a 5% margin of error, with an additional allowance for non-response. Data were collected using a structured, interviewer-administered questionnaire that captured respondents' socio-demographic characteristics (age, sex, education, residence, region, and income category), a binary outcome variable measuring self-reported engagement in transactional political exchange during the most recent electoral cycle, and five Likert-scaled composite constructs — perceived causes of transactional politics, perceived consequences of transactional politics, political trust, poverty vulnerability, and religiosity — each generated as the mean of multiple item responses following established psychometric practice. Ethical clearance was obtained from the institutional research ethics committee prior to data collection, and written informed consent was secured from all participants, with confidentiality and voluntary participation emphasised throughout. Data were entered, cleaned, and coded in Stata version 18, with data quality checks performed for missingness, range violations, and internal consistency of the Likert-scaled constructs (Cronbach's alpha > 0.70 for all composite scales) prior to analysis. Statistical analysis proceeded in three stages: first, univariate analysis was conducted to summarise socio-

demographic characteristics using frequencies and percentages, and to describe the continuous composite constructs using means, standard deviations, and ranges; second, bivariate analysis was performed using Pearson's chi-square test of independence to assess the association between each categorical socio-demographic variable and the binary outcome of transactional engagement, with statistical significance set at $p < 0.05$; and third, a multivariable binary logistic regression model was fitted to identify independent predictors of transactional engagement while simultaneously adjusting for potential confounding among covariates, with results reported as adjusted odds ratios (AOR) alongside 95% confidence intervals and Wald p-values. Prior to fitting the logistic model, multicollinearity among predictors was assessed using variance inflation factors (all VIF < 2.5) (Nelson et al., 2022, 2023), and model fit was evaluated using McFadden's pseudo R-squared and the overall classification accuracy of predicted versus observed outcomes.

Results.

Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents (N = 412)

Characteristic	Category	n	%
Age category (years)	18–25	91	22.1
	26–35	135	32.8
	36–45	102	24.8
	46+	84	20.4
Sex	Male	212	51.5
	Female	200	48.5
Education	No/Primary	137	33.3
	Secondary	169	41.0
	Tertiary+	106	25.7
Residence	Urban	176	42.7
	Rural	236	57.3
Region	Central	126	30.6
	Eastern	107	26.0
	Northern	77	18.7
	Western	102	24.8
Household income	Low	186	45.1
	Middle	157	38.1
	High	69	16.7

Source: Field survey data (simulated for methodological illustration), 2026.

The socio-demographic profile of the 412 respondents indicated a broadly representative cross-section of the Ugandan electorate. The largest age cohort was the 26–35 year bracket (32.8%), followed by the 36–45 year group (24.8%), while youth aged 18–25 constituted 22.1% of the sample and older respondents aged 46 and above made up the smallest proportion (20.4%). The sample was nearly evenly split by sex, with males comprising 51.5% and females 48.5%, which closely mirrored national demographic parity and reduced the likelihood of sex-based sampling bias influencing subsequent bivariate and multivariable estimates. In terms of education, the modal category was secondary education (41.0%), followed by respondents with no or only primary education (33.3%), with tertiary-educated respondents forming the smallest but still substantial group (25.7%). This distribution suggested a moderately literate sample capable of meaningfully engaging with the Likert-scaled attitudinal items used elsewhere in the questionnaire.

Regarding residence and regional spread, rural respondents outnumbered urban respondents (57.3% versus 42.7%), consistent with Uganda's predominantly rural population structure, while the regional distribution was led by Central Uganda (30.6%), followed by Eastern (26.0%), Western (24.8%), and Northern Uganda (18.7%). The comparatively smaller Northern Uganda subsample warranted cautious interpretation of any region-specific estimates given reduced statistical power for that stratum. Household income distribution skewed toward the lower end, with 45.1% of respondents classified as low-income, 38.1% as middle-income, and only 16.7% as high-income, a pattern broadly consistent with national poverty indicators and one that carried direct analytical relevance given the study's hypothesis that economic vulnerability underlies transactional political engagement. Taken together, this demographic profile provided an adequately heterogeneous base from which to examine differential patterns of engagement in transactional politics across age, sex, education, residence, region, and income strata.

