

DECENTRALISATION AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION IN LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

A CASE STUDY OF IGANGA MUNICIPAL COUNCIL, IGANGA DISTRICT

BY

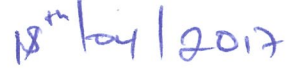
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**A RESEARCH DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OF
HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT
OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF A DEGREE
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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work towards the award of a degree of Social Work and Social Administration and that, to the best of my knowledge, it contains no material previously published by another person nor material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree of the University or elsewhere except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

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APPROVAL

This is to certify that this report has been done under my supervision and is ready for submission to the College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Signature.......... Date.....18.04.2017.....

NASSIWA SHAMILLAH
(SUPERVISOR)

DEDICATION

This piece of work is dedicated to my parents who have selflessly supported me throughout my education.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks be to the Almighty God whose guidance and protection has seen me through the successful completion of this research dissertation. I am really indebted to all those whose contributions in diverse ways enabled me come out with this research. My gratitude goes to my supervisor who laid her professional experience bare to me and through his guidance, patience, assistance and suggestions helped me to complete the study.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

KIU :	Kampala international university
SWASA :	Social work and Social Administration
UN :	United Nations
MMDA :	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
NRM :	National Resistance Movement
PEAP :	Poverty Eradication Action Plan
PAF :	Poverty Action Fund
OECD :	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
IMF :	International monetary Fund
HIV :	Human Immune Virus
AIDS :	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
TB :	Tuberculosis

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CHAPTER ONE

1.0 Introduction:

This chapter will include the background of the study, the statement of the problem, general objective of the study, specific objectives of the study, research questions, research scope, and the significance of the study.

1.1 Back ground of the study

There is a perception that poor countries are poor because they do not practice effective and efficient decentralization. There is also international and local acceptance that decentralized governance reduces poverty and enhances development in poor countries. The UN and its agencies such as UNDP and World Bank fully support this idea about poverty reduction and decentralization and sometimes go to the extent of making the 14 practice of decentralization a condition for attracting loans, grants and technical aid as a condition for development. The UNDP view poverty as revealed by Rakodi (1995) as a situation of people deprived of those opportunities and choices that are essential to human development, for a long healthy creative life, a reasonable standard of living, freedom, dignity, self-respect and respect from others. This is referred to as the life situation approach to poverty.

In Africa there are signs of poverty everywhere to the extent that three hundred and forty (340) million people or half the population of Africa lives on less than \$1.00 per day. The mortality rate of children under five (5) years of age is 140 per 1,000 and life expectancy at birth is only fifty-four (54) years. Only 58 percent of the population has access to safe water. The rate of illiteracy for people over 15 years is 41 percent (New Partnership for Africa's Development Report, 2001). Moreover, many hundreds of millions of people in the poorer countries are preoccupied solely with survival and elementary needs. For them, work is frequently not available or when it is, pay is low and conditions often barely tolerable. Homes are constructed of impermanent materials and have neither piped water nor sanitation. Electricity is a luxury. Health services are thinly spread and in rural areas only rarely within walking distance. Primary schools, where they exist, may be free and not too far away, but children are needed for work and cannot be easily spared for schooling. Permanent insecurity is the condition of the poor. There are no public systems of social security in the event of unemployment, sickness or death of

a wage earner in the family. Flood, drought or disease affecting people or livestock can destroy livelihoods without hope of compensation. The combination of malnutrition, illiteracy, disease, high birth rates, underemployment and low income closes off the avenues of escape (Brandt Commission, 1980).

Decentralization has become a global phenomenon and it is associated with development. Most of the developing countries practice decentralization as a strategy for reducing poverty and for effective delivery of basic services to the poor. The Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) have the most appropriate framework for implementing poverty reduction and sustainable human development strategies. The developmental role of MMDAs has become important, given the socio-economic challenges confronting the people at the local level.

The Ugandan decentralization reform initiated in 1992 is exceptional among developing countries in terms of the scale and scope of the transfer of power and responsibilities to the local level. It has been praised as “one of the most far-reaching local government reform programs in the developing world” (Francis and James, 2003: 325) and as “one of the most radical devolution initiatives of any country at this time” (Mitchinson, 2003: 241).

Since it came to power in 1986, the National Resistance Movement (NRM) government under the leadership of President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has been strongly committed to decentralization supporting such an ambitious and exemplary form of devolution. Local councils (called “resistance councils” at that time) played an important role for the NRM during and after its guerrilla warfare in the first half of the 1980s. These councils were meant to resist the incumbent government before the NRM came to power and to maintain social order and peace as well as secure democracy thereafter. Decentralized governance represented part of the political strategy of the new regime to install a new and revolutionary concept of democracy: democracy that is participatory, grass-roots based, and popular. It was thus a priority to implement decentralization rapidly and holistically. (Kisakye, 1996).

Decentralization in Uganda is under the assumption that devolution has the potential to contribute to poverty reduction by providing opportunities for popular participation, responsive policy-making, and increased efficiency in the provision of goods and services, implications for its potential impact on poverty. Decentralization was seen as a tool to achieve national consensus among different groups, given the past political instability and tribal animosities (Ahamad et al., 2006). The central government opted to create districts as the highest level of local governments in an attempt to satisfy regional and tribal demands for political power (Makara, 1998). Ahamad et al. (2006) suggest that this form of decentralization was primarily administrative, aimed at building the managerial capacity at the local level and increasing transparency and accountability in service delivery. It devolved responsibility for a large number of key public services to the local level, including primary education and health services. It was not until during 1994 that signs of political decentralization started to appear as local governments were granted specific legal responsibilities and expenditure functions. In spite of these developments, the central government retained important financing controls. The need to ensure effective service delivery contributed to the strong expansion of Uganda's local government (Ahamad et al., 2006). This expansion took root as the government focused its economic programme, supported by donors, more intently on poverty reduction in the second half of the 1990s (Muduuli, 2006).

When the country's home-based Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) was initiated in 1997, Uganda significantly raised the resources allocated to pro-poor spending, in particular those identified and tracked under the Poverty Action Fund (PAF), which received strong financial support by the external donors (World Bank, 2002). The local governments were, in fact, allocated with the responsibility to deliver a growing share of pro-poor expenditures tracked under the PAF, a share that rose to 60–70 percent in the early 2000s (Saito, 2006)

However, the design of Uganda's decentralization programme as a strategy to alleviate poverty requires continued reassessment and refinement, specifically the extent to which local governments have been effectively empowered to deliver key public services (Ahamad et al., 2006). First, the multiple layers of local government which decentralization introduced, has further increased government expenditure due to bureaucracy and financial leakages resulting from increased rent-seeking (Brixiova 1999). Also, despite the fact that pro-poor government

policies receive strong donor support, they have led to a significant increase in public expenditure, particularly in terms of the number of local civil servants.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

After over a decade of stabilization and adjustment programmes in the low income countries of East Africa, poverty continues to be of critical concern and a formidable challenge. This has prompted a new emphasis on popular participation through decentralization in recent years.

According to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), the main requirement for poverty reduction is the promotion of popular participation in the development process and support for the development of a society based on the rule of law, respect for human rights and good governance as prerequisites to stability and economic, social and political progress (1997:13).

The Ugandan government initiated an ambitious decentralization reform in 1992, which represents an example of full-fledged devolution with the transfer of far-reaching responsibilities to local governments. However, several shortcomings, such as low levels of accountability, insufficient human and financial resources, corruption, patronage, and central resistance to decentralization, constrain the proper implementation of the reform, putting improvements in participation and efficiency at risk and ultimately jeopardizing the intended impact on poverty.

This study seeks to fill the missing gaps and mainly to examine the impact of decentralization on poverty alleviation at the micro-level in Iganga Municipal Council, Iganga District. It is concerned with the lived experiences of the rural poor in Iganga District, and the extent to which the strategy of popular participation through decentralization has brought them into the decision-making processes involved in alleviating poverty.

