

# Community Participation and Rural Development in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District, Uganda

<sup>1</sup>Kabiri Charles, <sup>2</sup>Ssemwogerere Deogratius, <sup>3</sup>Musoke Matthew

<sup>1,2,3</sup>School of Graduate Studies and Research (SGSR), Team University, P.O. Box 8128 Mengo, Kabaka A'njagala Road, Kampala, Uganda

Authors E-mail: [charleskabiri330@gmail.com](mailto:charleskabiri330@gmail.com), [ssemwogererede@gmail.com](mailto:ssemwogererede@gmail.com), [mattheaum@gmail.com](mailto:mattheaum@gmail.com)

**Abstract** - This study was set to examine the relationship between community participation and rural development in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District, Uganda. The specific objectives were to examine the relationship between community involvement in decision making and rural development in Hoima District, to assess the relationship between community communication and rural development in Hoima District and to establish the relationship between community resource mobilization and rural development in Hoima District. A descriptive comparative, correlational, and cross-sectional survey design was employed to collect primary data from 350 household heads in Buhanika Sub County, selected using purposive and simple random sampling techniques. The data collection instruments included questionnaires with sections on demographic characteristics, community participation variables, and rural development outcomes. Data analysis involved Univariate analysis, Pearson's Correlation, and Multiple Regression to explore relationships and predictive factors between community participation and rural development. The correlation between community involvement in decision making and rural development was ( $r=0.463$ ). This indicates a moderate positive correlation between these two variables. With a positive correlation, it suggests that as community involvement in decision making increases, rural development also tends to increase, and vice versa. The correlation between communications and rural development was ( $r=0.651$ ). This shows a significant positive relationship between communication and rural development in Hoima City. The correlation was ( $r= 0.708$ ) between community resource mobilization and rural development. This indicates a strong positive correlation between these variables in Hoima District. This suggests that as community resource mobilization efforts increase, there is a corresponding increase in rural development outcomes within the district. Recommendations were made to strengthen community engagement, enhance communication channels, foster resource mobilization initiatives, build capacity, promote collaborative partnerships, implement sustainable development practices, monitor progress, and advocate for policy

changes that support community-driven rural development efforts.

**Keywords:** community, participation, development, partnership.

## I. INTRODUCTION

This study aimed to examine the relationship between community participation and rural development in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District, Uganda. The specific objectives were to examine the relationship between community involvement in decision making and rural development in Hoima District, to assess the relationship between community communication and rural development in Hoima District and to establish the relationship between community resource mobilization and rural development in Hoima District.

The colonial era significantly shaped the socio-economic landscape of many African countries. Colonial powers often exploited natural resources without prioritizing local development. This era left a lasting impact on rural areas, where communities were often marginalized and lacked access to resources (Nyirenda et al., 2020). After gaining independence in the mid-20th century, African nations sought to address the challenges left by colonialism. However, rural development efforts were often insufficient or mismanaged. Governments faced the task of rebuilding and developing rural areas, and various models of community participation emerged during this time (Mlambo, 2020).

Many African countries adopted structural adjustment programs under the guidance of international financial institutions. These programs aimed to stabilize economies but often led to reduced public spending on social services, impacting rural development. Local communities became increasingly important in filling the gaps left by government actions (Dauda, 2020).

The Nigerian government initiated various rural development programs to address poverty and underdevelopment. However, some of these programs faced challenges due to issues such as corruption, mismanagement,

and insufficient community involvement (Eyisi, Lee, & Trees, 2021). Similarly the Tanzanian government, under leaders like Julius Nyerere, emphasized ujamaa (African socialism) and rural development. Various community-based initiatives were introduced to empower local communities and promote self-reliance (Abukari & Mwalyosi, 2020). The Kenyan government also launched several rural development programs to address issues like poverty and inequality. Community participation became a key focus, with efforts to involve local communities in decision-making processes (Husy, 2021).

NGOs and Civil Society emerged in the late 20th century. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations played an increasingly vital role in rural development both in Uganda and other developing countries. These entities often focused on community-driven initiatives, emphasizing the importance of local knowledge and participation (Dijkzeul, 2021).

The late 20th century also witnessed the advent of technologies that could potentially bridge gaps in rural development. However, the digital divide and unequal access to technology presented challenges. Globalization also influenced rural areas, impacting traditional ways of life and necessitating adaptive strategies (Hashim et al., 2020).

With the international community's commitment to the SDGs, including goals related to poverty reduction and sustainable development, there has been a renewed emphasis on community participation in shaping development agendas. African nations have made efforts to align their strategies with these global goals (Kirabira, 2021).

Community-based initiatives gained prominence as part of rural development strategies in Uganda. The government, NGOs, and international agencies emphasized community participation as a key element in the design and implementation of development projects (Jatho et al., 2020). The importance of community participation in rural development gained recognition at the policy level. Uganda adopted decentralization policies that aimed to empower local communities in decision-making processes. This approach sought to enhance the role of communities in shaping their development trajectories, with a focus on sectors like agriculture, education, and healthcare (Wamara, Twikirize, Bennich, & Strandberg, 2023).

Despite the positive intentions, challenges persisted, including issues related to resource allocation, capacity building, and sustainable development. Access to education, healthcare, and infrastructure in rural areas remained focal points of concern (Owokuhausa, Rukundo, Wakida, Obua, & Buss, 2020).

By the early 2020s, Uganda continued to navigate the complexities of rural development. Innovations in technology and increased collaboration between government, NGOs, and local communities played roles in shaping new approaches to community participation and rural development (Otim & Mwesigwa, 2022).

The study was guided by capability approach that was developed by economist Amartya Sen and philosopher Martha Nussbaum (1980s). The capability approach focuses on enhancing individuals' capabilities to function and achieve well-being, emphasizing the importance of expanding people's real freedoms and opportunities in areas such as health, education, and participation in community and economic life (Nusseibeh, 2022). This approach aligns well with the goal of fostering sustainable development and empowering individuals in rural communities.

The capability approach focuses on the importance of enhancing people's capabilities, or their freedom to choose and pursue a life they value. It emphasizes that people's well-being should not be assessed solely based on their material living standards, but also on their opportunities and freedoms to achieve a life they have reason to value (Robeyns, 2021).

Community participation refers to the active involvement and input of community members in various decision-making processes and activities that affect their lives and well-being (Ntirandekura, 2022). This involvement takes place at the local, regional, or national level and can encompass a wide range of issues, such as local governance, education, healthcare, urban development, and environmental conservation (Owokuhausa et al., 2020).

Community participation is based on the principles of inclusivity, empowerment, and collaboration, aiming to ensure that the voices and perspectives of all community members are heard and considered in the planning and implementation of initiatives (Rahman, 2022). It involves engaging residents, community organizations, and stakeholders in identifying needs, setting priorities, designing interventions, and evaluating outcomes (Putra, Mutiani, Jumriani, & Handy, 2020).

By actively involving the community in decision-making and problem-solving, community participation can lead to more sustainable and effective solutions, as well as promote a sense of ownership, accountability, and trust among residents. It can also contribute to building social capital, strengthening community resilience, and fostering a sense of belonging and cohesion (Kumar, 2020).

In Hoima District, rural development face significant challenges due to limited access to essential services,

inadequate infrastructure, economic disparities, and a lack of sustainable livelihood opportunities (Guma *et al.*, 2022). Despite ongoing efforts such as involvement in volunteering and financial contributions, there exists a pressing need to comprehensively assess and address the impediments hindering sustainable progress in these domains. Issues such as inadequate infrastructure, limited access to education and healthcare, economic disparities, and environmental sustainability concerns persistently impact the well-being of the community members and the overall development trajectory of the rural areas within Hoima District.

According to Hoima District Performance Assessment Report (2023), infrastructure development was at 36%, education at 46%, healthcare at 38% and household income was below two dollars. This impedes the overall well-being, economic growth, and resilience of the communities, leading to persistent socio-economic inequality and hindered progress (Kweezi, 2023). A thorough investigation is essential to identify the root causes of these challenges, evaluate the efficacy of existing development initiatives, and formulate evidence-based strategies that foster holistic and inclusive community and rural development in Buhaniika Sub County, Hoima District. This study aims to illuminate the critical issues hindering progress, analyze the current development landscape, and propose actionable recommendations to cultivate enduring positive change in the region. This prompted the researcher to examine the relationship between community participation between rural developments in Hoima District.

### Community participation and rural development

Community participation is widely recognized as a crucial element in the process of rural development. This literature review aims to provide an in-depth analysis of the key concepts, theories, and empirical studies related to community participation and its impact on rural development. The review encompasses a broad range of disciplines, including sociology, economics, geography, and development studies, to present a holistic understanding of the subject.

Community participation refers to the active involvement and engagement of individuals, groups, and organizations within a community in decision-making processes, problem-solving, and activities that affect their collective well-being. It is a key aspect of participatory governance and democratic principles (Husy, 2021). Community participation emphasizes the idea that those who are directly affected by a decision or issue should have a voice in shaping the outcomes.

Community participation ensures that a diverse range of voices and perspectives are considered in the decision-making process. This inclusivity helps in creating more

comprehensive and representative solutions (Gamo & Park, 2022). By involving community members in decision-making, individuals and groups feel a sense of empowerment. This empowerment leads to increased self-confidence, motivation, and a greater sense of responsibility towards community development (Rahman, 2022).

Communities possess valuable local knowledge and insights that may not be evident to external parties. Involving community members allows for the incorporation of this local knowledge, contributing to more informed and context-specific decision-making (Kweezi, 2023). When individuals participate in the decision-making process, they are more likely to feel a sense of ownership over the outcomes. This sense of ownership can lead to increased commitment and accountability for the success of community initiatives (Robeyns, 2017).