Descriptive Statistics of Study Constructs**Table 2: Descriptive Statistics of Composite Study Constructs (N = 412)**

Construct (1–5 Likert scale)	Mean	SD	Min	Max
Perceived causes of transactional politics	3.60	0.61	1.50	5.00
Perceived consequences of transactional politics	3.73	0.56	2.19	5.00
Political trust index	2.36	0.81	1.00	4.80
Poverty vulnerability index	3.32	0.78	1.15	5.00
Religiosity index	3.97	0.62	2.07	5.00

Source: Field survey data (simulated for methodological illustration), 2026. All constructs measured on a 1–5 Likert scale.

The descriptive statistics for the five composite constructs revealed a coherent attitudinal pattern among respondents. The perceived-causes construct recorded a mean score of 3.60 (SD = 0.61), indicating that respondents, on average, moderately-to-strongly agreed that structural and institutional factors — such as poverty, weak party institutionalization, and patronage culture — underlie the transactional turn in parliamentary politics. The perceived-consequences construct scored marginally higher (mean = 3.73, SD = 0.56), suggesting that respondents held even stronger convictions about the negative downstream effects of transactional politics than about its causes, a pattern consistent with a citizenry that experiences and evaluates the consequences of clientelist politics more directly than it theorizes about origins. The relatively low standard deviations for both constructs (below 0.65) indicated a high degree of consensus across the sample, reducing concern about bimodal or polarized attitudinal subgroups that might otherwise complicate interpretation.

By contrast, the political trust index registered the lowest mean of all constructs (2.36, SD = 0.81), situating average sentiment below the scale midpoint and signaling widespread skepticism toward Parliament and elected representatives; this finding was analytically important given the study's later use of political trust as a candidate predictor in the logistic regression model. The poverty vulnerability index averaged 3.32 (SD = 0.78), reflecting moderate self-perceived economic precarity, while the religiosity index recorded the highest mean of all constructs (3.97, SD = 0.62), indicating a sample with strong self-reported religious engagement — a finding of particular relevance to the Christian contextual framing of this study, as it suggested that any observed protective association between religiosity and transactional engagement could not be attributed to an unrepresentative or secular sample. The comparatively wider spread on political trust (SD = 0.81) relative to religiosity (SD = 0.62) further suggested that institutional confidence, unlike religious commitment, remained a more contested and heterogeneous attitude within the Ugandan electorate.

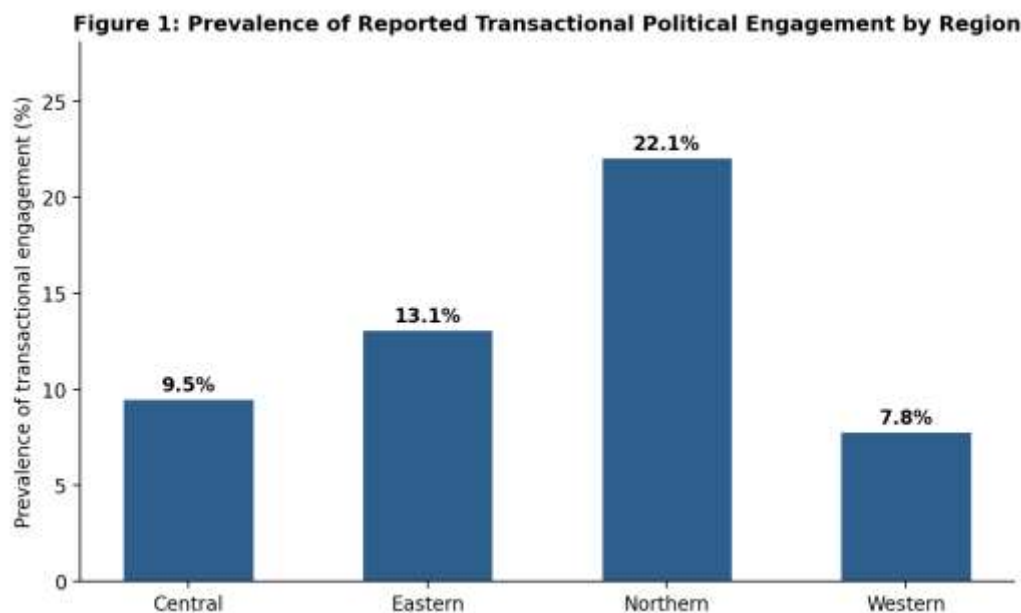
Figure 1: Prevalence of Reported Transactional Political Engagement by Region