1.3 Research Objectives

1.3.1 General objectives of the study

The main objective of this study was to establish the impact of decentralization on poverty alleviation in Iganga Municipal Council, Iganga District.

1.3.2. Specific objectives of the study

To establish the general causes of poverty in Uganda

To establish the impact of decentralization on poverty alleviation in Iganga Municipal Council, Iganga District

To identify the challenges faced in the implementation of decentralization in local governments in Uganda

To find out the possible measures to reduce the poverty levels in Uganda

1.4 Research Questions

What are the general causes of poverty in Uganda?

What is the impact of decentralization on poverty alleviation in Iganga municipal Council, Iganga District?

What challenges are faced in the implementation of decentralization local governments in Uganda?

What measures can be undertaken to reduce poverty in Iganga Municipal council, Iganga District?

1.5 Research scope

This study considered the time scope, geographical scope and the content scope as follows:

1.5.1 Content scope

This study specifically investigated the relationship between decentralization and poverty alleviation in Iganga Municipal Council, Iganga District

1.5.2 Geographical scope

The study was carried out in Iganga District situated in Busoga sub region in the eastern region of Uganda along Jinja-Busia high way. Iganga district is situated 127km east of Kampala, the capital of Uganda. The district is bordered by Kaliro District to the north, Namutumba District to the northeast, Bugiri District to the east, Mayuge District to the south, Jinja District to the southwest, and Luuka District to the west

1.5.3 Time scope

The study was carried out for a period of 2 months from 01/01 /2016 to /01/04/2017.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study could be of great importance to policy makers in Uganda as it tries to provide possible measures to reduce the high poverty levels in Uganda. The study sought to identify and fill the missing gaps in literature left by other researchers who undertook similar studies. This study was of great significance to the researcher as it helped polish his reading skills and reasoning. Besides this study could be so instrumental as it could serve the researcher to attain a Bachelor of Social Work And Social Administration of Kampala International University.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter reviewed the related and existing literature. It includes mainly the literature written by other researchers about the topic. It also seeks to identify and fill the missing gaps left by other researchers who undertook similar studies.

2.1 Defining Poverty and the Poor

The development literature is plagued with various definitions, measurements and causes of poverty. As a dynamic concept, its meaning and how it is perceived have undergone several changes with time. Therefore there is no universally accepted definition of it. However, certain salient features appear to characterize most of the existing definitions, measurements and causes. Some of them, especially those which have been found to be very insightful and relevant for this study is reviewed below.

According to Townsend (1974), poverty consists of subsistence, inequality and externality. He explained that subsistence is concerned with the minimum provision needed to maintain health and working capacity while inequality represents the relative position of income groups to each other, indicating further that poverty is concerned with how the bottom layers fare in relation to the rest of the society. The externality is the social consequences of poverty for the rest of the society. This implies that poverty is a societal problem. This latter viewpoint however, contrasts sharply with those of Morril, et.al (1973) who have reasoned that poverty is the outcome of the inability of certain sections of the society (at individual levels), to compete successfully in a competitive world.

Chamber's (1983) notion of poverty centers on the dual clusters of political economy and physical ecology. He views the concept in terms of the deprivation of many at the expense of the affluent few on one hand, and the reduced standards of living resulting from population explosion and poor resource management on the other hand. Expatiating on some of these notions, Sen (1984) explained the concept through three major approaches. These are the biological approach, the inequality approach and the relative deprivation approach. Whilst the relative deprivation and inequality approaches are related to the views expounded above by

Townsend and Chambers, the third, that is biological approach, provides an additionally useful and expanded insight. Biological considerations, to him, relate to the requirements of survival or work efficiency. They are nutritionally based and have often been used to define the poverty line. According to him, starvation is clearly the most important aspect of poverty, and malnutrition must have a central place in the conception of poverty. Some also agree with Rowntree (1901), quoted in Sen (1984) who is said to have described families in poverty as primarily those whose total earnings are insufficient to obtain the minimum necessities for the maintenance of mere physical efficiency. This view is supported by the fact that income is prominent in almost all definitions on the level and extent of poverty.

The concept of poverty and definitions of the poor vary in accordance with the perspective and objective of those doing the defining. In defining poverty in traditional consumption and expenditure terms is insufficient to address the needs of the poor themselves and it has included human and social welfare indicators in development indices and poverty alleviation programmes.

The Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS) defines poverty using an economic index, characterizing the poor as those subsisting on a per capita income of less than two thirds of the national average. The hard core poverty line is defined as income below one third of the mean. An analysis of the 1998-99 GLSS data found that half of the rural households in Ghana are poor (Ghana Statistical Service, 1999). The consequences of poverty are equally complex as it is often reinforced by the interrelatedness of its causes, thereby exacerbating the problem (World Bank Report, 1992). The persistence of widespread poverty in developing countries like Ghana has very serious social and economic consequences. The World Bank recognizes that the large number of people in poverty implies an inefficient use of resources which increases the risks of social upheavals.

2.1.1 Dimensions of poverty

Poverty has for many years been associated with low income and material deprivation, it is nowadays been identified as a multidimensional concept. Poverty is today understood not only in terms of low income or material deprivation but the concept includes other factors that are essential for an individual to get out of poverty. The evolution of the definition of poverty has led to identification of different dimensions of poverty. These dimensions include income poverty and capabilities poverty (health and education, vulnerability, and voicelessness and

powerlessness) which interact and reinforce each other. The World Bank (2001:15-20), in its World Development Report 2000/2001 identifies the following dimension of poverty:

- **Income poverty:** this is a traditional way of identifying the poor. It is based on household income and expenditure using survey data as a source of information most of the time. It is a way of analyzing poverty quantitatively and provides a broad understanding of well-being. The poor are determined by setting up a poverty line based on a cut-off line in income or consumption.
- **Health and education:** this dimension is used to refer to deprivation in health or education. It is widely accepted that productivity is associated with education and health. This is indicated by Deaton (2006) who argues that living in unsanitary environments and denied the opportunity to go to school constitute barriers to participate in activities which are open to healthy and literate people
- **Vulnerability:** this dimension refers to the fact that people are exposed to other factors that constitute a risk of falling into poverty. It is the risk households or individuals have of experiencing a problem of income or health poverty over time. Factors such as exposure to violence, crime and natural disasters and dropping out of school are more likely to deepen poverty.
- **Voicelessness and powerlessness:** this dimension refers to the lack of opportunities offered to enable local communities (in particular those who have been denied access for diverse reasons such as gender differences, religion, minority status, ethnic origin) to participate actively in society's activities.

2.2 General causes of poverty in Uganda

Unemployment: The high rate of unemployment contributes a lot to poverty. Most rural people are unemployed or under-employed. Most of the youth always graduate from school without jobs. Some stay at home so long that they give up on their job hunting process, and concentrate on menial occupations, which may be below their qualification, or outside their profession to earn very little incomes.

Energy Crises: In Uganda, the increase in the price of crude oil brings down the value of the incomes of the people in Uganda, while transportation fares, food prices utility bills and even

health and educational bills increase. In situation of price upsurge cost of living increases and low income people would be affected most.

Corruption: Corruption often accompanies centralization of power, when leaders are not accountable to those they serve. Most directly, corruption inhibits development when leaders help themselves with money that would otherwise be used for development projects.

Social Inequality: Another source of poverty throughout in Uganda is social inequality that stems from cultural ideas about the relative worth of different genders, races, ethnic groups and social classes. Inequality works by placing individuals in different social categories at birth, often based on religious, ethnic or racial characteristics.

Structural Adjustment: The cutbacks in health, education and other vital social services around the world as a result of structural adjustment policies prescribed by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank as conditions for loans and repayment bring economic hardship to the government and the people of Uganda. The open up of the economies of developing nation to compete with more powerful and established industrialized nations leads to poverty. To attract investment, poor countries like Uganda enter an increasing race to the bottom to see who can provide lower standards, reduced wages and cheaper resources. This has increased poverty levels and inequality for most people in Uganda. It also forms a backbone to what we today call globalization. As a result, it maintains the historic unequal rules of trade.

