



UGANDA MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE

**FACTORS INFLUENCING THE PARTICIPATION OF SPECIAL
INTEREST GROUPS IN DECISION-MAKING AT THE
LOWER LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN UGANDA:
A CASE OF KITGUM DISTRICT**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER
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DECLARATION

I, Christopher Okumu, do hereby declare that this research report on “Factors influencing the participation of special interest groups in decision-making at the Lower Local Governments in Uganda: A case of Kitgum District” is entirely my own original work, relevant literature extracts were acknowledged except where any commission or omission by error was made.

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APPROVAL

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DEDICATION

To my Late mother Teresina Akello who inspired me to always aim higher in all my endeavours.

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I have the pleasure to acknowledge the contributions made by a number of persons that enabled me to accomplish my research study. I am deeply indebted to my research supervisors Dr. David Onen and Mr. Lukonji Bbosa for their patience with my inadequacies as they guided me through the research. Without their professional input, this research would have been difficult to develop to its current level.

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ABSTRACT

This study set out to establish the factors affecting the participation of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in decision-making at the Lower Local Government level. It was carried out in Kitgum town Council and selected sub counties. The study was prompted by the need to assess the relationship between training and participation, culture and participation and the legal framework and participation of special interest groups in decision-making. The study was guided by a case study design and data were collected using self administered questionnaires, interview guide and document review checklist. The key findings were that some interest groups did not understand the decision making process. The ability of the special interest groups to deliberate during decision making process was limited; the majority did not clearly articulate their strategic needs to influence policy decisions. The study concluded that training, cultural practices and the legal framework significantly affect the level of participation of Special Interest Groups in decision making at the Lower local Governments. From the conclusions, it was recommended that Government needs to invest in training of SIGs to enhance their ability to participate in decision making. In addition, there is need to sensitize the public about the role of SIGs in decision-making and the need to enhance policy making process to ensure that the SIGs are socially protected and relevant provisions in the Constitution and enabling laws enforced.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

This study aimed at examining the factors affecting the participation of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) at lower local Governments. This part of the report presents the background information, the theoretical background, the conceptual and contextual backgrounds, the problem statement, the objectives, research questions, the research hypotheses and the significance of the study.

1.1.1 The Historical Background

Globally, as democratization and decentralization reforms advance, state and non-state actors are creating new channels of dialogue in local governments. Under this context, participation is rapidly gaining attention from governments, civil society and international development agencies, as an effective platform for raising local revenue (Matovu & Chairs, 2009). However, the participation of certain stakeholders in decision-making appears to be curtailed due to some factors. This study investigated factors that influenced participation of special interest groups in decision making at the lower local government in Uganda. The main thrust of the study was on decentralised decision-making process.

The framework for participation in decision making at lower levels of Government is enshrined in the decentralisation approach. The major change introduced by governments in the management of the local affairs has been an emphasis on

organizational devolution in the form of decentralization, devolved budgets and the outsourcing of auxiliary functions (Gay, 2006). This shifting often entailed a paradoxical “autonomy for accountability” trade-off that granted greater managerial power to local agencies to make decisions, while demanding that those agencies adhere to more elaborated auditing mechanisms instituted by the state. Achievement of this movement would also depend on the extent to which the local people participated and contributed to the decisions that affect them. In this case Governments became the managers that moved the cost of supervision to the local level while maintaining control over the functioning of the agency (Clarke & Newman, 1997).

Within public organizations especially in Africa, decentralisation has become a devolutionary strategy that took the form of a replacement of centralized budgeting with a departmentalized “user pays” system (Arshad-Ayaz, 2007) or “responsibility centre management” (Zemsky, 2005). In this system, units within local governments were required to be self-sustaining. This management strategy helped governments enhance local participation, identify units that were the most productive and had the “lowest overhead.” This information was subsequently used as leverage within the local governments by either eliminating or threatening to eliminate departments with low productivity levels or as a mechanism to spur competition between departments for a larger budgetary allotment or, as was more often the case, smaller budget cuts.

Another devolutionary strategy found to have generated the need for participation was an emphasis on the outsourcing of the supporting functions of agencies, such as food and janitorial services. It was also found in the more general terms “unbundling” and the

“casualization of labor” found at all institutional levels. Outsourcing enabled governments to “unbundle” and privatize some of their functions and, as a result, to no longer spend money on their management. This created a “bare bones” operation where only the central tasks of governments were conducted by a diminishing pool of full-time agency employees. In addition, outsourcing supported a casualization and peripherization of labor that treated certain jobs within the local government as temporary or “as needed,” such as the growing number of adjuncts in American universities.

The first attempt towards local participation in Uganda was when the country attained independence from the colonial rule. The 1962 Constitution provided for a strong local government system. However, the 1967 Constitution and the Local Administration Act of 1967 greatly weakened decentralisation process when Local governments were once again subjected to Central government control (Olum, 2004).

Since the end of the cold war, civil society worldwide has emerged as an increasingly important actor in governance. Comprising of networks of local and international initiatives, civil society organisations are increasingly being recognised as representative of citizens’ interests globally. At the same time, larger non-governmental organisations have found it hard to demonstrate their accountability, posing greater challenges to their legitimacy. These challenges have become particularly more acute with the changing nature of global security issues which has led governments to pursue a stricter agenda of NGO regulation, and a renewed emphasis on their own mandated role in determining policy and making decisions, frequently at the expense of opportunities of democratic participation and fundamental human rights.

The trends in citizens' participation in policy-making process have greatly contributed towards addressing the tensions inherent in the communities. Several studies have examined the potential for greater citizen involvement in global policy-making on issues of human security through an evaluation of different options for the representation of special interest groups and their views in different bodies and processes. Study findings reveal that the effective representation and participation of special interest groups in the decision-making processes of global institutions, including those responding to conflict, will introduce a new level of democratic accountability. Experience from emerging democracies have shown that the introduction of citizens' representative bodies have significantly contributed to negotiating and resolving contentious issues hence, reducing the perceived stigmatisation and inability of special interest groups in decision making.

In 1971, the military take over in Uganda led to the collapse of most local government services and infrastructure. Even during the post Amin era, successive governments operated a highly centralised system of governance. With these historical backdrops, the National Resistance Movement on assumption of state power in 1986 embraced the creation of democratic, participatory and development-oriented local government systems in the Ten-Point programme. This policy was later consolidated in the 1995 Constitution. The Constitution lays the basic principles and structures of local government from district, sub-county, parish and village levels. It further provides for participatory and democratic control of the decision making process. The Local Government Act of 1997 entrenched decentralisation in Uganda (Uganda Government, 1995). It should be noted however that the participation of interest groups in the district has remained a contentious issue.

