



**AUTHENTIC LEADERSHIP, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND
SUSTAINABILITY OF DONOR FUNDED WATER PROJECTS:
A CASE OF LAMWO DISTRICT IN UGANDA**

BY

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ADMINISTRATION DEGREE OF BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY**

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PLAN A

DECLARATION

DECLARATION

I, Alupo Thereza hereby declare that this is my original work and to the best of my knowledge has never been submitted for the award of a Masters in Uganda in any other institution of higher learning unless otherwise acknowledged.

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APPROVAL

APPROVAL

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this research report to my family, research supervisors and all my lecturers of Busitema University and friends. They have been such a strong support; I love you all and continue to believe that this journey yields success at the end.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CVI	Content Validity Index
GOU	Government of Uganda
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MDG	Millenium Development Goal
MWE	Ministry of Water and Environment
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SNV	Stichting Nederlandse Vrijwilligers
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WSC	Water Source Committees

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this study was to examine the mediation role of stakeholder engagement on the relationship between authentic leadership and sustainability of donor funded water projects in Lamwo District in Uganda. A cross sectional design was adopted. A population of 103 donor funded water projects with a sample of 82 water projects was selected. The study targeted 164 respondents from the 82 water projects. Simple random sampling technique was used. Usable questionnaires were collected and analyzed representing (81.5%) response rate. The data was tested for reliability and validity. It was analyzed using statistical package for social scientists (SPSS). regression findings revealed that there was significant positive effect of stakeholder engagement, and authentic leadership on sustainability of donor funded water projects. Regression findings revealed that stakeholder engagement and authentic leadership are significant predictors of sustainability of donor funded water projects while authentic leadership was found to be a significant predictor of stakeholder engagement. The findings also showed that Stakeholder Engagement plays a significant mediating effect in the relationship between Authentic Leadership and Project Sustainability. Based on the study results, it is recommended that there is need to improve on the authenticity of leaders of water user committees and at the same time ensure the engagement of water stakeholders in Lamwo district so as to enhance the community members' willingness and ability to consistently and adequately save money through strategic tools like community saving schemes for effective water facility maintenance to ensure consistent functioning of the water facility. This ensures frequent updates are provided by the water source committee during every community meeting of the amount of collected, used and the funds still available for water source maintenance which will in-turn encourage the beneficiaries to always physically take part or contribute monies for water source maintenance activities that will ensure consistent functioning of their water facility.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

Water is essential to sustainable development and the basis of livelihoods. Thus, one of the main goals of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is to achieve long-term sustainability of the water supply (UNESCO, 2020). This is because attaining Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 6, which aims to guarantee the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all, would depend on effective water management (United Nations, (UN, 2020). However, about 771 million (1 in 9) people worldwide still lack access to safe and clean safe water and 50% of them live in Africa (World Health Organization, (WHO, 2021). This is due to the continuous inadequate equipping of rural water source committees (WSCs) by the water source erectors to be able effectively manage their water sources, which in-turn leads to irregular servicing, frequent breakdowns and delayed repairs (SNV, 2020).

Historical Background

The long-term viability of initiatives (sustainability) for community development programs in sub-Saharan Africa has been poor over the years, and yet to meet their communities' needs, community development programs need greater internal capacities and more meaningful relationships with a broader range of stakeholders (USAID, 2019). The water supply sector in Uganda, for example, set a target to increase access to water supply services from 65% in 2010 to 100% by 2035. However as of 2020, the Ministry of Water and Environment (MWE, 2020) reported that access to water supplies was still just 68% for rural areas. This shows that water supply development has not been sustainable to achieve the desired goals in a period of more than 10 years. Notably in Northern Uganda, a survey conducted by the World Bank (2020)

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