Poor Land Utilization. In Uganda, people own large chunks of land that are underutilized or sometimes not even used at all. This is partly because they are either not educated on what to do with the land, or because some people are just stuck in their rudimentary ways of doing things. Some people just use the land to grow crops which are just enough for subsistence survival. Nothing goes to the market for sale.

Civil Wars and Unending Political Conflicts. Uganda is popular for its civil wars, either between neighboring countries or within the same country. Such incidences render war zones unproductive, in addition to scaring away investment that would otherwise help foster economic development and create employment, which would help people get out poverty.

Poor Infrastructure. Uganda has a very poor infrastructure set up. They have poor roads, railways, water systems, etc., yet these are some of the major drivers of economic development. As a result, only a few areas with better facilities (such as urban areas) have developed over the other (rural) areas, which are occupied by the largest percentage of the population.

Diseases and poor health facilities. Another leading cause of poverty in Uganda is the prevalence of diseases (such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, TB etc). When a household is affected by any of the diseases, the little resources are spent on treating the sick. In a worst case scenario where the bread winner dies, those who are left behind have no resources to support themselves, thus leading a poor lifestyle. And the situation is worsened by poor health facilities.

The World Bank and IMF Policies. The loans given out by the World Bank and IMF (the International Monetary Fund) have contributed to the poverty problem in Uganda. Such loans come with strict conditions, which usually required governments to adjust some of their economic decisions. For instance, the requirement to reduce total government spending has affected major social sectors such as education, health and infrastructure, which are drivers of economic development.

2.3 Measures to reduce poverty in Uganda

Agricultural growth

Agricultural growth has for long been recognized as an important factor that contributes to marked reduction in poverty. A study made by Montek Ahluwalia, brought clearly that agricultural growth and poverty are inversely related; the higher agricultural growth leads to lower poverty ratio. The experience of Punjab and Haryana in the late sixties and in the seventies confirmed this inverse relation between agriculture growth and poverty. The growth in agricultural output in these states propelled by the adoption of new-high yielding technology caused a marked reduction in poverty in these states. Therefore, other states have been urged to follow the path of Punjab and Haryana for reduction of rural poverty and Uganda in particular can emulate and invest heavily in agriculture expansion as a measure to reduce poverty in the country. (<http://www.yourarticlelibrary.com/poverty/top-9-measures-to-reduce-poverty>)

Infrastructure development

An important measure to generate employment opportunities for the poor and to raise their productivity is the speedy development of infrastructure. Since private sector is not attracted to make adequate investment in infrastructure, public investment needs to be stepped up for its development. Infrastructure development consists of building of roads, highways, ports, telecommunication, power and irrigation. They involve mainly construction work which is highly labor intensive.

Besides, the availability of infrastructure such as power and irrigation greatly raise productivity of labour. C.H. Hanumantha Rao in his study of East and South East Asian Countries finds that reduction in rural poverty in them achieved through economic growth occurred due to the fact that physical infrastructure in them were already highly developed.

Accelerating human resource development

Besides physical infrastructure development, poverty can also be reduced through human resource development. Human resource development requires greater investment in educational facilities such as schools to promote literacy, technical training institutes and vocational colleges to impart skills to the people. Further, human resource development requires health care by public investment in Primary Health Centers, dispensaries and hospitals. This human resource development not only generates a good deal of employment opportunities but also raises productivity and income of the poor. Further, people equipped with skills, education and good health can easily get wage employment or self-employment with higher productivity. In this way human resource development helps in reducing poverty. The experience of East and South-East Asian Countries shows that poverty can be significantly reduced through investment in human resource development.

Growth of non-farm employment

For reduction of poverty growth of non-farm employment in the rural areas is of special importance. Non-farm employment is created in marketing (i.e., petty trade), transportation, handicrafts, dairying, and forestry, processing of food and other agricultural products, repair workshops. A study of poverty alleviation in Haryana brings out that significant reduction in rural poverty in Haryana in spite of a reduction in employment opportunities in agriculture was due to the remarkable increase in non-farm employment. Similarly, a study of Andhra Pradesh also shows that poverty declined more rapidly in the districts adjoining Hyderabad city due to large increase in non-farm employment.

Access to credit facilities

Availability of credit to the poor on easy terms can create the conditions for small farmers gaining access to productive resources such as seeds fertilizers, construction of minor irrigation such as wells and tube wells. This will enable the small farmers to adopt high- yielding technology to raise their productivity. The new technology is size-neutral, that is, it can be adopted equally well by small farmers. But the adoption of new technology requires financial resources which are lacking with the small farmers. Besides, the non-farmer poor need credit for marketing, food processing, dairying, forestry, development of handicrafts which can provide them gainful employment.

National Minimum Wage

The government could increase the national minimum wage. This is an effective way of increasing the incomes of the low paid, and therefore reducing wage inequality. However, the problem is that it may cause unemployment because firms may not be able to afford the workers. If it does cause unemployment, poverty could worsen. However, if firms have monopsony power then they will be able to afford higher wages.

Establishment of small scale industries

Government should develop cottage, handicrafts and other small scale industries to in the backward regions of our country. Moreover this will transfer resources from the areas of surplus to the deficit solving the problem of urbanization.

Reduce Inflation

Inflation tends to make poor poorer and rich richer. There should be stability in the price level of the country. Government should also reduce the burden of tax on the poor and charge more on the richer class. Rationing should be promoted so that the poor people get the basic necessities of life at lower price level.

Check population growth

Much of the problem of poverty can be solved if the population of the country can be reduced to an average level. This will make developmental plans successful and the poor people will have a greater share in the funds of the government. (<http://www.indiastudychannel.com/resources>)

2.4 Decentralization

Definitions of decentralization abound in the literature. It is defined, explained and interpreted with reference to the aspects of decentralization being studied. The wide variety of institutional arrangements and institutional reforms that decentralization encompasses makes it difficult to reach a consensual definition. For some scholars this implies autonomy in decision making, while for others it refers to democratic practices and territorial distribution of power; and for others it means bringing service closer to the local people.

In general, decentralization refers to the transfer of power from the central government to local entities. This definition implies that decentralization is a complex process which can have various meanings according to the mode of power transfer, the nature of power transferred and the mode of appointment of local authorities. Therefore decentralization can have various forms. It can be administrative, political, fiscal or even economic and each of these forms can be studied

separately. To quote the classical definition of Burki et al. (Burki et al, 1999 quoted in Sharma, 2006:53),

Decentralization may be defined as “the extent to which power is held by autonomous elected sub national governments capable of taking binding decisions in at least some policy areas”. In this definition only an entity with elected leaders invested with the authority of decision-making will be considered as decentralized.

According to Turner and Hulme , decentralization is “a transfer of authority to perform services to the public from an individual or an agency in the central government to some other individual or agency which is ‘closer’ to the public to be served”, (1997:152). This definition focuses mainly on service delivery; the central government accepts the transfer of some of its authority to deliver public services and goods to the public. The aspect of electing is missing and the decision-making autonomy is not clear and undefined. To Rodinelli (1981) decentralization should be understood as the process by which the authority to plan, make decisions and manage public functions is transferred from a higher level of the government to any individual, organization or agency at local level. While to Smith (1985: 1), decentralization is “reversing the concentration of the administration at a single center and conferring powers on local government”. From these definitions it can be concluded that decentralization is a transfer of power (political, managerial and legal), a transfer of capacities (financial, logistical and human resources) from the central government to local government and the people in order to insure rational management of available resources at local level and provide better service delivery to local people.