In order for the special interest groups to champion their cause, affirmative actions have been entrenched in the local councils: for example, women representation to constitute at least a third of every local council; local councils must have two youth representatives one of whom must be a female; and all local councils to have two representatives of the persons with disability, one of whom must be a female, Uganda Government (1995). The Decentralisation policy was therefore aimed at empowering the local communities to have control over service delivery and overall development. However, it should be noted that despite these affirmative actions, special interest groups have not fully reaped the benefits of decentralisation.

In Africa, there was a gradual shift from highly centralised to decentralised system in the 1980s. Ever since, a number of countries have adopted decentralisation policies to varying degrees. Countries like Senegal, Nigeria, Tanzania and Uganda opted for devolution as a form of decentralisation. While some countries like Ghana, Cameroon and Kenya adopted decentralisation with nominal devolution of power. It should be noted that a number of developing countries began to adopt the concept of decentralisation as a form of governance that promotes participatory democracy.

1.1.2 Theoretical Background

On a theoretical perspective, the theory of Participation by Bazaara (2002) focuses on the operation of the mind which becomes a basis for feelings of stigma and reservation of views. He generally refers to his theory as the “comprehensive theory of participatory panpsychism” which looks at both down and up the hierarchy in the Great Chain of Being. After completing his investigation of the scientific views of mind

in nature, and in the particles of nature, he sketched a larger general theory of participation that encompasses social organization, eco-systems, and large-scale systems of mind. The theory was adopted to underpin the study.

It should be noted that the multi-tiered local government system in Uganda by design is meant to enhance popular participation. Also, the operation of the councils could not run smoothly without the women, persons with disability and youth representation at all levels of the local government.

1.1.3 Conceptual Background

Participation is a social and political activity that requires awareness, organization and mobilization for it to become an effective, reliable and predictable mechanism for decision-making and action (Robert, 2002). The scenario at the local government level is even worse for these interest groups whose representations in the council are limited to a few council members. In the case of persons with disabilities and the youth, their views seem to be frequently ignored in the consultation stage or even during council deliberations. The special interest groups in the context of Uganda and the Local Government in particular include; the women, youth, disabled and the elderly members of the community.

Public Administration has gradually shifted towards greater devolution of powers to decentralised entities. Over the last two decades, there has been a paradigm shift towards more decentralised system of governance in the developed as well as developing countries. The economic crisis of the 1980s and 1990s gave rise to decentralisation, which was embraced by many governments in order to address the challenges of inefficiency and ineffectiveness of the states to govern, increasing economic

instability, globalisation and the need to forge national unity through political reforms.

“A Special Interest Group” is a disadvantaged group that share similar interest politically, economically and socially (Kiberu, 2001). For the purpose of the study, these specifically included women, youth and persons with disability. “Participation” entails the act of performing roles geared towards decision-making, planning, implementation and evaluation of any task. In this study, it will be looked at as involvement in decision making within the Decentralisation framework. “Decentralization” in the context of Uganda is the devolution of power from the Central government to the Local governments. “Decision-making” is the act of identifying the best options to guide actions. “Lower Local government” in the context of Uganda comprises the Local Council III (LC.III) or Sub-county as a decentralised corporate entity below the District Local Government. Kitgum District is a cosmopolitan district with varying special interest groups. The Population is dominated by young people whereby 48 percent of the population is children aged 0-4. This implies that the work force has a lot of burden to keep the young and the old population. The inter censual growth rate stands at 4.1 percent higher than the national figure of 3.6 percent. The high growth rate puts a big strain on economic and social infrastructures.

1.1.4 Contextual Background

To date, women comprise about 35% of all local elected representatives. However, at the local council executive committee, only one position is reserved for women. In

Uganda, it is estimated that about 10% of the population are disabled persons (Actionaid, Uganda Participatory Poverty Assessment Report June, 2002). The percentage of the special interest groups therefore remains low. Integrating concerns of these special groups in the policymaking process still remains a challenge. Though some attempts have been made to improve participation of special interest groups in local governments, these measures seem not to focus on their strategic needs in terms of development and improved welfare. It is against this background that the researcher investigated the factors that influence effective participation of these special interest groups in decentralised decision-making at the lower local governments.

The challenges of Kitgum District are of a distinct nature. The general District illiteracy rate is high, with the female having a higher rate of 68%. There is a high dropout rate of pupils, at 56% for primary schools as compared to the National level of 40%. This is attributed to the prolonged insurgency causing loss of property, livestock and infrastructure. This has led to household food insecurity and high poverty level at 60% in the district compared to the National Level of 30%. The total primary school enrolment is 64,245 pupils, of which 34,153 are boys and 30,092 are girls (Kitgum District Profile, 2010/2011). The community lifestyle has been interrupted by the internal displacement where people are deprived of their basic needs. Such situation of idleness contributes to risky social behaviours in the community such as, alcoholism, drug abuse, domestic violence, sexual abuse and

commercialisation of sex as a means for survival, making the population highly vulnerable to sexually transmitted diseases.

According to the 2002 Population and Housing Census, 86 percent of the population depends on subsistence agriculture for livelihood (Uganda Bureau of Statistics, 2002). Also, the literacy rate for females was at 40 percent implying that these women cannot get engaged in scientific farming. They cannot therefore understand the initiatives being advocated by Government like National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS), Plan for Modernization of Agriculture (PMA), and Prosperity for all and others. In the Education sector, there is high dropout rate especially of the girl child due to various social and cultural factors. The Agricultural sector recorded shortage of labor leading to drop in production. From the above background, it can be assumed that a greater proportion of the population comprises Special interest groups who unless protected, may not adequately express their needs. It is from this background that the study report was being undertaken as a contribution towards solving the problem of limited participation of special interest groups in decision making at the lower government levels.

1.2 Problem Statement

Stakeholder involvement has been acknowledged as the basis to improve service delivery in society. It is a social and political activity that enhances awareness, organization and mobilization in a way that is reliable and predictable mechanism for decision-making and action (Robert, 2002). Despite the many benefits of participation, there are numerous challenges relating to its operation and sustainability. Although participation in decision-making under decentralised system

seems to have increased generally, the influence of special interest groups in the process especially at the lower local governments is not clearly discernible, yet the essence of decentralisation is to promote participation of all stakeholders in decision making.