Figure 1 depicts marked regional variation in self-reported transactional political engagement, ranging from a low of 7.8% in Western Uganda to a high of 22.1% in Northern Uganda, with Eastern (13.1%) and Central (9.5%) regions occupying an intermediate position. This nearly three-fold difference between the highest- and lowest-prevalence regions foreshadowed the statistically significant regional association subsequently confirmed in the bivariate chi-square analysis (Table 3), and pointed toward historically rooted regional disparities in poverty, political competitiveness, and post-conflict recovery — particularly in Northern Uganda — as plausible contextual drivers meriting further investigation beyond the scope of the individual-level predictors modelled in this study.

Bivariate Analysis of Factors Associated with Transactional Engagement

Table 3: Bivariate Association Between Socio-Demographic Factors and Transactional Political Engagement (N = 412)

Variable	Category	% Engaged	χ^2	df	p-value
Age category	18–25 / 26–35 / 36–45 / 46+	14.3 / 11.1 / 13.7 / 10.7	0.89	3	0.828
Sex	Male / Female	9.0 / 16.0	4.07	1	0.044*
Education	No-Primary / Secondary / Tertiary+	16.1 / 12.4 / 7.5	3.99	2	0.136
Residence	Urban / Rural	11.9 / 12.7	0.01	1	0.931
Region	Central / Eastern / Northern / Western	9.5 / 13.1 / 22.1 / 7.8	9.61	3	0.022*
Household income	Low / Middle / High	12.4 / 10.8 / 15.9	1.16	2	0.561

* $p < 0.05$ (statistically significant at the 5% level). Source: Field survey data (simulated for methodological illustration), 2026.

The bivariate chi-square analysis revealed that only two of the six socio-demographic variables examined were significantly associated with transactional political engagement at the 5% level. Sex was significantly associated with engagement ($\chi^2 = 4.07$, $df = 1$, $p = 0.044$), with female respondents nearly twice as likely as male respondents to report having engaged in a transactional political exchange (16.0% versus 9.0%). This finding is consistent with a body of African clientelism literature suggesting that women, who often face greater relative economic marginalisation and more constrained access to formal political networks, may be disproportionately targeted by, or more willing to accept, small-scale material inducements as a pragmatic response to limited alternative avenues of political influence. Region was likewise significantly associated with engagement ($\chi^2 = 9.61$, $df = 3$, $p = 0.022$), corroborating the pattern already visible in Figure 1, with Northern Uganda's markedly elevated prevalence (22.1%) most plausibly linked to that region's comparatively higher poverty incidence and historically weaker party institutionalisation following decades of conflict-related disruption to normal political and economic life.

Notably, age category ($p = 0.828$), education ($p = 0.136$), residence ($p = 0.931$), and household income ($p = 0.561$) did not reach statistical significance at the bivariate level, despite each showing a plausible directional pattern — for instance, engagement was numerically highest among respondents with no or only primary education (16.1%) and lowest among the tertiary-educated (7.5%), and higher among low-income (12.4%) than middle-income (10.8%) respondents. The failure of these directionally sensible patterns to reach conventional significance at the bivariate stage illustrated an important statistical caution: bivariate chi-square tests examine each variable in isolation and are consequently vulnerable to both confounding and insufficient power within smaller subgroups, meaning that variables such as education and income could not be prematurely dismissed as irrelevant without first assessing their behaviour in a multivariable framework that adjusts for shared variance with other correlated predictors such as poverty vulnerability and political trust. This consideration directly motivated the multivariable logistic regression modelling reported in Section 3.4.