2.4.1 Forms of decentralization

Scholars, organizations and policymakers discuss decentralization differently depending on the objectives and functions to be assigned to decentralized units. The fact that there is no consensus about the definition of decentralization shows how multifaceted the concept is and how it can appear in different forms. Cohen and Peterson (1999) have identified six approaches to decentralization (namely historical, hierarchal and functional, problem and value centered, service delivery, objective based and single country based approach). Likewise Triesman (2000) have identified five types of political decentralization: structural decentralization, decision decentralization, resource decentralization, electoral decentralization and institutional

decentralization. Rodinelli and Nellis and Rondinelli and Cheema (1983) have identified four forms of decentralization: deconcentration, devolution, delegation and privatization. These forms are the forms of decentralization most often used. I focus on these in the next subsection.

Deconcentration; This form of decentralization refers to a dispersion of some administrative responsibilities from a central government service to a level nearer to the people but without a transfer of authority to lower levels of government. Local level service providers execute instructions from the center, they do not allow any authority to make decisions or exercise discretion in executing their responsibilities. This form of decentralization does not give decision making power either to service providers or to recipients, all decisions are taken at the central level.

Delegation; delegation is a form of decentralization through which the central government decides to transfer some of its authority to local government or semi-autonomous organizations with administrative and technical capabilities to carry out delegated powers. This occurs when the central government is overloaded with work, or when there is an increase in the importance and urgency of services. It may therefore be defined as, to quote Rondinelli and Cheema (1983:21), “the transfer or creation of broad authority to plan and implement decisions concerning specific activities - or a variety of activities within spatial boundaries - to an organization that is technically and administratively capable of carrying them out without direct supervision by a bigger administrative unit

Devolution; devolution refers to a situation in which central government transfers authority for decision making, finance and management to autonomous entities at local level. Decentralized units hold political and managerial power and are legally mandated to manage their territories. In this form of decentralization the central government has a limited control over local governments and the latter are invested with power to manage resources and have reciprocal interactions within local structures and with other government units. This form of decentralization is thought assist people to have confidence in their leaders and have a feeling of ownership with regard to decisions made

Privatization; this is a form of decentralization in which public functions and institutions are transferred to private organizations, companies or firms. This occurs when the government has inability to deliver specific services because of managerial problems. In such cases the

government decides to give the services to independent organizations which include the private sector (local or international firms or companies), civil society or voluntary organizations.

Fiscal Decentralization; fiscal decentralization refers to a situation in which the central government transfers fiscal responsibilities to lower levels of government in order to influence budgetary and financial decisions. Each form of decentralization can be observed at least somewhere and each has particular implication in terms of impacting on both the effective responsiveness and the lives of local people and in particular on poverty. The form which is more likely to yield more positive outcomes in terms of responsiveness and livelihood is devolution (political decentralization). Devolution has the advantage of not only granting political and managerial autonomy but also granting the financial means to allow local governments to pursue and achieve their task. However, beyond positive technical feasibility and theoretical expectations the success of devolution is based on the political will from the center which exists to allow decentralized

2.5 The Relevance of Decentralization in Poverty alleviation

According to Alderman (1998), decentralization has shown that local government officials are likely to be well informed about the plight of members of their community and are therefore able to recognise and organise those who are genuinely poor. Moreover, because poverty in one community may be characterised by different indicators than poverty in another community, a decentralized system may also increase efficiency of access to public goods and services by allowing local authorities to determine the local eligibility criteria. Thus, decentralising the responsibility to access the needs of communities to local administrators should be more accurate and cost effective than a central government agency. New local government system has greatly enhanced popular participation in local governance, and included greater numbers of previously excluded groups. However, (Crook and Sverrisson, 2001) mention that the responsiveness of the local authorities to popular development needs and to those of the poor in particular has not been good. The authorities argue that currently, capital expenditure overrides recurrent expenditure in all local authorities that responsive to the needs of the communities.

The regional breakdown of local government expenditure in 1999 shows that Greater Accra, the richest region, spent 56 percent of their local government expenditure on recurrent items and 44.0 percent on capital items. However, Upper West Region, one of the poorest regions in

Ghana, spent 77.2 percent of the local government expenditure on capital expenditure and 22.8 percent on recurrent expenditure, (Ministry Local Government and Rural Development Report on MMDAs' Expenditures, 1999).

2.6 The impact of Decentralization on Poverty Alleviation

Decentralization is seen by donors, governments and academics as one of the most important and appropriate strategies that will help reduce the levels of deprivation and vulnerability of the poor. There are three ways in which decentralization is linked to poverty reduction (Bird, et. al., 1995). First, as with many other public services, effective implementation of poverty reduction strategies often requires detailed and specific local knowledge which may be most readily obtainable through a decentralized and locally accountable system of governance. The right kind of decentralization will therefore enable local government units to have sufficient technical and financial capacity to carry out their assigned functions. On the assumption that people should get what they want rather than what someone else wants them to want, Aryee (1995) states that poverty reduction programmes in Uganda like other programmes, should reflect local and regional variations in preferences where appropriate. Second, the design and implementation of transfer of financial resources is an important influence, for good or for ill, on local spending decision. Efficient assignment of revenue and expenditure responsibility to different levels of government invariably means that local government units as a group will depend upon transfers from the central government.

From this perspective, decentralization does not mean that the central government plays no role in poverty reduction. What it means is rather that considerable thought, effort; experimentation will be needed to develop a workable transfer system. Such a transfer should simultaneously accomplish the difficult objectives of providing localities sufficient resources to do what they want to do while ensuring that what they do is broadly in accordance with national priorities. The interaction between decentralization and poverty reduction emphasises the importance of transfer design and the desirability of providing for periodic evaluation of that design (Aye, et al 1996). Third, the relationship between decentralization and poverty reduction depends on the targeting of poverty-reducing public investment by local government units. Local government units implement the national poverty reduction policy, narrowly or broadly defined. A narrowly defined poverty policy uses transfers of income, in money or kind, to the poor. A broadly defined

poverty reduction policy also encompasses policies intended to increase the productivity of the poor through the formation and maintenance of human capital that is health, education, improved access to markets and productive resources in general. Given the heterogeneity of resources, capacities, needs and preferences that characterize most countries, some local government units will need much more financial and technical support than others will. If such disparities continue, the greater the direct access of local government units to their own fiscal resources, the more tax base they can have and the more revenue they can mobilize. Those which do not have more tax base do mobilize less revenue. Decentralise poverty reduction strategy requires some degree of equalisation. (Bird & Rodriguez, et al. 1999)

The framework which is consistent with decentralization and poverty reduction used in this study was developed from Asante, (2003). According to Asante (2003) effective poverty reduction requires, among other things, increasing the poor's access to basic public and collective services such as health, education, water, sanitation and transport to enhance human capital, increase labour productivity and foster access to economic opportunities. That is, to improve the livelihood of the poor. In the view of Ellis, 1998, livelihood encompasses income, both in cash, as well as the social institutions (such as family and relatives), gender relations, and property rights required to support and to sustain a given standard of living. A livelihood also includes access to and benefits derived from social and public services provided by the state such as education, health services, road and water supplies (Blackwood and Lynch, 1994).

2.7 Challenges of decentralization in Uganda

Uganda has been cited as having “one of the most far-reaching Local Government reform programs in the developing world” as well as “one of the most radical devolution initiatives of any country at this time” (Francis, 2003, pp. 325; Mitchinson, 2003, pp. 241). In theory, the implementation of decentralization renders widespread benefits reaching and empowering the most disenfranchised sections of the population. But the questions remains, has this rhetoric become a reality in Uganda?

The Government of Uganda has highlighted successes and noted challenges to the implementation of decentralization. Local Council Courts at the village and parish levels have been lauded for being accessible to and tailored to the needs of local people. For example, court proceedings are conducted in local languages and without the legal jargon present in higher courts. The Ministry of Local Government's Decentralization and Local Development in Uganda report states that the Local Council Courts handle an average of 2 cases per week and that “Overall 80 percent of Ugandans access justice through Local Council courts” (MoLG, 2014, p. 20). However, specific successes are rarely cited in the literature outside of government publications and reports.