It should be noted that in Kitgum, women, youth and person with disabilities put together constitute the biggest proportion of the population. However, in decision-making organs of the local government, they are under represented. Besides, at the lower local government, influence of the special interest groups in the various standing committees and council meetings seems to be very poor, most of the decision and resolutions taken do not in most instances reflect the development needs of these groups. These groups generally seem to lack cohesiveness and the ability to collectively exert strong influence and lobby for their priorities to be addressed. The researcher analysed the various causes of low participation of the special interest groups in order to determine appropriate mechanism to promote effective participatory democracy at lower local governments.

1.3 Study Objectives

1.3.1 General Objective

The study was aimed at investigating the factors influencing the participation of special interest groups in decision-making at the lower local government.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

The study specifically aimed at achieving the following objectives:-

- i) To assess the effect of the level of training on the participation of special interest groups in decision-making process in the lower local governments.
- ii) To examine the effect of culture on the participation of special interest groups in decision-making at the lower local governments.
- iii) To examine relationship between legal framework and participation of special interest groups in decision making at lower local governments of Kitgum district.

1.4 Research Questions

The study was guided by the following research questions:-

1. To what extent does the level of training affect the participation of special interest groups in decision-making in lower local government?
2. What is the effect of culture on participation of special interest groups in decision-making at the lower local government?
3. How does the legal framework affect participation of special interest groups in decision making at lower local governments?

1.5 Research Hypotheses

1. There is a significant relationship between the level of training and participation of special interest groups in decision-making in lower local government.
2. Culture of the special interest groups exerts a significant effect on the participation of special interest groups in decision-making at the lower local government.
3. There is a significant relationship between the legal framework and participation of special interest groups at lower local governments.

The conceptual framework showing relationship between the Independent and dependent variables

The figure below explains the relationship that exists amongst the variables under investigation. It indicates how training, culture and the legal framework affects participation of Special Interest Groups in Decision making at lower Local Government Levels and also reflects on the intervening variable that has the ability to influence the relationship under investigation.

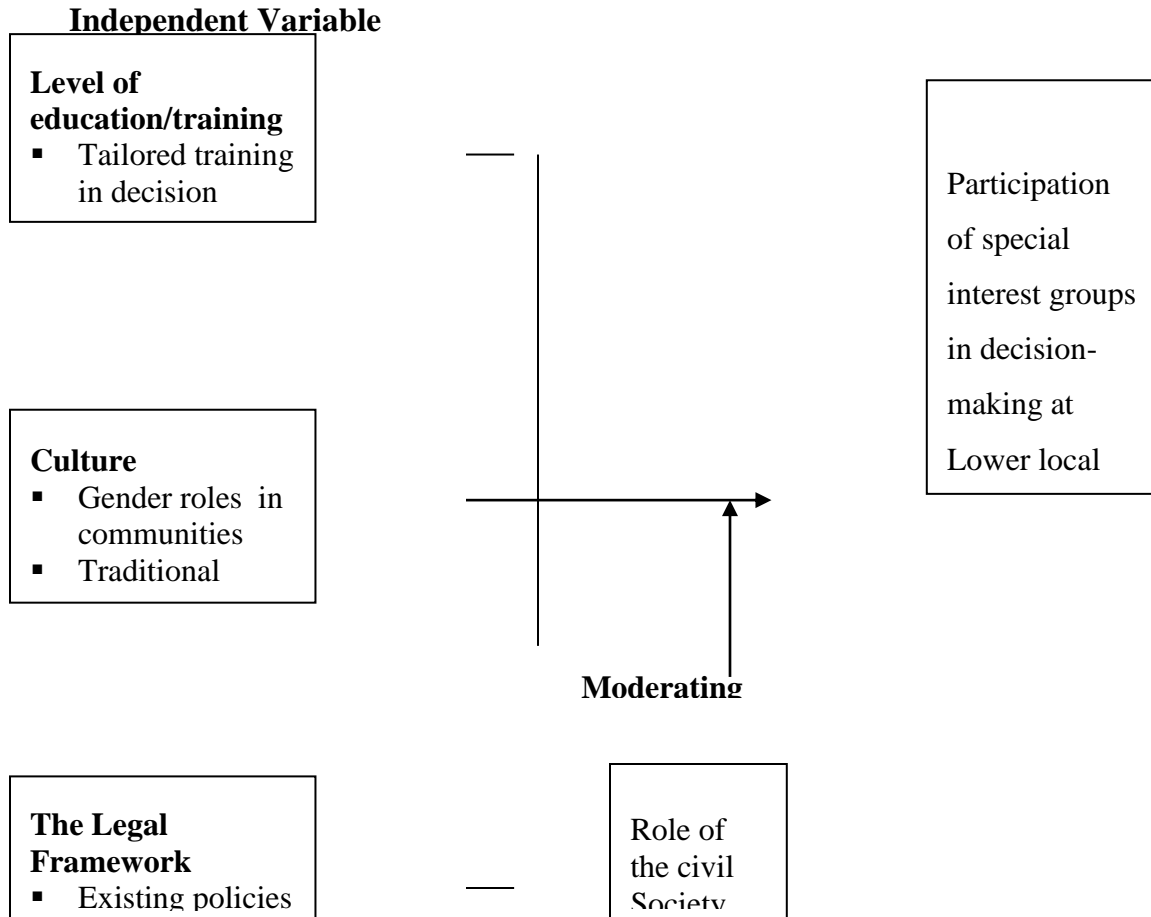


Figure 1: Conceptual Frame Work showing the factors that affect participation of special interest groups in decision making

Source: Developed from the participation theory by Bazaara (2002)

As can be observed from Figure 1, participation of special interest groups in decision-making was influenced by a number of factors. These factors mainly include: the level of training, cultural practices and the legal framework. The level of training influenced the quality of participation. The training may not necessarily be formal but the special tailored training in decision making. It is therefore worthwhile analysing the factors that influence the participation of these groups. Attainment of higher level

of education is believed to be a factor in promoting effective participation in decision-making. It is generally perceived that the higher the level of education, the more a councillor is likely to contribute meaningfully.

