**EMERGENCY LOGISTICS AND RESPONSE TO THE COVID19 PANDEMIC IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS: A CASE STUDY OF WAKISO DISTRICT - UGANDA**

**BY**

**ASIIMWE ABEL**

**SUPERVISED BY:**

**MR. BUKENYA PETER**

**EXTENDED ABSTRACT**

**KEY WORDS**

**Emergency logistics** is conceptualized as the management of all activities that facilitate the movement of people and coordination of supply and demand in extraordinary situations that pose serious and immediate threats to human life, dignity, and livelihoods (Catholic Relief Services, 2002; and Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, 2005).

**Response to covid19:** In relation to the study, this refers to the reaction of government and other actors to changes or events posed by Covid19 aimed at reducing its negative impact on human life, dignity, and livelihoods (World Health Organisation, 2010; and Cambridge Dictionary, 2021).

**Introduction:** The study sought to examine the relationship between emergency logistics and response to the Covid19 pandemic in local governments with focus on Wakiso District Local Government - Uganda.

**Study objectives to:** To examine the relationship between distribution practices and response to covid19 in Wakiso District Local Government, To analyze how logistics information systems relate with response to covid19 in Wakiso District Local Government, To examine the relationship between safety management practices and response to covid19 in Wakiso District Local Government.

**Methodology:** Based on the social-contract and legitimacy theories, the study adopted a phenomenological approach, a cross sectional survey and case study strategy, and both quantitative and qualitative methods. The study population was 243, out of which a sample of 144 was used with the response rate at 72.2% that is, 104 respondents. Self-administered questionnaires, interview guided, and document review checklists were used as data collection instruments.

The study concluded that there is a strong positive relationship between emergency logistics and response to the covid19 pandemic. With a coefficient **r** = 0.711, focus on better distribution logistics practice and strategy will significantly improve the effectiveness of response to both current and future pandemics in local governments.

**Study recommendations:** The study recommends the establishment of an integrated emergency logistics system that integrates pre-contracting and partnership arrangements with private suppliers of key pandemic relief items like food supplies, household supplies, and basic medical supplies. Such partnerships should be pursued with the involvement and leadership of the Local Government Ministry, Ministry of Finance, and Disaster Preparedness Directorate in the Office of the Prime Minister.

There is need to develop a comprehensive safety management strategy and prioritization mechanism in the district and national emergency logistics systems that includes business safety in the response to health pandemics.

Improving distribution practices and systems based on local community involvement in real-point delivery to vulnerable persons during pandemics and emergencies of the like.

Public facilities, such as gymnasia and community halls, can be used as logistics depots as they are well designed with strong-enough floors, wide-enough entrances and exits, and good accessibility for cargo handling in case of pandemics and other disasters.

**References**

Lionardo, F. T. and Nouaouri, I. (2017): A Simulation Study of Emergency Logistic in Case of Disaster: Proceedings of the World Congress on Engineering and Computer Science, 2017 Vol. II WCECS 2017, October 25-27, 2017, San Francisco, USA.

World Health Organisation (2020): Draft Resolution to Covid19 response, Seventy-Third World Health Assembly A73/CONF./1, 18 May 2020, Agenda item 3.

Fritz Institute & CILT (2015): Medical Logistics Practices in the Humanitarian Sector; Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport, UK.www.hlcertification.org.

UNICEF Uganda (2020): COVID-19 Situation: Reporting period 16th – 31st May, 2020, Report No. 2, Uganda Country Office.

United Nations (2020): Articulating the Pathways of the Socio-Economic Impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic on the Kenyan Economy: Policy Brief, Issue No: 4/2020.