
**STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT, RISK MANAGEMENT AND SUSTAINABILITY
OF UWEP PROJECTS IN KUMI DISTRICT**

BY

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DECLARATION

I, **Akello Deborah**, declare that this research dissertation is my original work and has never been submitted for an award to any higher Institution of learning.

Signed.....

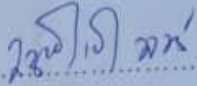
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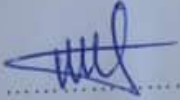
This is to certify that this Research dissertation titled; Communication, Accountability and Quality Service Delivery in district local governments in Teso sub-region has been written under our supervision as university supervisors.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to the entire Family of Mr. Opio Moses for the support they rendered me during the time of my research May the Almighty God bless them all.

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the influence of stakeholder involvement and risk management on the sustainability of Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Programme (UWEP) projects in Kumi District. Specifically, the study examined the effect of stakeholder involvement on project sustainability; assessed the effect of stakeholder involvement on risk management; determined the effect of risk management on project sustainability; evaluated the mediating role of risk management in the relationship between stakeholder involvement and project sustainability. The study was anchored on the agency theory and stakeholder theory. The study adopted a cross-sectional design and employed a quantitative approach. The population comprised 192 UWEP projects, from which a sample of 127 projects was drawn, and 88 usable questionnaires were returned representing a response rate of 69.2%. Prior to data collection, the research instrument was tested for reliability and validity to ensure accuracy and was found to be both valid and reliable. Collected data were analyzed using SPSS, employing descriptive statistics, correlation, regression, and mediation analyses. Findings revealed that stakeholder involvement and risk management significantly influence project sustainability. The findings also revealed that stakeholder involvement significantly affect risk management. The findings further indicated that risk management partially mediates the relationship between stakeholder involvement and project sustainability. The study concludes that active stakeholder participation and effective risk management are critical drivers of sustainable project outcomes. These results provide empirical insights for policymakers and practitioners seeking to enhance the sustainability of development projects through stakeholder-centered and risk-informed approaches.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This chapter entails background Information, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, objectives of the study, hypotheses, scope of the study, significance of the study conceptual framework.

1.1 Background of the Study

Project sustainability has become a critical benchmark for successful development interventions (OECD, 2022). Project sustainability refers to the capacity of a project to maintain its benefits and operations over time after donor funding or external support has ended (UNDP, 2021). It emphasizes the long-term continuity of project outcomes, ensuring that the initial investments continue to yield value and impact for beneficiaries (OECD, 2022). Scholars have conceptualized project sustainability through various dimensions, including institutional sustainability, financial sustainability as well as community sustainability (Ika et al., 2020; Marcellus & Ngoma, 2023). These dimensions provide a comprehensive framework for assessing and enhancing the sustainability of development interventions.

Development projects around the world face significant sustainability challenges that undermine their long-term effectiveness and success. A 2019 report by the European Court of Auditors highlighted that over 70% of projects funded under Horizon 2020 did not meet their sustainability targets (European Court of Auditors, 2019). In Asia, the Three Gorges Dam in China, while touted as a major infrastructure achievement, has been plagued with sustainability issues with over 20% of the reservoir's planned hydroelectric output being lost and the dam has failed to meet long-term energy generation goals (Zhao, 2020). In the America, a study on Latin American infrastructure projects by the World Bank in 2021 found that over 40% of large-scale

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