Socio-cultural practices and belief is also found more likely to influence participation in decision-making process. This phenomenon was common in communities where the general perception of roles and responsibilities of persons are culturally ascribed. The cultural orientation influences the actions of the special interest groups and community prejudices towards special interest groups. As according to the study, culture was found to play a significant role especially on the women and the persons with disabilities who were perceived by community members as persons who could not play any significant role in decision making.

The legal framework comprised constitutional provisions, policies and procedures streamlining participation of special interest groups under decentralised system.

The concept of Participation is about the actions of the various stakeholders in the process of decision making at lower local Governments. The views of the special interest groups are always ignored even at the consultation stage and during council deliberations.

The relationship however is generally affected by other factors especially the role of the civil society. Civil society comprises organisations that are involved in advocating and lobbying for the marginalised groups in society. Those organisations empower

special interest groups through information, training on participatory rural appraisal approaches and policy formulation.

1.5 Scope of Study

The study was conducted in Kitgum district as a case study. The district has one county – Chua. There are 9 sub-counties and one Town/urban council: Amida, Akwang, Kitgum-Matidi, Lagoro, Layamo, Mucwini, Namokora, Omiya-Anyima, Orom, and Kitgum Town Council. The study was conducted in three (3) sub-counties and one Urban Council.

The content scope of the study covered factors that influence participation of special interest groups in decision making at the lower local governments. Though there are many factors, the study focussed on training, culture and the legal framework.

The time scope of the study concentrated on the information between 1995 and 2012. This is a period when reforms were made in local Government management and the constitution of the republic of Uganda promulgated. It empowered local governments to make decisions involving the local population with consultations with Central Government.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The study findings may contribute towards understanding of the need for effective participation of special interest groups in decision-making at lower local governments. Hence, better understanding of the policy formulation process and challenges at the lower local governments. Besides, information gathered will form

the basis for designing appropriate strategies for enlisting full participation of special interest groups at community level in order to promote sustainable development.

To the district local governments, the study might contribute to understanding of how to build capacity and mentor the special interest groups to be able to plan and implement development initiatives more efficiently and effectively.

To the donors and other development agencies, the study findings are expected to contribute towards development of appropriate strategies and interventions to increase participation of the vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in the socio-economic development of the rural communities. Besides, the findings would indicate key areas for strategic alliance with a view to address the needs of vulnerable groups.

To the Researcher, the report may enable the researcher attain qualification of Masters in Management Studies.

Finally, information generated from the study findings may form a foundation for subsequent studies on the subject and other related issues.

1.7 Limitations of the Study

In the course of carrying out the research, it was anticipated that the following limitations would be encountered: Response level was expected to be below expectation due to low literacy level of most respondents. To remedy this, respondents were selected in proportion depending on the level of education attained. The use of researchers administered questionnaires was expected to raise the response rate significantly. It was anticipated that the environment would affect execution of

the research in the district. The researcher ensured regular consultation with the security organs on the ground to ascertain the security situation.

A few respondents were expected to exhibit negative attitude by providing inadequate information on matters considered sensitive to their feelings. However, adequate guarantees were instituted to ensure respondents appreciate the purpose of the study. Confidentiality of information and sensitivity to cultural issues were taken into account during data collection stages.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter covered literature review with specific focus on the variables of the study and their relationships. This was intended to review efforts so far undertaken to address issues related to the research problems and identifying gaps that still remain in the field of study. The major themes of review included: Theoretical review and then related literature which cover; the concept of Special Interest Groups, training and participation, culture and participation and legal framework and participation.

2.2 Theoretical Review

The theoretical framework was derived from the theory of Participation of Bazaara (2002). The theory states that the operation of the mind becomes a basis for feelings of stigma and reservation of views. The theory further ascertains that the operations of the mind can also be influenced by social organizations, eco-systems, and large-scale systems. He notes that the objectivism of science offers neither explanation nor accounting for the phenomenon of mind. Thus, the human mind is regarded as an unexplained by mystery of science. The concept of participation likewise lies primarily outside the bounds of conventional science.

Numerous other scientists have found grounds for panpsychism, in the fields of physics, chemistry, and biology. The confluence of panpsychism and participation reaches a peak in the work of Bohm (1993). He noted that evolution unified natural phenomena, especially life, and this allowed people to see life emerging in a

kind of continuous process from non-life. A natural conclusion then was that consciousness and the feeling of the mind is embedded in all matter, and only becomes visible to us in the structures that we call life especially in our levels of participation.

Others, like Bergson (2003), argued that mind was a creative phenomenon that emerged *de novo* in the course of universal evolution. This leaves the process of emergence as mysterious and perhaps, and introduces troublesome instances of 'drawing a line' somewhere in the sequence of structural complexity. Rather than we need to redefine the concept of emergence, to more adequately account for the appearance of the new within a connected process of universal evolution. All this reflects that participation or no participation depends on feeling which is redefined by the level of training, culture or the legal framework that were going to be made in the report in view of local Governments.

The theory of Panpsychism was generally chosen than any other because of its focus on the operation of the mind and the value of confidence. It should be noted from the above theory that it is not just the physical capability but the confidence of the person to participate and contribute towards a decision.

2.3 Related Literature

This part of the study presents views of other scholars on the different variables that are in line with the objectives of the study,

2.3.1 Training and Participation of Special Interest Groups in decision making

The level of training always influences the effectiveness of stakeholder participation in both organizational and national programs. DeCenzo (2002) asserts that it is not enough to merely assume that any training offered to an individual is sufficient to enhance involvement. There is need to develop substantive data to determine whether the training is achieving its goals that is if it is correcting the deficiencies in skills, knowledge or attitude that were assessed by the researcher.

It is further asserted that in analysing participation of disadvantaged communities, education which is required to prepare them to participate effectively in decision-making is often overlooked (The International Workshop on Participatory Planning Approaches for Local Governance, 2002). This is particularly the case in Uganda where sometimes deliberations in councils are in English as the official medium of communication. Hence, the less educated tend to shy away during deliberation on complex policy matters.

Flamhoitz (2003) cautions about a need to develop concepts and tools for monitoring and evaluating community based training programs in terms of their impact, results and values or return on investment. Kirk Patrick (1994) as cited in Armstrong (2003) suggested a standard model used by most professional trainers to evaluate training. Prokompeko (1996) identified valid indicators of effective community based training activity in a non-productive environment in which he argued that training programs

are done with a hope that they will have some effect. However measuring training effectiveness is difficult and must be done well to ensure the continued faith of community members in training. This can be through getting an outsider to study the impact of specific programs or say in the case of decentralisation, getting the community development officers as insiders, empowered to develop evaluation tools and carry out evaluation of every training program that is conducted for the special interest groups.