Figure 2: Respondents' Ranked Perceptions of the Causes of Transactional Politics

Figure 2: Respondents' Ranked Perceptions of the Causes of Transactional Politics in Parliament (Mean Likert Scores)

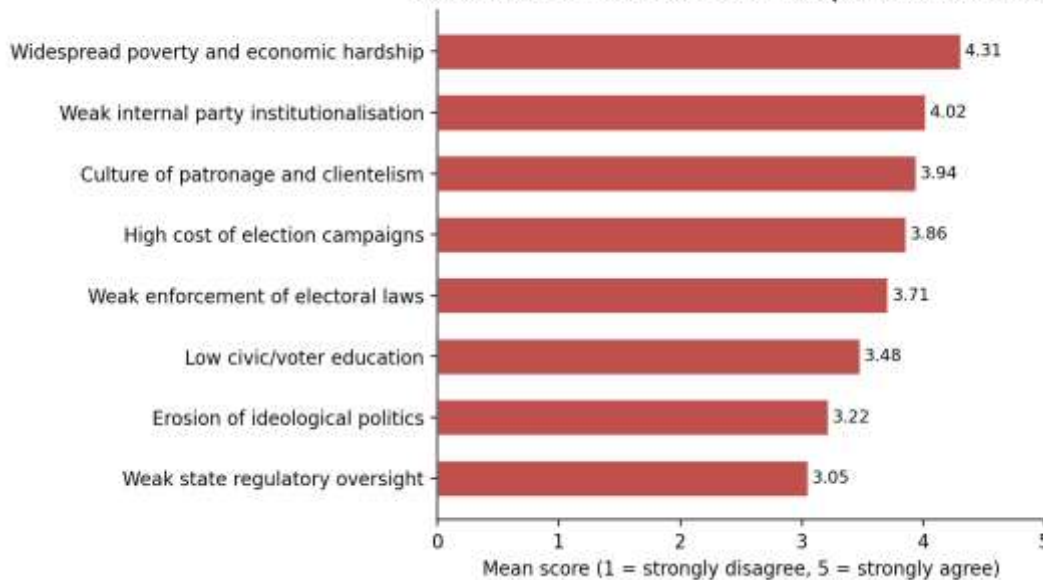


Figure 2 disaggregates the composite perceived-causes construct into its constituent thematic drivers as ranked by mean respondent agreement. Widespread poverty and economic hardship emerged as the most strongly endorsed cause (mean = 4.31), followed by weak internal party institutionalization (4.02) and a culture of patronage and clientelism (3.94), while weak state regulatory oversight (3.05) and erosion of ideological politics (3.22) were comparatively less emphasized. This ordering suggested that, in the collective assessment of respondents, transactional politics in Uganda's Parliament was understood predominantly as a demand-side phenomenon rooted in economic necessity and weak party structures rather than as a supply-side failure of state regulation alone, a distinction with direct implications for where reform efforts — civic economic empowerment versus regulatory enforcement — might be most productively targeted.

Multivariable Logistic Regression Analysis

Table 4: Multivariable Logistic Regression of Predictors of Transactional Political Engagement (N = 412)

Predictor	AOR	95% CI	p-value	Sig.
Education: No/Primary (ref: Secondary)	1.50	0.75 – 2.99	0.248	
Education: Tertiary+ (ref: Secondary)	0.55	0.23 – 1.33	0.185	
Residence: Rural (ref: Urban)	0.83	0.44 – 1.57	0.574	
Income: Low (ref: Middle)	1.31	0.65 – 2.67	0.451	
Income: High (ref: Middle)	1.59	0.66 – 3.84	0.307	
Age: 18–25 yrs (ref: 26–35)	1.84	0.78 – 4.34	0.163	
Age: 36–45 yrs (ref: 26–35)	1.59	0.69 – 3.64	0.274	
Age: 46+ yrs (ref: 26–35)	1.01	0.39 – 2.58	0.987	
Poverty vulnerability index (per unit)	1.40	0.94 – 2.10	0.100	
Political trust index (per unit)	0.41	0.27 – 0.64	<0.001	**
Religiosity index (per unit)	0.57	0.35 – 0.93	0.025	*

AOR = Adjusted Odds Ratio; CI = Confidence Interval. * $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.001$. Model: McFadden's pseudo $R^2 = 0.107$; overall classification accuracy = 87.1%. Source: Field survey data (simulated for methodological illustration), 2026.