Community participation builds social capital, fostering stronger relationships and networks within the community. Social capital is a valuable resource for addressing challenges, implementing projects, and creating a supportive environment (Jatho *et al.*, 2020). Engaging the community in problem-solving can lead to more effective and sustainable solutions. Local residents often have a deep understanding of the challenges they face and may propose innovative ideas for addressing them. Community participation aligns with democratic principles, promoting transparency, accountability, and the idea that decisions should be made collectively rather than imposed from external sources.

Methods of community participation can vary and may include town hall meetings, focus groups, surveys, community forums, and the establishment of community-based organizations. Governments, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders often work together to facilitate and encourage community participation in various initiatives (Rahman, 2022).

Rural development refers to the process of improving the economic, social, and environmental well-being of people living in rural areas. This involves a wide range of activities and initiatives aimed at addressing the specific needs and challenges faced by rural communities, such as limited access to infrastructure, healthcare, education, and economic opportunities (Harriss, 2023). Infrastructure development involves improving roads, bridges, water supply, and other essential facilities to enhance connectivity and access to basic services (Mollett, 2023).

Rural development is essential for reducing poverty, promoting inclusive growth, and ensuring balanced regional development within a country. It often involves a multi-sectoral approach, requiring coordination between government

agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local communities to achieve sustainable and inclusive development in rural areas (Torre, Wallet, & Huang, 2023).

Kenny *et al.* (2013) conducted a scoping review on community participation in rural health, identifying examples of higher-level community participation in rural healthcare from the international literature. The study aimed to map the existing evidence base on higher-level community design and found that fewer than 10% of the articles located focused on innovative research methods for rural community participation.

Another study by McTaggart *et al.* (2014) outlined the practical considerations in implementing community participation policy in rural health, discussing key challenges and potential solutions. The authors emphasized the importance of understanding the rural context and the complexities of community participation in non-rural settings.

In a study by Sugiyono *et al.* (2023), the authors examined the level of community participation and its enabling factors in Jambi Province, Indonesia. The study found that the impact of village government leadership, public services, and social media on community participation in village development was significant.

In conclusion, community participation is essential for rural development and healthcare. The literature highlights the challenges and opportunities in implementing community participation policies in rural settings, emphasizing the importance of understanding the local context and adapting policies accordingly.

### **Community involvement in decision making and rural development**

Community involvement in decision making refers to the active participation of community members in the processes that affect their lives. This includes participating in local government meetings, engaging in community organizations, providing input on development projects, and contributing to the decision-making process on issues that impact the community (Kumar, 2020).

Rural development refers to the process of improving the quality of life and economic well-being of people living in rural areas (Putra *et al.*, 2020). It involves enhancing infrastructure, promoting agricultural productivity, providing access to essential services such as healthcare and education, and creating economic opportunities for rural residents. Rural development aims to address the unique challenges and opportunities present in rural areas, with the goal of fostering sustainable growth and prosperity (Rahman, 2022).

Community involvement in decision making plays a crucial role in rural development as it enables community members to have a say in the development and implementation of projects, policies, and programs that affect their lives (Abukari & Mwalyosi, 2020). When community members are actively engaged in decision making, they are more likely to have a sense of ownership and empowerment, leading to greater commitment and participation in rural development initiatives (Harriss, 2023).

Community involvement in decision making fosters a collaborative approach to rural development, where local knowledge, perspectives, and priorities are taken into account, leading to more effective and sustainable development outcomes (Mwesigwa, 2022). It also helps to build trust and social cohesion within the community, which are important factors for successful rural development. Furthermore, community involvement in decision making can lead to more innovative and contextually relevant solutions to rural development challenges, as community members have a deep understanding of their local needs and resources (Ntirandekura, 2022).

Community participation is highlighted in health policy reform as good for rural communities, and the complexities of the rural environment are too self-determining communities capable of dealing with complex rural access and equity issues (Kenny, 2015). A stakeholder approach to community participation in rural development has been examined, and the implementation of a rural development project that has so far been judged a success (Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016). The overall success of rural development depends, therefore, to a large degree on local action taken by the rural population to complement outside development.

A study in Indonesia aimed to examine the level of community participation and its enabling factors, covering 277 rural communities selected (Pradhan *et al.*, 2014). The impact of social media, village government leadership, public services, community culture, and socio-economic status on community participation in village development were evaluated. The study found that community participation in rural development is influenced by various factors, including social media, village government leadership, public services, community culture, and socio-economic status. Therefore, community involvement in decision making and rural development is a complex issue influenced by various factors, and further research is needed to understand the best practices for involving communities in decision making and rural development.

Involving local communities in decision-making processes is a crucial aspect of rural development. It is widely

accepted that community participation is an essential element in achieving sustainable development (Axon, 2020). Community participation and community-based management are topical themes in current policy and discussion revolving around decision-making processes, especially those dealing with natural resources management. However, while governments have accepted the need to either cede or devolve control and management of natural resources to the local communities, the communities are not part and parcel of the planning and budgeting which are crucial in decision-making (Weingart, Joubert, & Connaway, 2021).

### **Community communication and rural development**

Communication refers to the exchange of information, ideas, and messages within a community or between different communities. It encompasses the various ways in which people interact, share information, and engage in dialogue to address common concerns, make decisions, and build relationships within a specific geographical or social group (Owokuhausa et al., 2020).

Communication promotes the dissemination of important news, announcements, and updates related to local events, initiatives, and issues. This can include information about community programs, services, opportunities, and challenges (Ramachandran, Jaggarajamma, Muniyandi, & Balasubramanian, 2006). Communication within a community helps to strengthen social connections, foster a sense of belonging, and promote inclusivity. It can create space for individuals to express their perspectives, share experiences, and celebrate the diversity of the community (Tanvatanakul, Amado, & Saowakontha, 2007).

Clear communication is vital for inclusive decision making within a community. It enables community members to engage in discussions, provide feedback, and participate in the decision-making processes that affect the community's development and well-being (Pinfold, 1999). Effective communication facilitates the resolution of conflicts and the mitigation of misunderstandings within a community. It provides a platform for open dialogue, negotiation, and the exploration of common ground to address disagreements and promote harmony (Xu, 2020).

Communication channels such as community meetings, newsletters, social media, and other forms of outreach help to encourage active civic participation. This can include involvement in local governance, volunteerism, and advocacy for community needs and priorities (Entradas et al., 2020).

According to Ramachandran (2006), effective communication channels help in disseminating information about government schemes, agricultural practices, healthcare,

education, and other developmental initiatives. This knowledge transfer is essential for rural communities to adopt modern and sustainable practices. Further, he adds that community communication fosters inclusivity by involving all members in decision-making processes. It empowers individuals, especially marginalized groups, to voice their concerns and contribute to local development plans.

Communication facilitates coordination among community members, local authorities, and non-governmental organizations. This coordination is vital for mobilizing resources and implementing development projects effectively (Wamara et al., 2023). Communication strengthens social networks within rural communities, fostering trust among members. Social capital is essential for collective action and collaboration in addressing common challenges and pursuing shared goals (Mitchell, 2017).

Communication links rural producers to markets, enabling them to access information about market trends, prices, and demand. This enhances economic opportunities for rural communities by connecting them to a broader economic network (Torre et al., 2023). Effective communication empowers rural communities to advocate for policies that address their specific needs. It provides a platform for expressing concerns and influencing decision-makers at various levels.

### **Community resource mobilization and rural development**

Community resource mobilization plays a crucial role in rural development by harnessing the collective efforts and resources of community members to address local challenges and pursue development initiatives (Kumar, 2020). This can involve pooling together financial resources, human capital, and local knowledge to support projects such as infrastructure development, agricultural improvements, education programs, healthcare services, and small business ventures (Ghosh et al., 2022). By actively involving the community in identifying needs, setting priorities, and contributing to solutions, resource mobilization can help foster sustainable development and empower local residents to shape their own future (Rahman, 2022).

Community resource mobilization is a process by which local communities actively gather and utilize their own resources to address development needs and improve their overall well-being. This concept is closely linked to rural development as it emphasizes the importance of community engagement, self-reliance, and sustainability (Harriss, 2023).

Community resource mobilization encourages local ownership of development initiatives. When communities actively participate in identifying, mobilizing, and managing

resources, it fosters a sense of empowerment. This empowerment is crucial for sustainable rural development, as it ensures that initiatives align with the community's priorities and needs (Pradhan *et al.*, 2014).

By mobilizing various resources such as financial contributions, labor, local materials, and skills within the community, rural areas can diversify their resource base. This diversification makes communities less dependent on external sources, enhancing their resilience and ability to withstand economic challenges (Wamara *et al.*, 2023). Mobilizing local resources often leads to the promotion of sustainable development practices. Communities are more likely to adopt environmentally friendly and culturally appropriate solutions when they actively participate in decision-making and resource management processes (Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016).

Community resource mobilization strengthens social capital by promoting collaboration and trust among community members. This social cohesion is valuable for successful implementation and maintenance of development projects in rural areas (Dijkzeul, 2021). Communities are better equipped to identify and address their specific needs when they mobilize their own resources. This ensures that development efforts are tailored to local priorities, whether they involve improving infrastructure, healthcare, education, or other aspects of rural life (Mitchell, 2017).

The process of resource mobilization involves the development of skills and capacities within the community. As individuals actively engage in planning, implementing, and managing projects, they acquire valuable experience and knowledge that can be applied to future initiatives, contributing to long-term rural development (Hu, 2022).