Participation of special interest groups in decentralised decision-making has generally been perceived to be low because these groups were not considered key actors in development process. The situation however improved slightly with the adoption of decentralisation system of governance. The current level of participation of these groups at the various committees and the sub-county council deliberations is considered very low compared to those of directly elected councillors. These directly elected councillors therefore maintain absolute dominance over the affairs of the council including decision-making.

Kiberu (2001) in his findings of a study conducted in Bushenyi district asserts that 33.3% of respondents interviewed in the study indicated that the attendance of the special interest groups in the council meetings were occasional. This shows that besides having little influence over policy direction, these groups have not fully reaped the benefits of affirmative action. The situation seems to be worse at the lower local governments. Low level of education and lack of lobbying skills by special interest groups seems to be one of the causes of low participation of these groups in local governance. Noble (1997)

observed that in many instances, it is the local elites rather than the most vulnerable that capture decentralised power - which is then utilised to repress the local minorities – including women and other marginalised groups. This phenomenon is common since members of the special interest groups are less assertive in determining policy outcomes. Lack of assertiveness coupled with little cohesion among members of the group greatly undermines their ability to lobby for their priorities and concerns.

Porter and Steers (1973) noted that because the greater part of communities with special interest are loosely organised, it is often the individual members rather than communities that voice their suggestions, requirements, appeals and criticisms to influence the formulation and implementation of policies. This loosely organised interest group lacks unity of purpose in order to realise their common cause. This factor seems to impact negatively on their participation in the decision-making process at the lower local governments. It is important that the special interest groups are helped to learn by doing. Prokompeko (1996) urges that while people learn by doing, the needs should carefully be planned and controlled in order to get full learning value. Furthermore, learning by doing is reinforced and rewarded by participation of all the interested parties. According to Kempton (1997), this kind of training often provides opportunity to impart concentrated knowledge and skills that can be learnt or practiced in a safe environment.

From the review of literature, it can be concluded that the concept of training and participation of interest groups has been explored by researchers before. The only significant gap is that there are no studies that have been carried out with respect to local Governments and particularly of a rural setting like Kitgum district which created enthusiasm to the researcher.

2.3.2 Culture and Participation of Special Interest Groups

It should be noted that even where the situation seems better, socio-cultural factors to some extent may affect participation of women. Women are reported to be excluded by their husbands from participating in meetings and development projects since that would bring beatings (Action Aid, 2002). The report further states that poor people particularly women, who possess only ragged clothes feel ashamed to be seen in public meetings and social events.

It is believed that a number of contradictions, which include cultural biases and discrimination still impact negatively on participation of interest groups in decision-making. The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda of 1995 provides for gender balance in statutory bodies that one-third of council positions at the local government be reserved for women.

Gita and Maryam (1998) notes that while these provisions certainly represent a step in the right direction, they might not ensure a qualitative improvement of women's participation in decision-making for a number of reasons. Therefore, it should be noted that these factors alone may not guarantee effective participation. Other socio-cultural factors seem to play greater role as regards their roles in decision-making. These factors include insufficient mobilization, negative cultural attitude towards women, youth and persons with disability leaders, lack of skills and ability to formulate complex policies, inadequate knowledge on the strategic needs of these groups and inadequate training of new councillors to effectively participate in the decision-making process.

The situation is not any better with the youth either. In most cases, poor leadership skills have greatly affected their level of participation in decision-making process. In the Ugandan politics, Youth councils were regarded as an important institution for the youth. In some local entities, these councils give a voice to the youth, mobilising, providing role models, influencing behaviour and assisting in income generation. However, their activities are limited by lack of funding, lack of clear roles and limited skills (Action Aid, 2002). Lack of cohesiveness, high rate of illiteracy and are some of the likely factors that inhibit youth participation in decision making at the lower local governments.

The status of persons with disability in the policy formulation process seems to be constrained despite the enabling reforms at the lower local council structures. Furthermore, it should be noted that lobbying and conceptual capacity of the majority of Persons With Disability (PWD's) leaders in the legislative organs especially at local council level is still low, thus their inability to influence the councils and other service providers The New Vision, Wednesday, (2003). Participation of special interest groups may also be analysed in terms of the institutional framework. Women participation in decision-making could be measured in terms of the number of women elected to occupy local authorities, parliament and higher government positions. Uganda Government (1998).

It should be noted that the article 32(1) and 180(2) b & c of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda of 1995, provide for affirmative action for marginalised groups at the lower local governments. Section 24(1) c, d & e of the Local Government Act 1997, provide for the composition of special interest groups at the lower local governments. What is most fundamental is that a start has been made and on this strong foundation we

can build more sustainable and improved structures-structures that are able to influence and make it possible for young people's concerns to find their way on local council agenda (Shaft N.M, Conference presentation).

Mujaju (1996) in his analytical review of the Ugandan situation states that Women and politics were considered to be mutually exclusive. Politics was a preserve for men. Women were viewed in their submissive roles as mothers and domestic workers; good for entertaining visitors as cooks and dancers. From this, it should be realised that participation of Ugandan women in politics still remains an important gender concern. At the local level the situation poses a threat to gender empowerment and decentralised governance. Manor (1999, p.97) further asserts that in some system, some seats on councils are reserved for women nominees. This holds little promise for them, because they tend to be beholden to the male leaders who secured their nomination. This scenario seems to be common in most local councils in Uganda where women positions are reserved in organs of the council. These representative appear to exert little influence over policy making since in very few circumstances do their strategic interests get acted upon. The review generally indicates that culture is an aspect that is embedded in society. It highly affects the way individuals in society behave and this makes situation varies according to urbanisation and the level of education. It is important that a study be carried out on a rural setting like Kitgum to find out how the variable of culture is manifested.

2.3.3 The Legal Framework and participation of Special Groups in Local Government

From the onset, it should be noted that legal frameworks are necessary but not sufficient for guaranteeing participation of Special interest groups. They are subject to both constraining and enabling factors that affect how they are taken up in practice. Constraining factors identified by Robert (2002) include; limited powers to local government and participatory bodies, including an acute lack of fiscal power; conflict between channels for participation and bureaucratic structure; barriers to representation by marginalised groups; corruption and lack of accountability; and policy frameworks that are themselves restrictive. Enabling factors include mobilisation by citizens and action by civil society for policy reform, monitoring of local government and developing participatory forms of consultation.