Evidence collected from the current literature on the subject suggests a major gap between the theory and the practical results of decentralization. It is widely argued that decentralization is an effective tool for both democratic and economic development due to its promotion of popular participation, locally responsiveness policy-making, and increased efficiency in governance and

public service delivery. Despite this held belief, however, academic supports for tangibly achieved benefits of decentralization are sparse. The case of Uganda, the success of decentralization has been constrained by 1) limited local autonomy, 2) financial shortages, 3) exclusion of participatory groups, and 4) lack of access to information. These four challenges are explained in greater detail below.

Lack of financial capital

Along with administrative and democratic components, fiscal components are also essential to Uganda's decentralization reform. Though the authorities over budgets have been given to local actors, the current literature suggests LGs lack the financial resources to execute this authority. According to a study by the Ministry of Local Government, funds do not add up to the service delivery requirements of LGs leading to a continuous cycle of funding gaps. Part of this funding gap is due to the low collection of local taxes and fees. Revenues that are generated locally are used for salaries and the allowances of the council itself as opposed to services for the local populations (Francis & James, 2003). Another source for funding apart from locally generated revenue is central funds of three kinds: unconditional grants, conditional grants, and equalization grants. The majority of these funds are conditional limiting financial freedom and leading to the next constraint of a limited local autonomy (Ahman, Brosio, & Gonzalez, 2006)

Limited local autonomy

Scholars on the subject have highlighted the connection between financial freedom and local autonomy. Francis James (2003) notes "the extent to which elected local representations actually control district finances free from central interference is fundamental to the realization of local autonomy" (p. 326) As noted above, the LGs of Uganda are financially strained. This presence of a weak local revenue base works to undermine local decision making, as transfers from the central government will typically dominate the budget. It is not the transfer, however, that is problematic but the conditions set by the respective line ministries which are frequently attached. It is a tactic that ensures funds are used properly in alignment with national priorities and rooted in the presumption of weak financial management and capacity at the local level (Stephenson, 2004). The result of this is a previously established policy agenda, which may aligns itself with national priorities but only minimally involves the LGs in the agenda setting process.

An exclusion of disenfranchised groups in citizen participation

Decentralization aims to increase popular participation in decision-making and strengthen the relationship between the LGs and its constituents yet the academic discussion suggests a lack of participation linkages between LGs and citizens. This is particularly relevant for disenfranchised groups such as the poor, the youth, or the disabled (Steffensen, 2004). Reasons for this include limited citizen attendance at public meetings, high opportunity costs of attending meetings, and lack of understanding of political processes as well as individual political rights (Steiner, 2006). Disadvantaged members do not typically attend sub-county level meetings where most decisions are made because they cannot afford the costs of travel, missed work, among others. Rather it is often the well-off population who are in attendance. A study conducted by Francis and James (2003) in “Balancing Rural Poverty Reduction and Citizen Participation under Uganda’s Decentralization Program revealed that the new structures did not render a participatory system of local governance. According to David Watson’s study (2005) on decentralization, the “poor are infrequently consulted on their priorities...the poor have useful things to say but unfortunately rarely anyone is listening” (pp. 7). Decentralization may promote participatory planning but there is a majority of Uganda’s population who are not heard.

Lack of access to information

Another contributing factor to the exclusion referred to above is the lack of access to information. Susan Steiner’s study, which includes over 30 expert interviews and several sub-county councilors, suggest people have not fully grasped what decentralization entails and do not understand their new rights and duties within this framework. In addition to the understanding of the overall structure, there is a lack of access to the programs, policies, and interventions that happen within this structure. The Ministry of GLSD noted that the youth specifically do not have access to information pertaining policies intended to benefit them (Bagenda, 2004). The citizens are not the only ones to face this challenge; it is a two-track system. Government officials lack information regarding their constituents’ needs as well. It is likely that an increase of information flows from citizens to the government as well as the government to the citizens will increase citizen participation therefore strengthening the potential outcomes of decentralization in Uganda. So long as the above challenges persist and exist, Uganda will not reap the benefits of a decentralized government. Part two of this post will examine the necessary policy interventions

to overcome these challenges in Uganda. Specific focus will be placed on current initiatives being implemented by the government or being pursued by civil society organizations. Stay tuned.

Lack of Education and experience

In addition to the lack of access to information, local governments also struggle with a shortage of educated and experienced manpower. Both politicians and civil servants are often inadequately trained, which is not surprising given the relatively low level of education in Uganda. With regard to the administrative and service provision structures, there is a general lack of civil servants, such as accountants, planners, engineers, teachers, and health workers, and remote areas face particular difficulties to recruit and maintain educated personnel. Subsequently, delays and inconsistencies in the planning and budgeting as well as poor service delivery are prevalent in many local governments. Price Waterhouse Coopers (2003).

Corruption, Patronage, and Clientelism

The fact that the principles of decentralization are not yet fully comprehended bears the risk “for the process of decentralization to degenerate into a scramble for local influence and local power” (MoLG, 2004: 4). Francis and James (2003: 336) note that under the conditions on the ground “those with vested interests are capable of turning the institutions and opportunities created through decentralization to their own advantage.” Essentially, this implies that there is wide scope for corruption, patronage, clientelism, and elite capture. But caution must prevail here. Knowledge about the incidence of these practices is restricted by their sensitive nature, and general conclusions should not be drawn from single cases. It is sometimes believed that decentralization has led to a mere dispersion of corruption, “redefining the character of corrupt relationships from those controlled by the center to those controlled by district-level officials” (Watt et al., 1999: 48). However, contentions that corruption is higher at the local level may be influenced by perception distortions since local corruption may simply be more visible (Martinez-Vazquez et al., 2004). Even though it is hard, if not impossible, to tell whether there is more or less corruption today, decentralization is likely to have increased the number of people with access to public resources. But it is equally likely to have decreased the amounts used for private gain. Quantitative evidence on the incidence of corruption is very hard to find but the Second National Integrity Survey analyzed by Deininger and Mpuga (2005) and the NSDS

opponents by offering them political jobs that do not enhance service delivery. It would possibly make sense to reduce the number of districts and form larger provincial administrative units provide greater political oversight, cut administrative costs and allow for unified planning over a larger jurisdiction.

Gaps in service delivery

While the general objectives of decentralization were to respond to local needs, existing data show no improvement in social services or quality of life for local communities (Jeppsson and Okuonzi, 2000). In fact, many indicators have either remained the same or worsened. For example, a large proportion of Uganda's population still lives below the poverty line, with 25% living in absolute poverty (UBOS 2011). Yet improvements in the health sector were expected to deliver better access to health services, better quality of health care and, ultimately, a decline in the rate of illness and death (Bashasha et al 2011). As many people cannot afford private medical services, the government of Uganda decentralized free health services to districts and to health sub-districts (health centers). However a recent study by ACODE (2010), found numerous problems facing health care provision in the health centres, including poor funding of healthcare services, in erratic drug distribution, and minimal transparency in the use of drugs and medicines; chronic shortage of trained health workers especially at lower tier health centers; Lack of appropriate medical equipment; and that funds intended for health facilities were used for administrative costs.

Consequently, healthcare services remains out of reach of the in the rural areas and decentralization has not led to improved services. Ssonko Uganda's decentralization – a role model? CJLG November 2013 42 In education, since the inception of the Universal Primary Education (UPE) programme in 1997, enrolment rose from 5.3million children in 1996 to 7.6 million in 2003 (MoES, 2005), but without a corresponding increase in infrastructure or staffing. Children in the final classes of UPE often find problems in reading and writing which reflects the poor quality of education in the UPE schools, which are the majority of schools in many districts. Therefore, enhancing the output and quality of education in schools, especially those that serve the poor, is essential for the successful implementation of decentralization in Uganda

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the research design and methodology. It involves techniques and methods of sampling and data collection, processing and analysis.