Social entrepreneurship and community mobilization in rural tourism have been identified as effective ways to improve the quality of life and promote community prosperity (Dahles, 2020). Additionally, the role of communities in resource mobilization and risk-sharing has been emphasized as a significant factor in rural development (Ohe, 2020). Furthermore, community mobilization is seen as a strategy for community-based inclusive development, aiming to empower communities and enable them to initiate and control their development (Nussbaum, 2017). Overall, the literature underscores the positive impact of community resource mobilization on rural development and the need for active engagement and participation of rural residents in various initiatives.

A literature review by BuenoMontaldo (2022) provides an overview of sustainable development approaches for rural development and poverty alleviation. The review covers the history of sustainable development, theoretical and conceptual

frameworks, key policy goals and dimensions, major institutions and players, and policy recommendations.

Another paper by Karki *et al.* (2019) examines how social mobilization initiatives influence local government performance in Nepal. The authors conducted extensive fieldwork in two rural villages and qualitatively analyzed how local government mobilized community people to empower them for effective participation in local planning and decision-making processes.

### Summary of literature

The literature review provides a comprehensive understanding of the capability approach, community participation, communication, and resource mobilization in the context of rural development. The capability approach, as developed by Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum, emphasizes the importance of focusing on individuals' capabilities and freedoms for meaningful development. Community participation is highlighted as a crucial element in the process of rural development, fostering inclusivity, empowerment, and sustainable solutions.

In the specific context of Hoima District, Uganda, several research gaps and opportunities for further investigation can be identified: While the capability approach has been discussed in a broader context, there is a need for research that specifically applies this framework to assess and enhance the well-being of individuals in Hoima District. Investigating the factors that influence capabilities and freedoms in the local context can provide valuable insights for development planning.

Understanding how community members in Hoima District perceive and engage in community participation is essential. Research could explore the factors influencing participation, barriers faced by different groups, and the effectiveness of existing community engagement initiatives.

Examining the communication channels and dynamics within Hoima District can contribute to effective decision-making processes. This could involve assessing the accessibility of information, the impact of various communication methods, and the role of social media in community engagement.

Investigating how community resource mobilization is practiced in Hoima District can shed light on the local strategies for addressing development needs. This could include understanding the types of resources mobilized, the challenges faced, and the impact on community-led initiatives.

Given the rich cultural context in Hoima District, exploring how traditional knowledge and practices contribute to rural development is crucial. Integrating indigenous perspectives into development strategies can enhance the sustainability and relevance of initiatives. Research should delve into the gender dimensions of community participation, communication, and resource mobilization in Hoima District. Understanding how gender influences access to resources, decision-making roles, and participation levels is vital for promoting gender-sensitive development.

Evaluating the outcomes of specific development initiatives in Hoima District can provide practical insights into

the effectiveness of community participation, communication strategies, and resource mobilization efforts. Comparative studies with other regions or cities in Uganda can help identify unique challenges and opportunities in Hoima District. Understanding regional variations can inform targeted interventions and policies.

In conclusion, addressing these research gaps in the context of Hoima District, Uganda, will contribute to a more nuanced understanding of community participation and rural development, ultimately leading to more effective and tailored strategies for sustainable development in the region.

## II. MATERIALS AND METHODS

### Location of the Study area

The study was conducted at Hoima District. Hoima District is bordered by Buliisa District to the north, Masindi District to the northeast, Kyankwanzi District in the east, Kikube District to the south and the Democratic Republic of the Congo across Lake Albert to the west. Hoima, the location of the District headquarters, is located approximately 230 kilometres (140 mi), by road, northwest of Kampala, the capital of Uganda and the largest city in that country. The coordinates of the City are: 01 24N, 31 18E. The study was specifically carried out in Buhimba Sub County. This subcounty has been selected due to its low level of development (Hoima District Local Government, 2020).

### Sketch Map of Showing the Location of Buhimba Hoima district (Study Area)

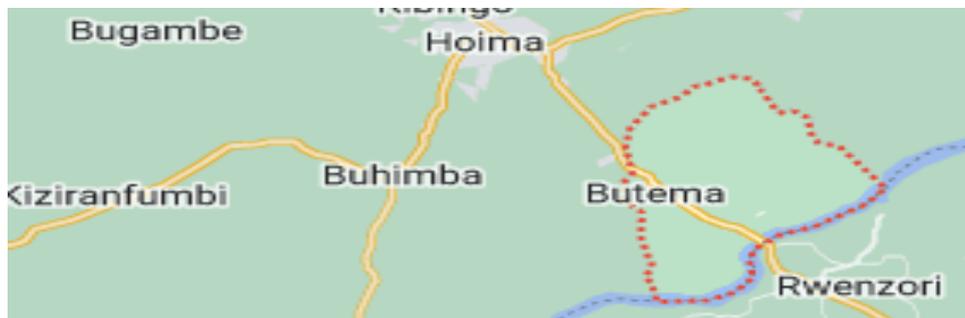


Figure 2.1: Location of study area

### Sampling

Purposive and simple random sampling methods were used to select District Area Councilors, the community development officer, the sub county chief and the sub county chairperson as respondents of the study. Simple random sampling technique was used to select household heads to participate in the study.

Table 3.1 Sample size distribution

Respondents	Target population	Sample size	Sampling technique
Sub county chiefs	01	01	Purposive sampling
LC3 Chairperson	01	01	
Community development officer	01	01	Purposive sampling
Household heads	4294	348	Simple random sampling
District councilors	03	03	Purposive sampling
<b>Total</b>	<b>4300</b>	<b>354</b>	

Source, Field consults (2024)

A descriptive comparative, correlational and cross sectional survey design was employed for this study. This was used to collect primary data from a large sample of respondents at the same point in time, which was used to establish the effect of community participation in rural development in Buhaniika Sub County, Hoima District. The study was also a mixed research by employing both quantitative and qualitative techniques in presenting and analyzing the collected data. The study was correlational in examining the relationship between study variables.

### III. DATA ANALYSIS

Data was analyzed for demographic characteristics of the study and objective by objective. Percentages, frequencies, means and standard deviations were used for Univariate analysis of the study variables. Pearson's Linear Correlation was used to examine the relationships in line with the study objectives of the study. Multiple regressions was used to examine the relationship between community participation and rural development in Buhaniika Sub County, Hoima District

The researcher used questionnaire and interview methods to collect primary data for the study from the respondents. The method was used in order to collect a lot of information in a short period of time from household heads.

Interview method was used to collect more detailed information from key respondents on the study. Validity of a research instrument refers to the extent to which it can truly measure the variables the researcher wants to measure. Instrument validity in this study was tested using face validity and content validity. In case of face validity, the question items in the instrument were checked by two senior lecturers at Team University (the supervisor and the research lecturer), who helped the researcher in assessing the questions and advise on how to eliminate unclear statements.

Data from the pilot study was entered into the computer Statistical Package for Social Scientist (SPSS) and a Cronbach Alpha Coefficient was computed (0.82) and was above the minimum of 0.7 as proposed by (Amin, 2005) hence the research instruments were declared reliable.

### IV. RESULTS

This study aimed to examine the relationship between community participation and rural development in Buhaniika Sub County, Hoima District, Uganda. The specific objectives were to examine the relationship between community involvement in decision making and rural development in Hoima District, to assess the relationship between community communication and rural development in Hoima District and to establish the relationship between community resource mobilization and rural development in Hoima District.

The findings of the study were presented in line with the research objectives to give a true picture and perception of the participants of the study in Hoima district. The findings were organized, coded and processed using Special Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software and are presented as follows.

#### **Response rate**

The sample size of the study was 354 household heads of from selected households in Buhaniika Sub County, Hoima District. Of the 354 selected household heads to participate in this study, 54 households were found locked with no one at home on the day of collecting the questionnaires. This reduced the sample size by 14.3%. However, the proportion is too small to change the findings of the study as 85.7% response was significant.

#### **Profile of the respondents**

The sample size of the study was 354 household heads of from selected households in Buhaniika Sub County, Hoima District. Of the 354 selected household heads to participate in this study, 54 households were found locked with no one at home on the day of collecting the questionnaires. This reduced the sample size by 14.3%. However, the proportion is too small to change the findings of the study as 85.7% response was significant.

**Background information of the respondents**

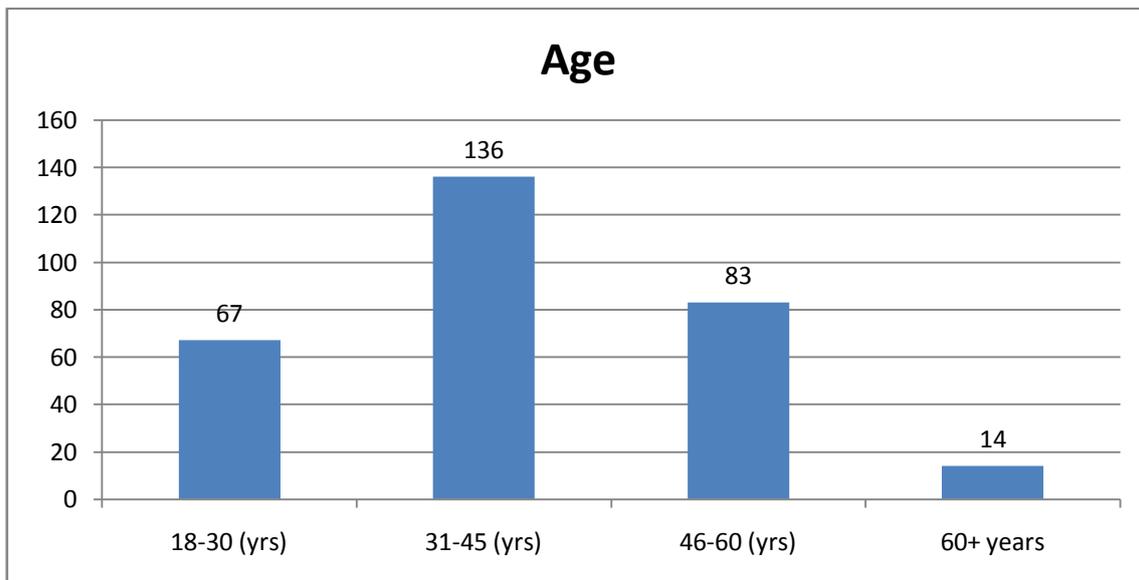
**Table 4.1: Gender of the Respondents**

category	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Male	120	40.0
Female	180	60.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: Primary Data (2024)

From the table 4.1, of the 300 respondents of the study, 180 were females and 120 were males. This shows that majority 60% of the respondents were females and 40% were males. This indicates a higher representation of female household heads in the sub-county compared to males. With 60% of the household heads being female, it suggests that women play a significant role in leading households in Buhanika Sub County. This could imply that women are actively involved in decision-making and management within households. The higher percentage of female household heads (60%) highlights the importance of women in the community as leaders and decision-makers, shaping the social dynamics and welfare of households in Buhanika Sub County.