Robert (2002) asserts that participation of special interest groups is not just about rewards. Participation is a social and political activity that requires awareness, organization and mobilization for it to become an effective, reliable and predictable mechanism for decision-making and action. The scenario at the local government level is even worse for these interest groups whose representations in the council are limited to a few council members. In the case of persons with disabilities and the youth, their views are frequently ignored in the consultation stage or even during council deliberations. Election of representatives is the most common avenue for ‘participation’ in local governance in East Africa and is one of the most basic forms of ensuring accountability.

In Kenya, local authorities are elected with universal adult suffrage and secret ballots in multi-party elections. The chairperson of the local authority is then chosen from among the councillors (Bazaara 2002: 12). In Tanzania, the *kitongoji* chairperson is elected by residents and automatically becomes a member of the village council. The remaining members of the village council, including the chairperson, are elected by the village assembly, which consists of all adult members of the village (Shivji & Peter, 1999).

In Uganda, LC1s, LC3s and LC5s, Members of Parliament and the President are elected through 5-yearly elections with universal adult suffrage; the chairperson of each of these councils is also directly elected. LC2s and LC4s, however, are indirectly elected by councillors on LC1s and LC3s, respectively. This system allows unpopular councillors (at village, sub-county and district level, at least) to be voted out at elections; in practice, however, this rarely happens and the councils have a relatively stable membership. The legal framework in Uganda has not fully protected the participation of interest groups. For example during the revision of Poverty Eradication Action Plan (PEAP) the Kabale participants complained that ‘Democracy is limited to the incompetent rich who can buy votes’ (quoted in Civil Society Organisations Taskforce for PEAP Revision, 2000). Adjumani participants concluded, Democratisation is good in terms of regular elections. It also easily lends itself to manipulation; politicians are able to manipulate people by simply organising meat eating parties.

There are no mechanisms that guarantee the representation of women in local governments in Kenya. In Tanzania, however, one quarter of all councillors must be women. At district level, there are reserved seats, elected by the entire electorate (not

just women). In Uganda, the 1995 Constitution stipulates one third of councillors at all levels must be women. This had the immediate effect of introducing 10,000 women into a local government system that had previously been dominated by men (Ahikire, 2001:1).

The local governance system in Uganda also guarantees representation of marginalised groups, unlike in Kenya and Tanzania. At every level of local government, there are two seats guaranteed for youth (one of whom must be female) and two seats guaranteed for the disabled (one of whom must be female). Unlike reservations for women, these seats are not elected by the entire electorate. Instead, the youth representatives are elected by the youth Electoral College derived from the Youth Council structure (see below) and disabled representatives are selected through the National Union of Disabled People of Uganda (Ahikire, 2001: 16).

In addition to indirect forms of participation through council elections, local government structures in Uganda and Tanzania also provide for direct participation through local assemblies, which are made up of all the residents of a village. In Uganda, the village assembly is the lowest tier of government and forms a deliberative body in which all adult residents may take part Bazaara (2002). It is also the lowest level of the development planning process and discusses budgeting and use of resources. However, attendance at meeting is not high, in part because of the limited resources at stake and in part a perception such decisions were the prerogative of elected representatives. Far from being a catalyst for local development initiatives,

funds were often not even sufficient to undertake petty works such as the maintenance of the village well.

Joint action on poverty knowledge has been most pronounced in Uganda, particularly in the Uganda Participatory Poverty Assessment Project (UPPAP). UPPAP is a three-year collaborative project between donors, the Government of Uganda and civil society organisations. Its aims are: To enhance knowledge about the nature and causes of poverty and to generate and apply strategies for poverty reduction, to enhance District government capacity to plan and implement poverty reduction strategies using participatory methods and to develop systems for participatory and qualitative poverty monitoring; and to establish capacity for participatory policy research in Uganda (Brock *et al.*, 2002).

It thus allows (in theory at least) citizen participation in developing the knowledge used by District governments in planning that affects them and allows civil society participation in the consultation process. The inclusion of civil society organisations as gatherers and analysts of UPPAP data was expected to fuel a significant shift in the way that data is regarded, used and owned, with the public, and even poor people, assuming a more central role as generators and users than previously (Brock *et al.*, 2002). With more reforms for strengthening citizen participation in local governance underway in Uganda (with the fiscal decentralisation programme), the prospects for increased participation in local governance by special interest groups in East Africa are fairly good. However, spaces that open for participation can also be closed. The frameworks for participation discussed here are still relatively fragile and may

not be enacted fully. Furthermore, the constraining factors discussed here may leave a gulf between how the frameworks for participation operate in theory and how participation occurs in practice.

It can be concluded that Kitgum district inclusive, the existence of legal frameworks is a first step towards enabling participation. The only challenge is that there was no detailed study that had been carried out to this effect which attracted the researcher.

2.4 Summary of the Literature Review

In order to foster good governance at the lower local governments, deliberate efforts should be made to enlist full participation of all social groups. Special interest groups being the most affected in terms of decentralised decisions at the lower local government seems to have limited lobbying skills to enable them garner support for their cause. Representation of these groups at the various fora including council organs is quite poor. The literature presents a picture that Governance and democracy is not about institutions and processes only. It is a totality of the means put in place to enable the ordinary people including the poor and disadvantaged groups, to participate in decision making on matters affecting them at the national, regional, district and village level either directly or through freely elected representatives. The study generated important findings in relation to the factors influencing participation of special Interest groups particularly in Kitgum district local government.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter deals with the strategies used for conducting the study. The appropriate instruments used in the research are defined the procedures for data collection, management and analysis mechanisms were also described.

3.2 Research Design

The study used a case study design because the study intended to gather information on one district involving a similar population setting. It was considered an ideal research method because as Lycette (1984) puts it, it is suitable when holistic in-depth investigation is needed. Lycette also asserts that a cross sectional study enables researchers to have a critical analysis and evaluation of the subject under study. The researcher concurred with this view and chose to use this study design to enable him collect data from a cross section of the population at one point in time to understand the issues under investigation.

3.3 Study Population

The population and sample for this study comprised of women councillors (LC III), youth councillors, PWD councillors, sub-county women council representatives, and sub-county youth council representatives, LC III executive members, Chairpersons LC III, Sub-county Chiefs, Town Clerk and CBO (Community Based Organisation) representatives.