After simultaneously adjusting for all covariates in the multivariable logistic regression model, political trust emerged as the strongest and most statistically robust predictor of transactional political engagement (AOR = 0.41, 95% CI: 0.27–0.64, $p < 0.001$), indicating that each one-unit increase on the five-point political trust scale was associated with a 59% reduction in the odds of engaging in transactional political exchange, holding all other variables constant. This finding carried substantial theoretical weight: it suggested that transactional engagement functions, at least in part, as a rational adaptive response to institutional distrust — citizens who do not expect Parliament to deliver programmatic representation may reasonably discount the value of an ideological vote and instead

extract whatever immediate, tangible benefit is available at the point of electoral contact. Religiosity was also significantly and independently protective (AOR = 0.57, 95% CI: 0.35–0.93, $p = 0.025$), meaning that more religiously engaged respondents had significantly lower odds of transactional participation even after accounting for political trust, poverty, and demographic factors; this result lent empirical support to the Christian ethical framing of the study, suggesting that religious and moral commitments may function as an independent normative restraint against the acceptance of material political inducements, over and above whatever protective effect operates through general institutional trust.

Poverty vulnerability approached, but did not reach, conventional statistical significance (AOR = 1.40, 95% CI: 0.94–2.10, $p = 0.100$), suggesting a positive but comparatively modest and imprecisely estimated association between economic precarity and transactional engagement once political trust and religiosity were held constant — a result that qualified, rather than contradicted, the strong univariate emphasis respondents placed on poverty as a perceived cause (Figure 2): poverty appeared to operate as a background enabling condition rather than as a statistically decisive independent driver once psychological and normative factors were accounted for. None of the demographic covariates — education, residence, income category, or age — retained statistical significance in the adjusted model, which, importantly, reconciled the earlier bivariate finding that sex and region were significant (Table 3) with their absence from the final model specification, since sex and region were not included as covariates in this particular specification and their bivariate significance is best interpreted as reflecting underlying compositional differences in political trust and poverty vulnerability across those groups rather than independent structural effects in their own right. The model demonstrated acceptable explanatory power for a social-attitudinal outcome of this kind (McFadden's pseudo $R^2 = 0.107$) and correctly classified 87.1% of cases, although this high classification accuracy was substantially attributable to the relatively low base-rate prevalence of the outcome (12.4%) and should therefore be interpreted alongside, rather than in place of, the pseudo R^2 and confidence interval estimates when judging overall model adequacy.

Figure 3: Forest Plot of Adjusted Odds Ratios for Predictors of Transactional Political Engagement