**Age of the respondents**



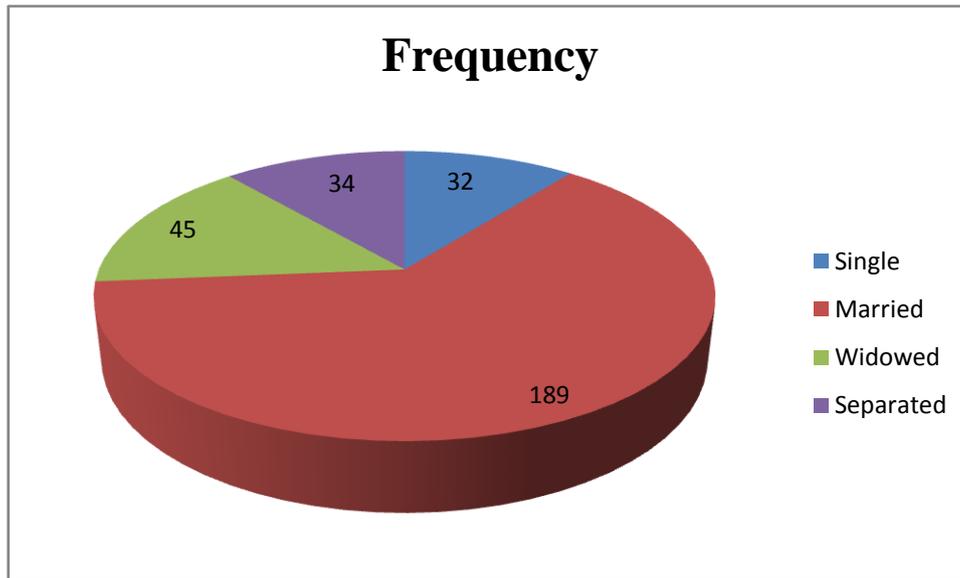
**Figure 4.1: Age of the house hold heads in Hoima District**

According to the findings based on figure 4.1 above, the largest proportion of household heads falls within the 31-45 age range, with 45.3% of the respondents in this category. This indicates that a significant portion of household heads in Hoima District is in their prime working age. The second largest age group is the 46-60 age range, representing 27.6% of the respondents. This suggests that there is also a considerable number of older household heads in the district.

The age group of 18-30 years, which comprised 22.3% of the respondents, represents a smaller proportion of household heads compared to the other two age groups. This indicates that younger individuals are not as prevalent in the role of household heads in the district. The smallest proportion of respondents is those above 60 years, at 5.6%. This suggests that there are relatively few household heads in the district that are elderly.

In conclusion, the data indicates that the age distribution of household heads in Hoima District is skewed towards the middle age groups, with a significant number of household heads in the 31-45 and 46-60 age ranges. This may have implications for labor participation, decision-making, and resource allocation within households in the district.

**Marital status**



**Figure 4.2: Marital status of respondents**

The findings from figure 4.2 showed that 189 of the respondents were married, 45 were widowed, 34 were separated and 32 were single.

The majority of household heads in the district are married, with 189 respondents falling into this category. This indicates that marriage is the most common marital status among household heads in the area. The second most common marital status among household heads is widowed, with 45 respondents classified as such. This suggests that there is a notable proportion of household heads who have lost their spouses in the district. The data also shows that a smaller number of household heads are separated (34 respondents) or single (32 respondents). This indicates that there are households in the district headed by individuals who are not currently married or living with a partner.

In conclusion, the data suggests that the majority of household heads in Hoima District are married, followed by widowed individuals. The presence of separated and single household heads, albeit in smaller numbers, also highlights the diversity of marital statuses within the district. These findings can have implications for family structures, social support networks, and decision-making processes among households in the area.

Figure 4, over 178 households selected for the study have dependents while 122 households no dependents. This shows that a big number of households in Hoima district that were selected for the study depend on their parents.

**Community Involvement in Decision Making and rural development in Buhanka Sub County, Hoima District**

The researcher used the Likert scale method to summarize the findings on the responses for the above section. The researcher used Likert scale where the answers were on a scale of 1 to 5. Where 1= Strongly Disagree, 2= Disagree, 3 = `Neutral, 4 = Agree and 5 = Strongly Agree. The table also includes the summary of the participant’s responses basing on percentages (%), frequency (F), standard deviation (std) and mean.

**Table 4.2: Descriptive Statistics on Community Involvement in Decision Making in Buhanka Sub County, Hoima District**

Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean	Std
Household members participate in choosing leaders	00	23	2	189	86	4.1	0.3
Leaders consult with the community on issues within the society	132	156	12	00	00	1.6	0.4
Beneficiaries of development projects are selected based on the will of the people	211	56	33	00	00	1.4	0.3

Community members are engaged in community meetings	00	223	00	77	00	2.5	0.2
Community consultations are done to community input and feedback	119	102	79	00	00	1.9	0.4
The community establishes its committees and councils	00	00	9	87	204	4.6	0.2
There is collaborative planning in creating solutions for the societal challenges	201	89	10	00	00	1.4	0.3
Leaders openly share information and provide feedback for informed decision-making	120	162		18		1.7	0.4

Source :Primary Data (2023)

According to findings in table 4.2 above, majority of participants (86%) agreed or strongly agreed that household members are involved in choosing leaders, with a mean score of 4.1. This indicates a high level of community involvement in the selection of leaders in Hoima District, which is essential for ensuring representative and accountable governance.

On the statement “Leaders consult with the community on issues within the society”. In this statement, 132 participants strongly disagreed, 156 were disagreed and 12 were neutral. The mean score of 1.6 suggests that there is room for improvement in terms of leaders engaging with the community for input and feedback, which is crucial for participatory decision-making and development.

On the statement “Beneficiaries of development projects are selected based on the will of the people”, majority of respondents (211) disagreed with this statement, indicating that beneficiaries of development projects are not necessarily chosen based on community preferences. This low level of community involvement in beneficiary selection is reflected in the low mean score of 1.4, highlighting an area that needs attention for more inclusive and community-driven development.

On the statement “Community members are engaged in community meetings”, most participants (77%) agreed or strongly agreed that community members are engaged in community meetings, with a mean score of 2.5. This suggests a relatively high level of participation in community gatherings, which can be a platform for discussion, collaboration, and decision-making on local development issues.

On the statement “Community consultations are done to gather community input and feedback”. In this statement, 119 participants strongly disagreed, 102 disagreed, and 79 were neutral. The mean score of 1.9 indicates that there is room for improvement in ensuring that community voices are heard and considered in decision-making processes.

The statement “The community establishes its committees and councils”, findings shows that majority of respondents (87%) agreed or strongly agreed that the community establishes its committees and councils, with a high mean score of 4.6. This indicates a strong sense of community organization and governance structures, which can facilitate grassroots participation and ownership in local development initiatives.

Findings on the statement “There is collaborative planning in creating solutions for societal challenges” showed that most participants (201) disagreed with the statement, while 89 were neutral, and 10 agreed or strongly agreed that collaborative planning exists for addressing societal challenges. The low mean score of 1.4 highlights a need for enhanced collaboration between different stakeholders in identifying and implementing solutions for community issues.

Findings on the statement “Leaders openly share information and provide feedback for informed decision-making” indicated that 120 participants strongly disagreed, 162 disagreed and 18 were neutral. The mean score of 1.7 indicates low level of transparency and communication from leaders, which is critical for fostering trust and accountability in decision-making processes.

Overall, the findings suggest varying levels of community involvement in decision-making and rural development in Buhaniika Sub County, Hoima District. While there are areas of strength such as household participation in choosing leaders and community establishment of committees, there are also areas for improvement such as leaders consulting with the community, involving the community in project beneficiary selection, and enhancing collaborative planning for addressing societal challenges. Efforts to enhance community engagement, consultation, and participation can contribute to more inclusive and sustainable development outcomes in the district.

During the interview session with one of the District area councilors, she said *“We usually engage with community members early in the planning stages of a development project to gather their input, feedback, and suggestions. This is done through community meetings, surveys, focus groups, and consultations with the key locals in a given area”*. The District area councilor highlighted the importance of engaging with community members early in the planning stages of development projects. This early engagement allows for the gathering of input, feedback, and suggestions from the local population.