3.4 Sampling Size and Sample distribution

Table 1: Target Population in three (3) Sampled Sub-counties and one (1) Town Council

Sample size and sampling technique

Category	Target Population	Sample size	Sampling technique
Councillors	32	24	Convenient sampling
Sub county Executives	48	48	Convenient sampling
Chairperson LC III	4	4	Purposive
Sub county Chiefs	3	3	Purposive
Town Clerk	1	1	Purposive
CBO representatives	8	8	Convenient sampling
Total	96	88	

Source: Adopted from Krejcie, R. V. and Morgan D. W (1970) Determining sample size for research activities.

The above sampling procedure and techniques were adopted and developed from Amin (2005) as put forward by Morgan (1970).

3.5 Sampling Procedure

Sampling methods included purposive and convenient sampling. Purposive (judgemental) sampling techniques were used to select specific categories like Chairperson LC III, sub-county chiefs and the Town Clerk from the urban council. Linda (1990) defines study population as the entire group of people or events or

things that a researcher wishes to investigate. Kitgum Town Council] in Kitgum District over a period of three (3) months. The sampled sub counties were selected using simple random sampling because the entities are homogeneous and dispersed. The town council was selected using purposive sampling technique due to the unique characteristics of the urban population. The sub counties of the study included Amida, Akwang, Kitgum-Matidi, Lagoro, Layamo, Mucwini, Namokora, Omiya-Anyima, Orom, and Kitgum Town Council.

3.6 Data Collection Methods

Primary data both qualitative and quantitative data were collected in two sets using a questionnaire and face-to-face interview.

3.6.1 Questionnaire Survey

The use of a questionnaire in data collection in this study was vital because respondents took more time to respond at their convenient time thereby giving more genuine responses. According to Amin (2005), the use of questionnaire is less expensive compared to other methods. This is because questionnaires were mailed to respondents to be filled and also mailed back to the researcher for analysis.

Linda (1990) says that questionnaires are used to obtain important information about a wide coverage of the population in a short period of time. Also the questionnaire was used to allow respondents to have more time to reflect on answers to avoid hasty responses. In addition, questionnaires were used because they enabled respondents to give independent opinions without fear since it doesn't require the respondent's name.

Closed ended questions (Appendix A) were used to obtain questionnaire responses. The questionnaires were structured under five sections where the first four sections covered independent variables and the fifth section covered dependant variables. Closed ended questions would help the researcher to code information easily for subsequent analysis and this would narrow down error gap while analyzing data (Linda, 1990).

3.6.2 Interviews

The second set of data was collected by conducting structured face-to-face interviews using an interview guide. Interviews in this study helped to obtain more information on factors affecting participation of special interest groups (SIGs) in decision-making. This method helped the researcher to get responses from the study participants. This method was of advantage to the researcher because it offered an opportunity to adapt questions, clarify the questions by using appropriate language, cleared doubts, established rapport and further probed for more information. The researcher had better chances of ensuring that the responses were understood by repeating or rephrasing the questions and could get more non verbal expressions by observing body language. Also, an interview guide provided in-depth data which would not be possible to obtain when using Self-Administered Questionnaires (Wood, 1998).

Interviews were conducted using an interview guide (Appendix B) and only key informants were interviewed (Local Council Leaders and Technical Staff). The two

methods of data collection that is to say, interview and questionnaire were used under this study because they complement each other.

3.6.3 Focus Group Discussions

Focussed group discussion was used mainly for the women, youth and persons with disability Councils/representatives. Since these bodies have fairly organised structures at sub-county level, opportunity was given for the groups to provide data during panel discussions.

3.6.4 Documentary analysis

Review of documentation of various types which included Council minutes, policy documents, plans and reports were used as vital sources of data. These documents were collected from both Higher and Lower Local Governments.

3.7 Research Instruments

The research was carried out using various tools in order to collect the required information. Interview guide using semi-structured interview was used to gather data from some key respondents like the Local Council III Chairpersons and the Town Clerk who were assumed to have basic information on issue. Self-administered questionnaires would be used to collect information from majority of the respondents who are literate. Researcher's administered questionnaires were used along side to collect information from the respondents who are semi illiterate. Researchers' administered questionnaire is a reliable instruments for respondents especially those

whose levels of education are low. It is anticipated that this category of respondents are likely to be in the population sample.

3.8 Validity

The content related evidence of validity was used to calculate the validity of the questionnaire. The Content Validity Index (CVI) of the instruments was established by the use of expert judgment that is supported by Gay (1996). The judges evaluated the content of the instruments and determined whether it covers all aspects of the study under investigation. The researcher then adjusted the questionnaire accordingly.

A Consultant from Uganda Management Institute (UMI) and the two supervisors of the study were requested to make independent judgments of the relevance of the items in the questionnaire in relation to the objectives of the study.

The Content Validity Index (CVI) was then calculated basing on the judgement of the raters as indicated in below.

$$\text{CVI} = \frac{\text{Number of responses considered right}}{\text{Total number of items in instrument}}$$

The instrument was judged on the values therein as strongly agree= 1, Agree =2, Not sure=3, Disagree=4, strongly disagree=5

	Number of items rated	Number of items relevant	Validity %
Rater 1	47	45	95.7
Rater 2	48	44	91.6
Rater 3	42	39	92.8
Total	137	128	93.4

From the results, a value of 93.4% meant that the items in the questionnaire were focused on to the intended information and should be used in the study (Amin, 2005).

3.9 Reliability

The reliability of the instrument was then ascertained using Cronbach's Alpha coefficient. This coefficient was used because it is useful when measuring reliability of items in the instruments that can be scored on a four scale, which is more than two points. The formula for determining Reliability using Cronbach's alpha Coefficient is stated as follows;

$$\alpha = \frac{k}{k-1} \frac{1 - SD_i^2}{SD_r^2}$$

Where k number of items in the instrument/questionnaire

SD_i^2 Variance of the individual item

SD_r^2 = variance of all items in the instrument and α is the Cronbach's index which should be approximately 70% according to Amin (2005) for the instrument to be used indicating a strong positive correlation coefficient between the items in the sample.

In generating the reliability, after the pilot study from Kitgum Town Council, the researcher used the computer (SPSS) program–split half method, which generated a Coefficient of 86% which allowed the researcher to use the instrument (appendix IV).