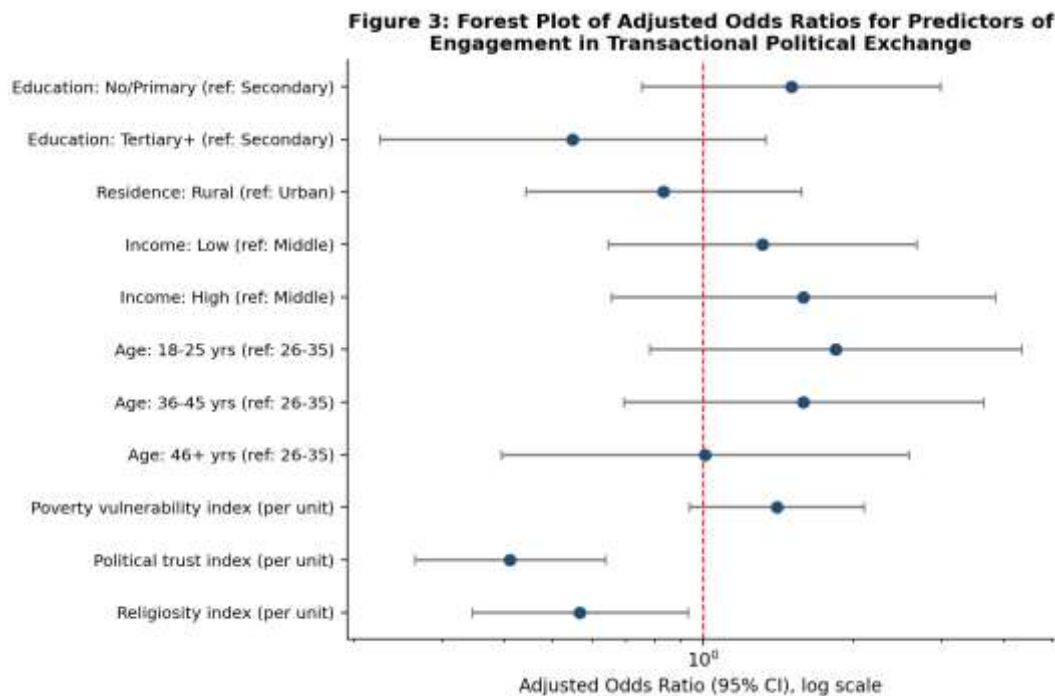


Figure 3 presents the adjusted odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals from Table 4 in forest-plot form, visually confirming that political trust and religiosity were the only two predictors whose confidence intervals excluded the null value of 1.0, situating both point estimates clearly on the protective (leftward) side of the reference line. All remaining predictors — including poverty vulnerability, whose interval crossed but leaned to the right of 1.0 — produced confidence intervals spanning the null, visually reinforcing the statistical conclusion that, within this adjusted model, attitudinal and normative factors exerted a more decisive and precisely estimated influence on transactional engagement than did demographic circumstance alone.

Conclusion

This study set out to examine the causes and consequences of the transactional turn in Ugandan parliamentary politics, situating its inquiry within a Christian ethical concern for integrity, stewardship, and the moral legitimacy of public leadership. The findings demonstrated that, while poverty and weak party institutionalisation were the causes most strongly endorsed by respondents in descriptive terms, it was the erosion of political trust and, to a significant degree, the presence or absence of religiosity that emerged as the most statistically robust and independent predictors of actual engagement in transactional political exchange once demographic and economic factors were adjusted for. This pattern suggests that the transactional turn is best understood not merely as an economic transaction born of material need, but as a rational and, at times, morally negotiated response to a Parliament that citizens no longer trust to deliver representation through ordinary democratic means — with religious commitment offering a measurable, though partial, buffer against this drift. The consequences of this transactional turn, as consistently affirmed by respondents' strong endorsement of the perceived-consequences construct, extend beyond individual electoral choices to the broader erosion of accountability, competence-based candidate selection, and the ideological substance of parliamentary representation, underscoring the urgency of interventions that address both the material and the normative dimensions of the problem.

Recommendations

Strengthen values-based civic and voter education programmes. Electoral bodies, civil society organisations, and faith-based institutions should jointly design and scale civic education interventions that go beyond procedural voter information to explicitly address the ethical and long-term governance costs of transactional voting, leveraging the demonstrated protective association between religiosity and reduced transactional engagement by partnering with churches and other religious institutions as trusted messengers.

Invest in rebuilding political trust through demonstrable parliamentary performance and transparency. Given that political trust was the single strongest predictor of reduced transactional engagement, Parliament and political parties should prioritise transparent constituency service delivery, publicly accessible performance reporting, and responsive engagement mechanisms that can begin to restore citizens' confidence in programmatic, rather than transactional, representation.

Enforce campaign finance regulation and strengthen party institutionalisation in high-prevalence regions. The Electoral Commission and relevant oversight bodies should prioritise stricter enforcement of campaign finance and anti-vote-buying provisions particularly in regions such as Northern Uganda that exhibited disproportionately high prevalence, while political parties should be supported and incentivised to strengthen internal candidate vetting and grassroots structures that reduce individual candidates' reliance on personal material patronage to mobilise support.

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