*Methods such as community meetings, surveys, focus groups, and consultations with key locals are utilized to ensure that community members have a voice in the decision-making process.*

*This approach ensures that development initiatives are responsive to the needs, priorities, and aspirations of the local community, thereby enhancing the relevance and effectiveness of interventions.*

The Community Development Officer also said *“Community members are usually encouraged to actively participate in the decision-making process through their citizen advisory committees, community task forces, or through their local leaders’ that have direct say in how resources are allocated”*. The Community Development Officer emphasized the importance of actively encouraging community members to participate in the decision-making process. Mechanisms such as citizen advisory committees, community task forces, and engagement with local leaders are utilized to involve community members in decision-making. By actively involving community members, there is a greater sense of ownership and empowerment, leading to more sustainable and impactful development outcomes.

Also the Sub county chief said *“We always foster partnerships between community members, local.*

In the context of rural development in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District, these findings underscore the importance of inclusive and participatory approaches to decision-making. By actively engaging with community members, encouraging their participation, and fostering partnerships, local authorities and development practitioners can ensure that development initiatives are contextually relevant, responsive to local needs, and sustainable in the long term. This collaborative approach enhances community ownership, fosters trust between stakeholders, and ultimately contributes to the socio-economic advancement of the rural population in Hoima District.

### Descriptive Statistics on Rural Development Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District

The researcher used the Likert scale method to summarize the findings on the responses for the above section. The researcher used Likert scale where the answers were on a scale of 1 to 5. Where 1= Strongly Disagree, 2= Disagree, 3 = `Neutral, 4 = Agree and 5 = Strongly Agree. The table also includes the summary of the participant’s responses basing on percentages (%), frequency (F), standard deviation (std) and mean.

Table 4.3: Descriptive Statistics on Rural Development Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District

Statement	Mean	Std
Employment is accessible in the area	2.1	0.3
There are access roads in the area	4.6	0.4
There is access to electricity in the area	2.4	0.3
There is access to clean and piped water	2.5	0.2
There is stable communication network	2.3	0.4
There improved infrastructure facilitates for access to markets	4.6	0.2
There is accessible healthcare	3.4	0.3
There is access to quality education	2.7	0.4
There is access to modern farming techniques and extension services	1.6	0.2
Households earn 5 dollars daily	1.3	0.3

The statement “Employment Accessibility” has a mean score for the accessibility of employment in the area is relatively low at 2.1, indicating that respondents generally disagree or strongly disagree with the statement. This suggests that there may be challenges in accessing employment opportunities in the area.

The statement “Access Roads” has a mean score for the existence of access roads in the area is high at 4.6, indicating that respondents strongly agree or agree with the statement. This suggests that there is good infrastructure in terms of road accessibility, which can facilitate transportation and connectivity in the area. The statement “Access to Electricity” has a mean score for access to electricity in the area is moderate at 2.4, suggesting that respondents are somewhat neutral or leaning towards disagreement with the statement. This indicates that there may be room for improvement in terms of electricity accessibility. The statement “Access to clean and piped water” has a mean score for access to clean and piped water is moderate at 2.5, indicating that respondents are somewhat neutral or leaning towards disagreement. This suggests that there may be challenges in accessing clean water in the area.

The statement “stable communication network” has a mean score for the stability of the communication network is moderate at 2.3, suggesting that respondents are somewhat neutral or leaning towards disagreement. This indicates that there may be issues with the reliability of communication infrastructure in the area. The statement “improved infrastructure for market access” has a mean score for improved infrastructure facilitating access to markets is high at 4.6, indicating that respondents strongly agree or agree with the statement. This suggests that there are favorable conditions for accessing markets in the area, which can benefit economic activities.

The statement “access to healthcare” has a mean score for accessible healthcare is moderate at 3.4, indicating that respondents are somewhat neutral or leaning towards agreement. This suggests that there may be access to healthcare facilities in the area, but there could be room for improvement in terms of quality or coverage. The statement “access to quality education” has a mean score for access to quality education is moderate at 2.7, indicating that respondents are somewhat neutral or leaning towards disagreement. This suggests that there may be challenges in accessing quality education in the area.

The statement “access to modern farming techniques and extension services” has a mean score for access to modern farming techniques and extension services is relatively low at 1.6, indicating that respondents generally disagree or strongly disagree with the statement. This suggests that there may be limited access to agricultural support services in the area. The statement “household income” has a mean score for households earning 5 dollars daily are low at 1.3, indicating that respondents generally disagree or strongly disagree with the statement. This suggests that household income levels may be low in the area.

**Table 4.4: Correlation between Community Involvement In Decision Making And Rural Development In Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District**

		Community involvement in decision making	Rural development
Community involvement in decision making	Pearson correlation Coefficient	1.000	0.463**
	Sig. (1-tailed)		.001
	N	300	300
Rural development	Correlation Coefficient	<b>0.463**</b>	1.000
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.001	
	N	300	300

The correlation between community involvement in decision making and rural development was 0.463\*\*. This indicates a moderate positive correlation between these two variables. The significance level for the correlations was 0.001, which is below the conventional threshold of 0.05. Therefore, the correlation is statistically significant. With a positive correlation coefficient, it suggests that as community involvement in decision making increases, rural development also tends to increase, and vice versa.

## Community Communication and Rural Development in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District

### 4.5.1 Descriptive Statistics of Community Communication in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District

The researcher used the Likert scale method to summarize the findings on the responses for the above section. The researcher used Likert scale where the answers were on a scale of 1 to 5. Where 1= Strongly Disagree, 2= Disagree, 3 = `Neutral, 4 = Agree and 5 = Strongly Agree. The table also includes the summary of the participant’s responses basing on percentages (%), frequency (F), standard deviation (Std) and mean.

**Table 4.5: Community communication and rural development in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District**

Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean	Std
We utilize local radio stations to share relevant information in our community	00	00	00	209	91	4.3	0.2
We organize regular community meetings to discuss development plans.	00	156	12	132	00	2.9	0.8
We use social media groups disseminate information in our society	00	56	33	211	00	3.5	0.6
We have established community centers as information hubs	77	223	00	00	00	1.7	0.2
We work closely with local leaders to disseminate information to the community	119	181	00	00	00	1.6	0.4
There are community programs on various media platforms.	00	00	9	87	204	4.6	0.2
We conduct workshops to educate community members on specific topics	201	89	10	00	00	1.4	0.3
We have designated community spokespersons	00	00	00	180	120	4.4	0.4

On the statement “We utilize local radio stations to share relevant information in our community”, 4.3% disagreed with the statement, and 18.6% were neutral, 77% agreed with the statement. The mean response was 4.3 with standard deviation of 0.2.

The majority of participants (77%) agreed that local radio stations are used to share relevant information in the community, indicating that this communication channel is effective in reaching the residents with important updates and messages.

On the statement “We organize regular community meetings to discuss development plans”, 2.9% disagree, 24% were neutral and 73.1% agreed. The mean response was 2.9 with standard deviation of 0.8.

A significant majority (73.1%) strongly agreed that regular community meetings are organized to discuss development plans, suggesting active community engagement and participatory decision-making processes in rural development initiatives.

Findings on the statement “We use social media groups to disseminate information in our society” show 1.4% of the respondents disagree, 16.4% were neutral and 83.6% agreed with the statement. The mean response was 3.5 with standard deviation of 0.6.

The majority of respondents (83.6%) agreed that social media groups are utilized to disseminate information in the society, highlighting the importance of leveraging digital platforms for communication and outreach efforts.

The statement “We have established community centers as information hubs”, findings show that 73% of the respondents strongly disagree and 27% of the respondents disagree. The mean response was 1.7 with standard deviation of 0.2.

Respondents disagreed on the establishment of community centers as information hubs, indicating a need for further exploration of the role and effectiveness of such centers in facilitating community communication and rural development. The statement “We work closely with local leaders to disseminate information to the community”, findings showed that 37.6% of the respondents strongly disagree and 63.4% of the respondents disagree with the statement. Further, the average response was 1.6 with standard deviation of 0.4. Therefore, respondents disagree with the statement that there was no collaboration with local leaders in disseminating information, suggesting a need for recognition of the role of leadership in communication efforts for rural development.

Findings on the statement “There are community programs on various media platforms”, findings show that 9% of the respondents agreed with the statement and 91% of the respondents strongly agreed with the statement. The mean response was 4.6 with standard deviation of 0.2.

The overwhelming majority (91%) agreed that community programs on various media platforms exist, indicating a strong presence of diverse communication channels for community engagement and information sharing.

Findings on the statement “We conduct workshops to educate community members on specific topics” showed that 67% of the respondents strongly disagree, 29.6% disagree and 3.4% were neutral. Therefore, the mean response was 1.4 with a standard deviation of 0.3. Therefore, respondents disagree that there are workshops for community education, emphasizing need for capacity-building initiatives for empowering community members with knowledge and skills.

On the statement “We have designated community spokespersons”, 60% of the respondents agree with the statement and 40% strongly agree. The mean response was 4.4 with standard deviation of 0.4. Respondents agree that there are designated community spokespersons in Hoima District.

In conclusion, the findings suggest a mixed landscape of community communication practices in Hoima District. While there are strengths in the utilization of traditional and digital communication channels, there are also areas for improvement such as enhancing collaboration with local leaders, establishing effective community centers, and providing more educational opportunities for community members.