3.2 Research design

The researcher used descriptive research designs particularly the survey research designs where the information was obtained systematically using questionnaires and interviews. This specific design was selected to assist the researcher in investigating the impact of decentralization on poverty eradication in local governments in Uganda

3.3 Population of the study

The population composed of mostly the youths from the 4 parishes and 29 villages that make up Iganga municipal council. This area was selected because mainly the youth in the district are highly faced with poverty and low levels of economic development such as lack of meaningful economic activities which has made the youth of Iganga municipal council to be the right area for conducting the research this research. This research considered a target population of 40 respondents living within Iganga municipal council

3.4 Sample size

The sample size was determined using Slovene's formula of determining sample size as below

Sloven formula = it's a random sampling technique formula to estimate sampling size

$$N = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

Where,

n- Sampling size

N-Total population

E-Level of confidence

But $N = 45$

$e = 0.05$

Therefore sample size, $n = 45 / 1 + 45(0.05)^2$

$$n = 45 / 1 + 45(0.0025)$$

$$n = 40$$

Thus sample size (n) = 40 respondents

3.5 Sampling techniques

This study used purposive sampling technique. This technique was used because of its effectiveness as it only selected individuals with the knowledge relevant to the study. In this regard, the researcher selected people who had attained a specific level of education, and were deemed to have knowledge that would support the study.

3.6 Data collection methods

Data collection was from two main sources, that is to say- primary and secondary sources. Secondary sources included relevant documents, books and reports while primary sources collected data from selected respondents through face to face interviews.

3.7 Data collection instruments

3.7.1 The questionnaire

A semi-structured questionnaire was the main instrument of the study that was administered to the selected groups of people in Iganga municipal council. The questionnaire was designed according to likert scale to explore key variables of the impact of decentralization on poverty alleviation in Iganga district. The researcher employed the use of this method because of its ability to gather information within a short period of time.

3.7.2 Interview

The study also employed the use of interviews. These included face to face discussions between the researcher and the respondents. Interviews were used during when the respondents gave excuses of not having enough time to answer the questionnaires.

3.8 Validity and reliability of the research instruments

The validity and reliability of the research instrument was established by expert judgment method as proposed by Gay (2000). Thus the researcher sought expert advice on how to go about designing research instruments. The researcher was assisted by senior lecturers and professors in the college of humanities and social sciences who reviewed the questionnaire and the interview guide to ensure that they all answer the research objectives.

3.9 Data quality control

Data quality was arrived at continuous consultations with my supervisor and some other senior lecturers in the field of research. The data collected in the field was cross checked to ensure that the behavior patterns match with those filled in the questionnaires.

3.10 Data processing and analysis procedures

The data that was collected by the use of questionnaires was entered into the computer, edited and coded to minimize errors. It was further grouped into tables, analyzed, discussed and conclusions were made. The collected information was gathered, tabulated and summarized using average scores. The data was subsequently interpreted to justify the effect of decentralization on poverty alleviation in Iganga municipal council, Iganga district.

3.11 Ethical Considerations

The researcher obtained a letter from the head of social work and social administration which served as an introduction to the different respondents which the researcher interviewed and distributed questionnaires to. The supervisor and the college of humanities and social sciences were all informed about the procedures of the research. The information was gathered and made available to all the people who did not participate directly in this research. Additionally, the highest degree of secrecy was exhibited and the respondents were kept anonymous.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

4.0 Introduction:

This chapter basically presents the results of the study using the primary methods of data collection, which included the use of questionnaires and interviews. This study targeted 45 respondents from which only 40 respondents were selected using purposive sampling. This sampling was employed because of its effectiveness in ensuring that all the individuals selected had the knowledge relevant to the study. The results of this research were as below

4.1 Bio data of the respondents

The different respondents that were sampled had disparities in their levels of education, age, marital status, and sex. The following results were obtained from the questionnaires and interview guides that were distributed to the respondents in Iganga municipality, Iganga district.

4.1.1 Sex of the respondents

Sex was a strong variable during the selection of the respondents. The results on the sex of the respondents were tabulated and expressed as percentages as in the Table 4.1

Table 4.1 shows the sex of the respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	14	35
Female	26	65
TOTAL	40	100

Source: primary data 2017

From table 4.1, it is evident that more females than males participated in this study as per the research findings, 26 out of the 40 respondents that participated in this research were females representing a percentage of 65. The males that participated were 14 out the 40 respondents also represented by a percentage of 35. These findings are an indication that females got more

concerned when it came to issues affecting their district that their male counterparts who gave excuses of not having enough time to respond to the questions

4.1.2 Age of the respondents

The researcher also deemed age worth capturing. The Age of the respondents were tabled as in Table 4.2

Table 4.2 shows the age of the respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
18-25 years	9	22.5
26-35 years	15	37.5
36-55 years	6	15
Total	40	100

Source: primary data 2017

Table 4.2 shows that 50 percent of the respondents were between age group of 26 and 35 years. The percentage of respondents that were between the age group of 18 and 25 was 30 while another 20 percent of the respondents fell in the age bracket of 35 and 55 years. This shows that all the respondents were not minors and had acquired some level of understanding thus the findings were highly reliable.

4.1.3 The marital status of the respondent

Data on marital status was obtained as in Table 4.3

Table 4.3 shows the marital status of the respondents

Marital Status	Frequency	Percentage
Single	23	57.5
Married	15	37.5
Divorced	2	5
Total	40	100

Source: primary data 2017

Table 4.3 shows that 23 out of the 40 respondents were single. A certain percentage of the singles however stayed with wives but had not legalized their marriages. Those who had

legalized their marriages were 15 out of 40 representing a percentage of 37.5 while only 5 percent of the respondents had divorced from their marriages.

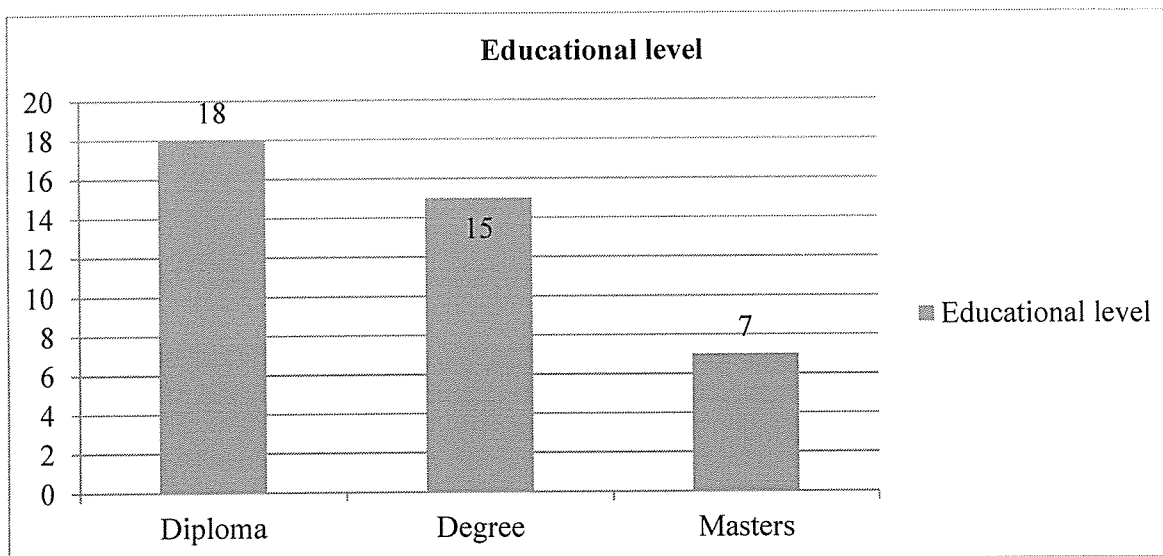
4.1.4 The educational Level of the respondents

The respondents that participate in this study also had disparities in educational level and their results were tabulated as in Table 4.4

Level of education	Frequency	Percentage
Diploma	18	45
Degree	15	37.5
Masters	7	17.5
Total	40	100

Source: primary data 2017

Figure 4.3 shows the educational level o the respondents



Source: primary data 2017

Figure 4.3 and tale 4.4 shows that the majority o respondents who participate in this study had completed diplomas in deferent disciplines of study representing a percentage of 45. Those ho ha

complete degrees were 15 representing a percentage of 37.5. The least number of respondents that is to say 7 had completed masters programs in different disciplines at various universities and these were represented by a percentage of 17.5. The findings show that all the participants were literate and had acquired a certain level of education which makes it possible that the results of this research are highly reliable.

