**International Organizations on women empowerment In Uganda; A Case of UN Women in Wakiso District**

By

Ampa Insight

Supervisor: Mr. George Barenzi

**EXTENDED ABTRACT**

**Keywords***:*

**International organizations**

These are entities established by formal politicalagreements between their members that have the status of international treaties

**Women**

A woman is a female human adult. People use the word "woman"(one woman, two or more women) to talk about biological sex.

**Women empowerment**

Empowerment is a set of measures designed to increase the degree of autonomy and self-determination in people and in communities in order to enable them to represent their interests in a responsible and self-determined way, acting on their own authority.

**Introduction**

Womenempowerment has for a long time become a major area of interest around the globe. This empowerment is majorly about self-esteem, awareness, consciousness and confidence while focusing on participation into decision making and challenges oppression and inequality Thus, women empowerment reduces vulnerability, decreases dependency, implies action not passivity, and means being at the center, not on the periphery as women.

The study was about the role international organizations have played on women empowerment with a focus of UN women in wakiso district Kasanje Sub-county. Because UN women works with local NGOs to do most of its work in the local population, the study majorly looked at Uganda human rights network and Uganda Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum to assess this role.

**Study objectives**

The main objective of the study was to assess the impact of international organizations on women empowerment in Uganda and the specific ones were;

1. to identify interventions towards women empowerment,
2. to assess the role of international organisations on women empowerment,
3. to establish the relationship between international organizations and women empowerment.

**Methodology**

The study adopted a descriptive research design and relied on both qualitative and quantitative approaches to obtain data from 144 respondents. The study used purposive and simple random sampling techniques to select respondents who were drawn from women local leaders, local population, UN officials, Uganda human rights network and Uganda Human Rights Awareness and Promotion Forum to assess the role played by UN women through these local NGOs. The study relied on interview guides and questionares were used to collect the data.

**Key findings**

Majority of the women interviewed had engaged in an income generating activity as a result of UN women, followed by those that had received advisory and advocacy services i.e started businesses education and training and others had benefitted their families respectively

From the findings, International organizations empowered women locally and internationally provided access to relevant information improved women’s political will provide opportunities to investments and enabled women to control their earnings.

International organizations/ UN women provide training to women, mentor women and improves their opinions, helps women to access employments, empowers women to participate in social events and provides them with relevant information

The findings show that women who had been involved in UN women activities are 3 times more likely to be currently empowered. These finding confirm that there is work done by UN women which over many decades, has made significant progress in advancing gender equality

The findings also showed that women who had gotten support from UN women believed to have improved on their knowledge on resource ownership and were less likely to be to be caught un aware of their rights in reference to resource ownership. Women who had engaged with UN women were three times more likely to be better in decision-making while those who had accessed their trainings and education were more empowered in terms of education were four times more likely to be empowered.

**Key recommendations**

* There is need to increase efforts by UN women to work with more local NGOs in Wakiso but also Uganda as a whole to support empower women more on economic empowerment especially after the effects of Corona virus. to allow other international organizations to come and empower more women with Wakiso and Uganda as a whole for better results.
* There is need for UN women to expand its operation and empower the young generation of girls in Uganda because with an early intervention, the girls today would be a more empowered women of tomorrow. This is also highly recommended because of the cases of teenage pregnancies that have become so high and hence putting a lot of young girls in a hard state
* There is also need to understand context-specific gender dynamics to ensure that men play a positive role in women engagements as men were not more engaged, Finding the balance in engaging men without allowing them to over-power women but also to encourage the men to give full support to these women to realize their potential and also help them grow financially and make a big contribution to household income and eventually to a larger development in society.

**Key references**

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