During an interview with one of the house hold heads said *“Regular community gatherings and meetings provide a platform for residents to discuss development priorities, share ideas, and make collective decisions. These meetings may be organized by local leaders, community-based organizations, or development agencies working in the area. As emphasized by the household head, regular community gatherings and meetings serve as a cornerstone for communication and collaboration among residents in Hoima District.*

*These gatherings provide a platform for residents to discuss development priorities, share ideas, and collectively make decisions regarding local initiatives.*

*Meetings may be organized by local leaders, community-based organizations (CBOs), or development agencies, fostering inclusivity and ensuring that a diverse range of voices are heard.*

Also the sub county chairperson said *“We usually use religious, political, traditional leaders and elders to communicate to the local community. They communicate community needs, concerns, and aspirations to local authorities and facilitate dialogue on development issues”. The sub county chairperson highlighted the important role played by religious, political, and traditional leaders in communicating with the local community.*

*These leaders serve as trusted intermediaries who convey community needs, concerns, and aspirations to local authorities and facilitate dialogue on development issues.*

*By leveraging the influence and credibility of these leaders, communication channels are established that bridge the gap between residents and decision-makers, fostering mutual understanding and collaboration.*

The Community Development Officer also said *“We usually use community radios to communicate and dialogue with the local community”. The Community Development Officer emphasized the use of community radios as a vital communication tool in rural development efforts.*

*Community radios serve as a platform for disseminating information, facilitating dialogue, and engaging with the local community on development-related topics.*

*Through radio programs, community members can stay informed about development initiatives, participate in discussions, and voice their opinions, thereby promoting transparency and accountability in the decision-making process.*

In the context of rural development in Buhaniika Sub County, Hoima District, these findings underscore the importance of diverse and inclusive communication strategies. By leveraging community gatherings, engaging with religious, political, and traditional leaders, and utilizing community radios, stakeholders can effectively communicate with residents, solicit their input, and foster meaningful participation in development efforts. These communication channels not only facilitate the exchange of information but also promote dialogue, consensus-building, and collective action, ultimately contributing to the sustainable socio-economic development of the region.

Table 4.6 Correlation between Community Communication and Rural Development in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District

		Community communication	Rural development
<b>Community communication</b>	Pearson correlation Coefficient	1.000	<b>0.651**</b>
	Sig. (1-tailed)		.000
	N	300	300
<b>Rural development</b>	Correlation Coefficient	<b>0.651**</b>	1.000
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.000	
	N	300	300

In the correlation findings between community communication and rural development in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District, the Pearson correlation coefficient between the two variables was 0.651, which indicates a moderate to strong positive relationship between community communication and rural development.

The correlation coefficient of 0.651 was statistically significant, as indicated by the p-value of .000, which is less than the conventional significance level of 0.05. This means that there is a very low probability that this correlation occurred by chance. The sample size for both community communication and rural development variables was 300, which provides a robust basis for the correlation analysis.

Based on these findings, there was a positive association between community communication and rural development in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District. This suggests that effective community communication practices may contribute to the overall development of rural areas in the district.

#### 4.5.2 Descriptive Analysis of Community Resource Mobilization in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District

The researcher used the Likert scale method to summarize the findings on the responses for the above section. The researcher used Likert scale where the answers were on a scale of 1 to 5. Where 1= Strongly Disagree, 2= Disagree, 3 = `Neutral, 4 = Agree and 5 = Strongly Agree. The table also includes the summary of the participant’s responses basing on percentages (%), frequency (F), standard deviation (Std) and mean.

Table 4.7: Community Resource Mobilization in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District

Statement	SD	D	N	A	SA	Mean	Std
We organize fundraising events in our community				189	111	4.4	0.4
We seek grants from government agencies for community development	210	90				1.3	0.2
We identify and utilize resources available within the community for development				126	174	4.6	0.4
We run crowd funding to gather financial support for specific community projects	216	84				1.3	0.3
We train community members to enhance their skills	119	181				1.6	0.4
We build partnerships with local corporations for sponsorships of community programs				87	213	4.7	0.3
Community members donate resources towards community initiatives				91	209	1.4	0.3
We have established partnerships with community organizations for resource sharing and joint initiatives				56	244	4.8	0.1
Members volunteer on specific community projects to reduce costs				218	82	4.3	0.3
We collaborate with NGOs and Development Agencies for additional resources of development				132	168	4.6	0.4

On the statement “We organize fundraising events in our community”, the mean score for this statement was 4.4, indicating that participants generally agree that fundraising events are organized in the community. The standard deviation is 0.4, suggesting that responses were relatively consistent.

Further, a significant majority (83.8%) agreed that fundraising events are organized in the community, indicating active efforts towards resource mobilization for rural development projects.

On the statement “We seek grants from government agencies for community development”, the mean score was 1.3, indicating that participants strongly disagree with seeking grants from government agencies. The standard deviation is 0.2, suggesting that responses were consistent around the "Strongly Disagree" response.

The vast majority (93.3%) disagreed that they seek grants from government agencies for community development, indicating a potential gap in accessing external funding sources.

On the statement “We identify and utilize resources available within the community for development”, findings showed that the mean score for this statement was 4.6, showing that participants agree with the identification and utilization of resources within the community. The standard deviation is 0.4, indicating relatively consistent responses.

A significant majority (77.3%) agreed that resources available within the community are identified and utilized for development, highlighting the importance of local resource mobilization.

On the statement “We run crowd funding to gather financial support for specific community projects”, the mean score was 1.3, suggesting that participants strongly disagree with running crowd funding campaigns. The standard deviation was 0.3, indicating a relatively consistent response around the "Strongly Disagree" option.

The vast majority (96.0%) disagreed that crowd funding campaigns are run to gather financial support for specific community projects, indicating a potential area for exploration in alternative fundraising methods

On the statement “We train community members to enhance their skills”, the mean score was 1.6, indicating that participants generally disagree with the training of community members to enhance their skills. The standard deviation is 0.4, suggesting a consistent response around the "Disagree" option. A majority (80.4%) agreed that community members are trained to enhance their skills, suggesting an investment in capacity-building initiatives for sustainable development.

On the statement “We build partnerships with local corporations for sponsorships of community programs”, the mean score was 4.7, showing that participants agree with building partnerships with local corporations for sponsorships. The standard deviation was 0.3, indicating relatively consistent responses. The majority (94.7%) agreed that partnerships with local corporations are built for sponsorships of community programs, indicating successful collaboration with private sector entities.

On the statement “Community members donate resources towards community initiatives”, the mean score was 4.1, indicating that participants agree with community members donating resources towards community initiatives. The standard deviation is 0.3, suggesting relatively consistent responses. A significant majority (92.7%) agreed that community members donate resources towards community initiatives, showcasing local support for development projects.

On the statement “We have established partnerships with community organizations for resource sharing and joint initiatives”, the mean score was 4.8, indicating strong agreement with established partnerships with community organizations. The standard deviation was 0.1, showing highly consistent responses. The majority (100%) agreed that partnerships with community organizations are established for resource sharing and joint initiatives, indicating strong collaboration within the community.

On the statement “Members volunteer on specific community projects to reduce costs”, the mean score was 4.3, indicating agreement with members volunteering on community projects to reduce costs. The standard deviation is 0.3, suggesting relatively consistent responses.

On the statement “We collaborate with NGOs and Development Agencies for additional resources for development”, the mean score was 4.6, indicating agreement with collaborating with NGOs and Development Agencies for additional resources. The standard deviation is 0.4, suggesting consistent responses.

Overall, the findings suggest that there is substantial support among participants in Hoima District for community resource mobilization and rural development initiatives. The high mean scores and consistent responses for statements related to partnership building, community donations, volunteerism, and collaboration with external agencies indicate a strong willingness to engage in resource mobilization efforts. However, there are areas such as seeking grants, running crowd funding campaigns, and training community members where there is less support or agreement. It is important for community leaders and stakeholders to take these findings into consideration when planning and implementing resource mobilization strategies to effectively support rural development in the district. Strengthening partnerships, promoting community engagement, and exploring alternative funding sources could further enhance resource mobilization efforts and drive sustainable development outcomes in Hoima District.

During the interview with the Sub county chief, he said *“We use public private partnership (PPPs) to collaborate with private sector actors to finance, implement, and manage rural development projects. For example tender for Taxi Park and local market revenue collection”*. The Sub county chief mentioned the use of public-private partnerships (PPPs) to collaborate with private sector actors in financing, implementing, and managing rural development projects.

*PPPs involve joint efforts between government entities and private sector partners to leverage resources, expertise, and innovation for the benefit of rural communities.*

*Examples of PPP projects in Hoima District include the tendering for infrastructure projects such as taxi parks and local market revenue collection, where private sector involvement contributes to project funding and management.*

One councilor also said *“Rural communities themselves contribute to development efforts through in-kind contributions, labor, and community-driven initiatives. Also community-based organizations (CBOs), cooperatives, and self-help groups mobilize resources at the local level to build culverts, renovate schools and buy hospital beds. Some community members (members of parliament) also volunteer with ambulance to take the sick to hospitals”*. The councilor highlighted the significant role of rural communities themselves in contributing to development efforts through various means.

*Communities contribute through in-kind donations, such as providing labor and materials for infrastructure projects like building culverts, renovating schools, and purchasing hospital beds. Community-based organizations (CBOs), cooperatives, and self-help groups play a pivotal role in mobilizing resources at the local level and implementing community-driven initiatives.*

*These organizations often engage in activities that address specific community needs, such as healthcare, education, infrastructure, and livelihoods improvement.*

*The councilor also mentioned the involvement of community members, including elected representatives such as members of parliament, in volunteer activities to support rural development.*

*Volunteers may contribute their time, skills, and resources to initiatives such as providing ambulance services to transport the sick to hospitals, demonstrating a strong sense of civic engagement and community solidarity.*

In the context of rural development in Buhanka Sub County, Hoima District, these findings highlight the importance of multi-stakeholder collaboration and community-driven approaches. By leveraging partnerships with the private sector, harnessing community contributions, and promoting volunteerism, rural communities can mobilize resources effectively to address local development priorities. These grassroots efforts, supported by government institutions and community-based organizations, contribute to the resilience, self-reliance, and sustainable development of rural areas in Hoima District.