4.2 The general causes o poverty in Uganda

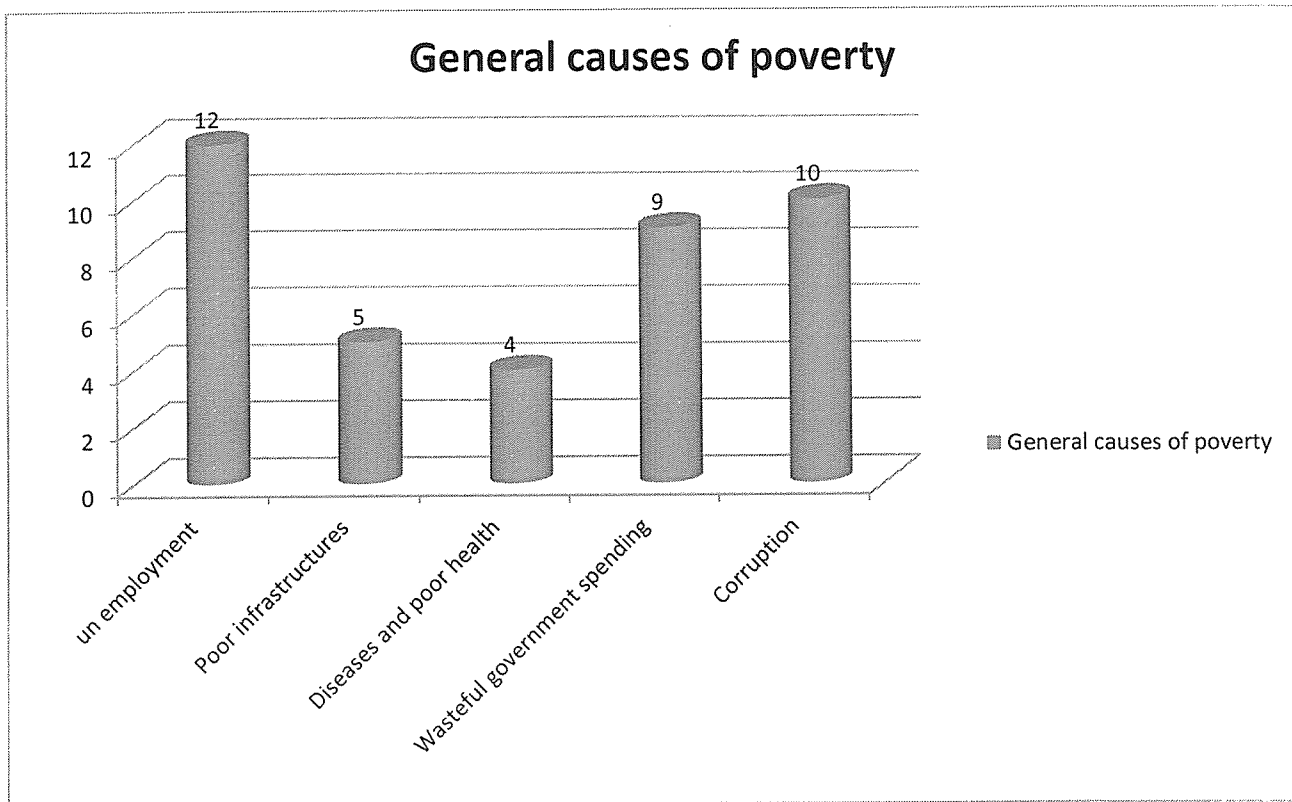
This is one of the objectives which the researcher sought to find out. Results on the general causes of poverty as identified by the respondents were as follows:

Table 4.5 shows the general causes of poverty in Uganda

Causes of Poverty	Frequency	Percentage
Un employment	12	30
Poor infrastructures	5	12.5
Diseases and poor health	4	10
wasteful government spending	9	22.5
corruption	10	25
Total	40	100

Source: primary data 2017

Figure 4.4 shows the general causes of poverty in Uganda



Sources: primary data 2017

From figure 4.4 and table 4.5, it can be seen that unemployment is the major cause of poverty according to this study as 30 percent of the respondents believed the lack of jobs by many Ugandans intensifies the poverty levels in Uganda. Also 25 percent of the respondents said that corruption remains the major cause of poverty in Uganda while another 22 percent believed in wasteful government expenditures. The percentage of respondents who said that diseases and poor health pose a high threat to the poverty levels of the country was 10 while the rest that is to say 12.5 percent of the respondents believed in the lack of good infrastructures as the major cause of poverty in Uganda. These findings are an indication that the government of Uganda is not doing enough to minimize the poverty levels in the country.

4.3 Impact of decentralization on poverty alleviation in Iganga municipal council, Iganga district

Findings on the impact of decentralization on poverty alleviation in Iganga municipal council were also tabulated and analyzed and the results were as follows in table 4.6

Tale 4.6 shows the impact of decentralization on poverty alleviation in Iganga municipal council, Iganga district

Impact of decentralization on poverty eradication	Frequency	Percentage
Provides increased opportunities for people to participate in decision making	11	27.5
Brings about good governance	4	10
Increased access to social services	7	17.5
Ensures efficient allocation of resources	12	30
Leads to higher accountability of public official	6	15
Total	40	100

Source: primary data 2017

From table 4.5, it is evident that decentralization can have a profound impact as far as poverty alleviation in Iganga district is concerned. According to the findings, 30 percent o the respondents said decentralization has led to efficient allocation of resources in the district, a decision that has served to create jobs or the people living within the municipal. This study also pointed out that decentralization reduces poverty by providing increase opportunities for the people to participate in decisions that affect them (28 percent). The percentage of respondents who said decentralization reduces poverty by increasing the accountability of public officials was

15 while those who believed that decentralization has promoted good governance, which ultimately facilitates revenue raising power hence effective budgeting and poverty reduction were 10 percent of the sample size. This research also pointed out that decentralization has increased access to social infrastructures something that has created an atmosphere for investment and more industrialization hence reducing poverty levels. (18 percent of the respondents believed in this)