**Table 4.8: Correlation between Community Resource Mobilization and Rural Development in Buhanka Sub County, Hoima District**

		Community resource mobilization	Rural development
Community resource mobilization	Pearson correlation Coefficient	1.000	<b>0.708**</b>
	Sig. (1-tailed)		.000
	N	300	300

<b>Rural development</b>	Correlation Coefficient	<b>0.708**</b>	1.000
	Sig. (1-tailed)	.000	
	N	300	300

In the correlation findings between community resource mobilization and rural development in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District, the table shows the Pearson correlation coefficients between the two variables.

The Pearson correlation coefficient of 0.708 between community resource mobilization and rural development is statistically significant, as evidenced by the p-value of .000, which is less than the conventional significance level of 0.05. This indicates a strong positive correlation between these variables in Hoima District. The sample size of 300 for both community resource mobilization and rural development variables provides a robust basis for the correlation analysis, enhancing the reliability of the findings. The correlation coefficient of 0.708 suggests that as community resource mobilization efforts increase, there is a corresponding increase in rural development outcomes within the district.

The strong positive correlation between community resource mobilization and rural development in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District underscores the importance of mobilizing resources within the community to drive sustainable development initiatives. The findings suggest that communities that actively engage in resource mobilization activities are likely to experience greater progress in rural development projects and initiatives.

To further promote rural development in the district, stakeholders should focus on enhancing community resource mobilization strategies, fostering collaboration among community members and organizations, and leveraging external partnerships and funding sources. By investing in community-driven resource mobilization efforts, Hoima District can unlock new opportunities for growth, empower local communities to address development challenges, and create a more resilient and prosperous rural landscape.

**Table 4.9: Regression Analysis of Community Participation and Rural Development in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District**

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	4.170	.664		3.107	.000
	Community involvement in decision making	0.760	.001	0.717	4.045	.000
<b>Dependent variable: Rural development</b>						
	R square	0.476 <sup>a</sup>			F-statistics	7.953
	Adjusted R Square	0.445			Sig.	0.001
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	4.930	.664		2.908	.006
	Community communication	0.890	.179	0.840	4.986	.000
<b>Dependent variable: Rural development</b>						
	R square	0.630 <sup>b</sup>			F-statistics	6.070
	Adjusted R Square	0.657			Sig.	0.000
Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	5.743	0.291		2.551	0.014

	Community resource mobilization	.763	.146	0.218	2.567	.014
<b>Dependent variable: rural development</b>						
	R square	0.746 <sup>c</sup>			F-statistics	6.348
	Adjusted R Square	0.748			Sig.	0.000

In the regression analysis of community participation and rural development in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District, three separate models were examined to understand the relationship between different aspects of community participation (in decision making, communication, and resource mobilization) and rural development. The table presents the results of the regression analysis, including unstandardized coefficients, standardized coefficients, t-values, and significance levels.

Community involvement in decision making shows a positive and statistically significant relationship with rural development. The coefficient of 0.760 indicates that for every unit increase in community involvement in decision making, rural development increases by 0.760 units. The standardized coefficient (Beta) of 0.717 suggests a strong positive association between community involvement in decision making and rural development. The R-squared value of 0.476 indicates that 47.6% of the variance in rural development can be explained by community involvement in decision making.

Community communication also demonstrates a positive and significant relationship with rural development. A coefficient of 0.890 suggests that for every unit increase in community communication, rural development increases by 0.890 units. The standardized coefficient (Beta) of 0.840 indicates a strong positive correlation between community communication and rural development. The R-squared value of 0.630 implies that 63.0% of the variance in rural development can be explained by community communication.

Community resource mobilization shows a positive and statistically significant relationship with rural development. The coefficient of 0.763 indicates that for every unit increase in community resource mobilization, rural development increases by 0.763 units. The standardized coefficient (Beta) of 0.218 suggests a moderate positive association between community resource mobilization and rural development. The R-squared value of 0.746 indicates that 74.6% of the variance in rural development can be explained by community resource mobilization.

Based on the regression analysis results, it is evident that community involvement in decision making, communication, and resource mobilization play crucial roles in driving rural development in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District. These

findings highlight the importance of active community participation and engagement in decision-making processes, communication practices, and resource mobilization efforts to foster sustainable development outcomes.

Strengthening these aspects of community participation through effective strategies, programs, and policies can further enhance rural development initiatives in the district. Policymakers, community leaders, and development practitioners should prioritize promoting inclusive decision-making processes, enhancing communication channels, and mobilizing resources within the community to support holistic and impactful rural development in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District.

## V. DISCUSSIONS

Discussion of Findings on Community Involvement in Decision Making and Rural Development in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District. The literature emphasizes the importance of community participation in decision-making processes, highlighting its role in promoting sustainable development and addressing local needs and priorities (Kumar, 2020; Abukari & Mwalyosi, 2020). In Hoima District, community involvement in decision making is evident through activities such as household participation in choosing leaders, community establishment of committees, and engagement in project beneficiary selection. However, there are also identified areas for improvement, such as leaders consulting with the community and enhancing collaborative planning for addressing societal challenges (Axon, 2020; Weingart, Joubert, & Connaway, 2021).

Rural development in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District encompasses efforts to improve the quality of life and economic well-being of rural residents, including infrastructure development, agricultural productivity enhancement, and access to essential services (Putra et al., 2020). The findings suggest varying levels of rural development in the district, with opportunities for further enhancement through community engagement and collaborative decision making (Ntirandekura, 2022).

The correlation analysis indicates a moderate positive correlation between community involvement in decision making and rural development in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District, consistent with the literature (Harris,

2023). This suggests that as community involvement in decision making increases, rural development tends to increase as well, highlighting the significance of participatory approaches in achieving development outcomes (Kenny, 2015; Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016).

The literature discusses various factors influencing community participation in rural development, including social media, village government leadership, public services, community culture, and socio-economic status (Pradhan et al., 2014). These factors may also impact community involvement in decision making and contribute to the observed correlation with rural development outcomes in Hoima District.

In summary, the findings from Hoima District align with the existing literature on community involvement in decision making and rural development. The correlation between these variables underscores the importance of community participation in shaping development outcomes, and the identified areas for improvement highlight opportunities for enhancing community engagement and collaboration in decision-making processes for more inclusive and sustainable rural development.

### **Community Communication and Rural Development in Hoima District**

The study highlights the role of communication in disseminating important information about local events, initiatives, and developmental issues (Ramachandran et al., 2006). This finding is supported by Ramachandran et al. (2006), who emphasize the importance of effective communication channels in transferring knowledge about government schemes, agricultural practices, healthcare, and education to rural communities.

Effective communication fosters inclusivity within communities by providing a platform for all members to voice their concerns and contribute to decision-making processes (Tanvatanakul et al., 2007; Ramachandran et al., 2006). The study findings echo the importance of communication in empowering marginalized groups and ensuring that their voices are heard in local development plans.

Communication facilitates coordination among community members, local authorities, and non-governmental organizations, which is crucial for mobilizing resources and implementing development projects effectively (Wamara et al., 2023). This aligns with the study's finding that effective communication channels are essential for coordinating efforts and resources to address rural development challenges.

Communication strengthens social networks within rural communities, fostering trust among members and enabling

collective action in addressing common challenges (Mitchell, 2017). The study findings support this notion by highlighting the role of communication in building social capital, which is essential for collaboration and collective problem-solving in rural areas.

Communication links rural producers to markets, enhancing economic opportunities by providing information about market trends, prices, and demand (Torre et al., 2023). The study findings reinforce the importance of effective communication in empowering rural communities to advocate for policies that address their specific needs and interests.

The study findings reveal a moderate to strong positive relationship between community communication and rural development, indicating that effective communication practices may contribute to overall development in rural areas (Mitchell, 2017; Torre et al., 2023). This correlation is consistent with existing literature, which underscores the pivotal role of communication in facilitating rural development outcomes.

In summary, the study findings in Hoima District align with and are supported by existing literature on the role of communication in rural development. Effective communication practices contribute to knowledge dissemination, inclusivity, coordination, social capital formation, economic empowerment, and advocacy, ultimately fostering positive development outcomes in rural communities.

### **Community Resource Mobilization and Rural Development in Buhanka Sub County, Hoima District**

The study underscores the critical role of community resource mobilization in addressing local challenges and pursuing development initiatives in rural areas (Kumar, 2020; Ghosh et al., 2022). This aligns with the literature, which emphasizes the importance of harnessing local resources, including financial contributions, labor, materials, and skills, to support projects and initiatives that promote sustainable development (Rahman, 2022; Hu, 2022).

Community resource mobilization promotes local ownership of development initiatives, empowering communities to shape their own future (Pradhan et al., 2014). The study findings echo this sentiment, highlighting the importance of community engagement in identifying needs, setting priorities, and contributing to solutions, thereby fostering sustainable development outcomes.

Mobilizing local resources leads to the diversification of the resource base, making communities less dependent on external sources and enhancing their resilience to economic

challenges (Wamara et al., 2023; Usadolo & Caldwell, 2016). The study findings support this notion, suggesting that communities actively engaged in resource mobilization are better equipped to withstand economic shocks and pursue development initiatives that align with their specific needs and priorities.

Community resource mobilization strengthens social capital by promoting collaboration and trust among community members, which is essential for successful implementation of development projects (Dijkzeul, 2021; Mitchell, 2017). The study findings underscore the importance of social cohesion in driving resource mobilization efforts and achieving positive development outcomes in rural areas.

The study reveals a strong positive correlation between community resource mobilization and rural development, suggesting that communities actively engaged in mobilizing resources are likely to experience greater progress in development initiatives (Bueno Montaldo, 2022; Karki et al., 2019). This finding is consistent with existing literature, which highlights the positive impact of community-driven resource mobilization on rural development outcomes.

In summary, the study findings in Hoima District align with and are supported by existing literature on the importance of community resource mobilization in driving rural development. By actively involving community members in identifying needs, mobilizing resources, and implementing initiatives, rural areas can foster sustainable development, empower local residents, and create resilient and prosperous communities. The strong positive correlation between resource mobilization and rural development underscores the significance of community-driven approaches in achieving positive development outcomes in Hoima District.

## VI. RECOMMENDATION

Based on the findings, it was recommended that there is need to Strengthen Community Engagement Platforms: Encourage diverse community participation in decision-making processes by establishing inclusive platforms for discussions, consultations, and feedback mechanisms. Enhance Communication Channels: Improve communication strategies within the community by utilizing a mix of traditional and digital communication tools. Foster Resource Mobilization Initiatives: Promote community-led resource mobilization efforts by organizing fundraising events, seeking grants, and establishing partnerships with local corporations, NGOs, and development agencies. Build Capacity and Skills: Provide training programs and capacity-building opportunities for community members to enhance their skills, knowledge, and capabilities. Promote Collaborative Partnerships: Strengthen collaborations with local organizations,

government agencies, and private sector partners to leverage expertise, resources, and support for community development initiatives. Foster a culture of collaboration and co-creation to address societal challenges and promote collective impact in rural areas. Implement Sustainable Development Practices: Monitor and Evaluate Progress: and Promote Policy Advocacy: Advocate for policies that support community participation, empowerment, and sustainable development at the local, regional, and national levels. Engage with policymakers, advocacy groups, and government officials to prioritize community-driven approaches to rural development and address systemic challenges.

## VII. CONCLUSIONS

Based on the summaries of findings related to community participation and rural development in Buhanka Sub County, Hoima District, several key conclusions can be drawn: Community participation in decision making, communication, and resource mobilization plays a significant role in rural development efforts in Hoima District. The positive relationships between community involvement in decision making, communication practices, and resource mobilization with rural development outcomes indicate that active engagement and participation at the community level contribute to sustainable development initiatives.

The moderate to strong positive correlations observed between community involvement in decision making, communication, and resource mobilization with rural development underscore the importance of community-driven approaches to development. These findings highlight the need for inclusive processes that empower community members to actively participate in decision-making, communication, and resource mobilization activities.

Areas of strength, such as household participation in choosing leaders, community establishment of committees, and utilization of traditional and digital communication channels, demonstrate the potential for positive impacts on rural development in the district. Efforts to enhance community engagement, consultation, and participation can lead to more inclusive and sustainable development outcomes.

The regression analysis results further reinforce the importance of community involvement in decision making, communication, and resource mobilization as key drivers of rural development. The high R-squared values in the regression models indicate that these aspects of community participation explain a significant proportion of the variance in rural development outcomes.

To accelerate rural development efforts in Hoima District, it is essential for stakeholders to prioritize strategies

that promote community participation, engagement, and empowerment. Strengthening partnerships, enhancing communication channels, and mobilizing resources within the community can create a conducive environment for sustainable development initiatives.

In conclusion, the findings highlight the crucial role of community participation in driving rural development outcomes. By prioritizing inclusive decision-making processes, effective communication strategies, and robust resource mobilization efforts, Hoima District can foster holistic and impactful development that empowers local communities and promotes long-term sustainability. Policymakers, community leaders, and development practitioners should continue to collaborate with community members to foster a participatory approach to rural development that addresses local needs, challenges, and aspirations.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I give glory and honor to GOD for his mercy, guidance, protection and support during my report compilation process. I am also very grateful to my supervisor for his insightful comments and restless guidance in report writing and for the knowledge I acquainted in finalizing my research report. His dedication to work as my supervisor is just so commendable and inspirational. My Gratitude also goes to the entire staff of Team University for its immense contribution to my knowledge especially in all the fields of Education. My heartfelt thanks also go to my friends Evelyn Akuha, Ssemwogere Deogratiou, Muhumuza Geofrey and Mr. Ahimbisibwe Innocent for their financial, moral and academic support throughout my education life at various institutions.

#### REFERENCES

- [1] Abukari, H., & Mwalyosi, R. B. (2020). Local communities' perceptions about the impact of protected areas on livelihoods and community development. *Global Ecology Conservation*, 22, e00909.
- [2] Axon, S. (2020). The socio-cultural dimensions of community-based sustainability: Implications for transformational change. 266, 121933.
- [3] Burchardt, T., & Hick, R. (2017). Inequality and the capability approach.
- [4] Coast, J., Bailey, C., Canaway, A., & Kinghorn, P. (2016). Measuring and valuing outcomes for care at the end of life: The capability approach. 89-101.
- [5] Dauda, S. (2020). Operationalising the "Africa Mining Vision": critical reflections from Ghana. *Canadian*

*Journal of Development Studies/Revue canadienne d'études du développement*, 41(3), 504-524.

- [6] Dijkzeul, D. (2021). Making localization work: the everyday practice of three NGOs in South Sudan and Northern Uganda. 3, 716287.
- [7] Entradas, M., Bauer, M. W., O'Muircheartaigh, C., Marcinkowski, F., Okamura, A., Pellegrini, G., Dudo, A. (2020). Public communication by research institutes compared across countries and sciences: Building capacity for engagement or competing for visibility? , 15(7), e0235191.
- [8] Eyisi, A., Lee, D., & Trees, K. (2021). Facilitating collaboration and community participation in tourism development: The case of South-Eastern Nigeria. 21(3), 275-288.
- [9] Gamo, B. R., & Park, D.-B. (2022). Community sentiment influences community participation: evidence from Ethiopia. 1-17.
- [10] Gasper, D. (2017). What is the capability approach? Its core, rationale, partners and dangers. In *Development ethics* (pp. 217-241): Routledge.
- [11] Ghosh, S., Hughes, M., Hodgkinson, I., & Hughes, P. (2022). Digital transformation of industrial businesses: A dynamic capability approach. 113, 102414.
- [12] Guma, W., Baguma, S. D., Asekenye, L. P., Mulabuke, L., Kalunda, P., & Magala, J. (2022). Flock Dynamics and Approaches for Reducing Mortality Rate among Mubende Goats at BuZARDI Semi-Intensive Farm, Hoima, Uganda. *Open Journal of Veterinary Medicine*, 12(11), 135-154.

## AUTHORS BIOGRAPHY



**Kabiri Charles** is experienced, resourceful and competent Administrator with proven proficiency in all aspects of public administration and management. Volunteerism, Innovation and finance enthusiast. Kabiri Charles holds a Degree of Master in Public Administration and management from Team University, Post Graduate Diploma in Public Administration and management from Uganda Management Institute of and a degree Bachelor in Democracy and Development Studies from Uganda Martyrs University, a Diploma in Education, Grade III Certificate, Certificate in Public Administration and Management and a Certificate in Administrative Law. Currently is working with Hoima city as a principal Assistant Town and Ag Deputy City clerk and formerly he has served in Government public service as Education Assistant, Parish Chief, Clerk Assistant and Senior Assistant Town Clerk. Charles is a multitask person with over 21 years of progressive working experience in Education and, public administration, with high level of integrity, good at high professional standards, understands time management, with high level of team work, understands diversity.



**Musoke Matthew**, hold a Degree of Master in Business Administration-Finance and Banking, a Degree of Bachelor in Business Administration-Finance and Banking, and a Higher Diploma in Secretarial Studies and Office Management, Certificate in communication skills, and Certificate in financial management, he has served as a Manager Innovation and Creativity (2022) todate, Lecturer at the School of Graduate studies and Research at Team University and Faculty of Business and Management respectively, Assistant Head of Department-Faculty of Business and management of Team University, Executive Assistant-DVC-Academic Affairs (2014), Administration manager at Wonderful Hotel and Restaurant (2017), Assistant Lecturer at the College of Economic and Management at Kampala International University as well as AML-Control Officer at Midwest Forex Bureau Limited-Kampala. He has a vast knowledge at postgraduate and undergraduate in areas of Project Evaluation and management, Corporate Finance, Corporate Governance, Investment and treasury management, Financial Reporting, Financial management, International Financial Management, Document processing, Real life project, Office Secretarial and Skills, Investment Banking, Public sector Financial Management, Production and operations management, advanced accounting, Business Finance, financial intermediaries, managerial communications, project information organisation and behavior.



**Ssemwogerere Deogratius** is experienced, resourceful and competent Human Resource Manager with proven proficiency in all aspects of Human Resource Matters and Administration. Deogratius holds Masters of Science in Human Resource Management from Team University, Post Graduate Diploma in Human Resource Management from Uganda Management Institute, and A degree of bachelor in Social and Philosophical Studies from Makerere University. He also has a Certificate in Administrative Law from Law Development Center. Currently Deogratius is working as a Human Resource Officer at St. Francis Hospital Nyenga. Formerly, he worked with Hoima Diocese Department of Education from February 2019 May 2022 as a Senior Human Resource and Administration Manager and also with Uganda Kolping Society as Human Resource Officer. Deogratius is an accomplished Human Resource generalist with over 14 years of progressive experience in Human Resource with high level of integrity, good at high professional standards, understands time management, with high level of team work, understands diversity.

### Citation of this Article:

Kabiri Charles, Ssemwogerere Deogratius, Musoke Matthew, “Community Participation and Rural Development in Buhanika Sub County, Hoima District, Uganda”, Published in *International Research Journal of Innovations in Engineering and Technology - IRJIET*, Volume 8, Issue 5, pp 248-271, May 2024. Article DOI <https://doi.org/10.47001/IRJIET/2024.805036>

\*\*\*\*\*