4.4 Challenges faced in the implementation of decentralization programs in Iganga municipal council

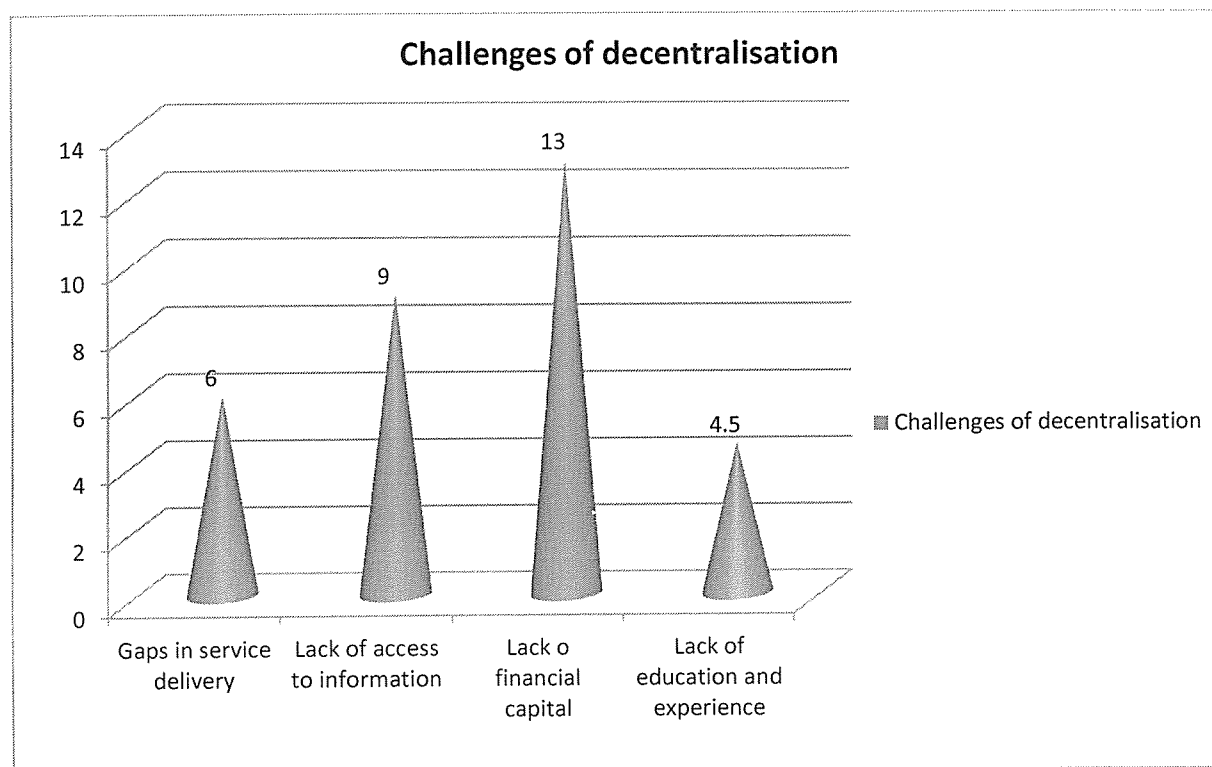
This study also sought to identify the challenges that constrain the effective implementation of decentralization programs and the results were analyzed as in table 4.7

Table 4.7 shows the challenges during the implementation of decentralization programs in Iganga

Challenge	Frequency	Percentage
Gaps in service delivery	6	15
Lack of access to information	9	22.5
Lack of financial capital	13	32.5
Lack of education and experience	12	30
Total	40	100

Source: primary data 2017

Figure 4.6 shows the challenges of decentralization



Source: primary data 2017

Table 4.7 and Figure 4.6 show that the successful implementation of decentralization programs in Uganda is frustrated by a multitude of constraints including the lack of access to information relating to successful implementation of decentralization programs at the local governments. This challenge as buttressed by 22.5 percent of the sample size. Other sections of the respondents that is to say 32.5 percent and 30 percent believed that the lack of financial capital, education and experience respectively are the major constraints of decentralization in Uganda. This study also pointed out that there are still gaps in Uganda's service delivery, something that has impeded the successful implementation of decentralization programs in Uganda. This fact was supported by 22.5 percent of the respondents. These findings are an indication that the government of Uganda has a lot of issues to sort to ensure the successful implementation of decentralization programs

4.5 Measures to reduce poverty levels in Uganda

The researcher also deemed it necessary to establish the possible measures to reduce the poverty levels in the country and the findings were as follows in table 4.8

Table 4.8 shows the possible measures to reduce poverty

Measures to reduce poverty	Frequency	Percentage
Embracing agriculture	9	22.5
Access to credit facilities	6	15
Infrastructural development	15	37.5
Industrialization	10	25
Total	40	100

Source: primary data 2017

Table 4.8 shows that 37.5 percent of the respondents suggested that infrastructural development is the only way to go in reducing poverty levels in the country is concerned. These were followed by another 25 percent who said industrialization could help reduce poverty levels. Embracing of agriculture and access to credit facilities according to this study could also alleviate poverty levels in Uganda with 22.5 and 15 percent of the respondents suggesting these measures respectively.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary of the findings, conclusions, recommendations and areas for further study

5.1 Summary of the findings

The research findings show the majority of respondents that participate in the study were females representing a percentage of 65. The males that participated were only 35 percent. These findings show that gender was evenly distributed during the study. As per the findings, the majorities of respondents were between the age brackets of 26-35 years and were still single at the time of the study.

Moreover, the findings further show that all the respondents that participated in this study had acquired education to a considerable level. Most of them had complete diplomas, degrees and masters representing percentages of 45, 37.5 and 17.5. These findings are an indication that all the respondents that were consulted by the researcher had some knowledge about decentralization and poverty alleviation.

This study also sought to investigate the general causes of poverty in Uganda and found out that unemployment is the major cause of unemployment in the country. This is because 30 percent of the respondents pointed out that many Ugandans are poor because they cannot find jobs despite their willingness to work. 22.5 percent of the respondents mentioned wasteful government spending as the major cause of poverty in Uganda while those who believed in the lack of good infrastructures as a major contributor to the high levels of poverty were 12.5 percent. The other causes of poverty that were identified by this study were corruption and poor infrastructures representing percentages of 25 and 10 respectively.

This research also focused on investigating the impact of decentralization on poverty alleviation and according to the findings in this regard, it is evident that decentralization can have a profound impact as far as poverty alleviation in Iganga district is concerned. According to the findings, 30 percent of the respondents said decentralization has led to efficient allocation of resources in the district, a decision that has served to create jobs for the people living within the

municipal. This study also pointed out that decentralization reduces poverty by providing increase opportunities for the people to participate in decisions that affect them (28 percent). The percentage of respondents who said decentralization reduces poverty by increasing the accountability of public officials was 15 while those who believed that decentralization has promoted good governance, which ultimately facilitates revenue raising power hence effective budgeting and poverty reduction were 10 percent of the sample size. This research also pointed out that decentralization has increased access to social infrastructures something that has create an atmosphere for investment and more industrialization hence reducing poverty levels.

In addition, this research identified a multitude of challenges hinder the implementation of decentralization programs including the lack of financial capital, limited access to information, corruption, the lack of necessary educated and experienced personnel to handle decentralization and gaps in service delivery however 37.5 percent of the respondents suggested that infrastructural development is the only way to go in reducing poverty levels in the country is concerned. These were followed by another 25 percent who said industrialization could help reduce poverty levels. Embracing of agriculture and access to credit facilities according to this study could also alleviate poverty levels in Uganda with 22.5 percent and 15 percent of the respondents suggesting these measures respectively.

5.2 Conclusion

Based on the research findings, the researcher draws a conclusion that decentralization to a larger extent has an impact in poverty alleviation in Iganga Municipal Council, Iganga district. This fact is buttressed by the fact that an overwhelming majority of the respondents said decentralization had a profound impact on poverty levels in the country. It should however be noted that the successful implementation of decentralization programs according to the study is impeded by a multitude of challenges. This is a call for immediate action on the side of the government in order to mitigate these challenges to enable local governments alleviates or even eradicate poverty in Uganda.

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APPENDIX 1
RESEARCH QUESTIONNAIRE

I am **SAMANYA JOSEPH** a student pursuing a bachelor's degree in social work and social administration at Kampala International University in my final year. I am carrying out a research on the role effect of decentralization on poverty alleviation in Iganga` municipal council, Iganga district. I therefore request for your participation in this study and your responses will be handled with utmost confidentiality

Dear respondent, I request you to fill in this questionnaire for the purpose of my academic research and all the information given will be treated with the secrecy it deserves for purely academic purposes.

SECTION A

Demographic characteristics of the respondents

1. Age

(a) 18-25 years

(b) 26-35 years

(b) 36-55 years

2. Sex

a) Male

b) Female

3. Marital status

a) Single

b) Married

(c) Divorce

4. Level of education

(a) Diploma

(b) Degree

(c) Masters

Section B: *The Impact of Decentralization on Poverty Alleviation in Iganga Municipal Council.*

5. Do you think decentralization has any impact on poverty alleviation?

a) Yes

b) No

6. What do you think is the major cause o poverty in Uganda

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7. How does decentralization impact poverty alleviation in iganga municipal council?

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8. What are the challenges of implementing decentralization programs in Iganga municipal council

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9. What measures can be undertaken to reduce the poverty levels in Uganda

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END