3.10 Procedures for Data Collection

Procedures for data collection during the research period included the following: Four research assistants were trained on how to administer the research instruments including questionnaires and guided interview schedules. Questionnaires contained introductory note that clearly guarantees confidentiality of information provided by respondents. The purpose of the research was clearly communicated to the respondents prior to administering research tools. Introductory letter (Appendix V) from Uganda Management Institute giving permission to execute the research in the selected entities greatly enhanced data collection process.

3.11 Data Analysis

3.11.1 Quantitative Data

Data generated from the research was managed through the use of existing facilities located at selected sub-county headquarters as temporary collection centres. Subsequently, classification and analysis of data was done using qualitative and quantitative techniques. The quantitative techniques included the use of the Pearson product moment correlation coefficient for objective 1, 2 and 3. The researcher used the Pearson correlation coefficient because all the objectives aimed at establishing relationships between two variables and all of them have hypotheses attached to them.

3.11.2 Qualitative Data

The qualitative data from interviews, documents was also analysed on content. Part of this data was coded and quantified while the rest was analysed on content where for instance, the quotations from participants were considered the way they were expressed without any changes.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE RESULTS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings of the study. The chapter is divided into subsections that include the background information, the relationship between level of education and participation of interest groups, the effect of culture on participation of special interest groups. The results are analysed qualitatively and quantitatively to be understood by all readers.

4.1 The Response Rate

The researcher expected 88 participants in this study. However because of unforeseen challenges, the response was lower than these as the following calculation indicates:

Expected respondents	=	88
Actual Response	=	77
Response rate $77/88 \times 100$	=	86%

According to Gay (1996), any response rate above 50% is sufficient since it can be representative of the total population. The researcher, therefore, considered the above response rigor enough to produce valid results for this study.

4.2 Background Information

The researcher analyzed the background of the respondents. It helped the researcher to understand the people who participated in the study, their distribution and information possession ability. The variables analyzed were gender, level of education, the age distribution, categories of Special Interest Groups (SIGs), religion and whether the SIGs felt they participated in decision making.

Gender distribution of respondents

On the gender of respondents, the results were generated as presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Gender Distribution of Respondents

Gender	Frequency	Percent
Male	57	74.3
Female	20	25.7
Total	77	100.0

Table 2, shows that 57(74.3%) respondents were males, 20(25.7%) were females. This indicates that both sexes were generally represented which gave the researcher an opportunity to get varying views from both men and women.

Level of education

The study also examined the level of education of respondents and the results are as presented in Table 3.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents by Highest Level of Education

Category	Frequency	Percent
Secondary	31	40.3
Tertiary (Certificate/Diploma)	26	33.7
Tertiary (Degree)	20	26
Total	77	100.0

From Table 3, 31(40.3%) respondents had completed Secondary education, 26(33.7%) had completed tertiary, while 20(26%) of them were graduates. The results indicate that those who had completed only secondary level of education were the majority constituting 40.3%. This represents both O' level and A' levels. It should be noted that there are some individuals who had only stopped before competing O' level but were also put in the same category. All the others had gone through tertiary level but those with degrees were still fewer than all the rest. There is no respondent who had acquired a postgraduate level of education from the main study. However, some respondents that were interviewed especially the managers of Non Governmental Organizations had acquired postgraduate education especially at Diploma level. Never-the-less, the results indicate that the participants were varying in the highest level of education attained.

Age of respondents

The age of each respondents was also examined and was categorised accordingly. The results are presented in Table 4.

Table 4: Distribution of the Respondent by age

Age categories	Frequency	Percent
22 – 26	13	16.9
27 – 31	21	27.3
32 – 36	21	27.3
37 – 41	14	18.2
42 – 46	5	6.5
47 and above	3	3.9
Total	77	100.0

Table 4 shows that 13(17%) respondents were in the age of 22-26, 21(27%) were between 32-36 and 14 (18%) were in the age bracket of 37-41. Generally, the data indicates that the majority of respondents in the age bracket of 27-36 constituting 54.6%. The lower age had fewer respondents and the higher age had even fewer.

Special interest groups

The respondents were also categorized the special interest groups as according to the respondents' considerations and the results are indicated in Table 5.

Table 5: Distribution of Categories of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) by Respondents.

Categories as perceived by respondents	Frequency	Percent
Women	13	16.9
Disabled people	23	29.9
Refuges	18	23.4
Victims of GBV	12	15.6
Orphans	11	14.3
Total	77	100.0

Tables 5, shows that 13(17%) respondents were women, 23(30%) were disabled, while 18(23%) of the respondents were refugees and 12(16%) respondents were victims of gender based violence. The women were also considered as SIG during the interview. It was clarified that, women have special needs. They revealed that the problems women go through are peculiar and must be given attention. They also identified another SIG called victims of Gender Based Violence (GBV). They explained that these are women who were battered at homes. Some of these women had lost limbs, ears or even psychologically affected and according to the respondents they needed special attention from Government and other concerned organizations.

It was also of interest to the study to examine the distribution of respondents by religion. This was necessary given that the study focuses on the people's

ways of living and are more attached to their religion than nothing else. The results are presented in Table 6.

Table 6: Distribution of Respondents by their Religion

Religion	Frequency	Percent
Catholic	52	67.5
Protestant	17	22.1
Born Again	8	10.4
Total	77	100.0

Table 6 shows that majority of the respondents 52(67.5%) were Catholics as compared to 22% who were protestants while 10% were born again church based. It was revealed during the interviews that the Catholics were the majority in Northern Uganda and that having majority of respondents being Catholics was not a surprise.

Finally, on the background information, the researcher examined whether SIGs participated in decision making. This was intended to open up the study since it was aimed at examining the extent of their participation and analysis of the factors that limited their full participation. The results are presented in Table 7.

Table 7: SIGs Participation in Decision-making

	Frequency	Percent
Yes	56	72.7
No	9	11.7
Don't know	12	15.6
Total	77	100.0

As can be viewed in Table 7, there was generally an agreement that special interest groups participated in decision making. However, 12(15.6%) respondents were not sure about participation in decision making. During the study, the researcher was able to probe and valuable information was generated. From the background information, it can be acknowledged that there was adequate participation by the anticipated respondents in the study.

4.3 The Effect of Level of Training on Participation of Special Interest Groups

The first objective of the study was on the relationship between the level of training and participation of special interest groups. The objective was later transformed into a research hypothesis that was tested using the Pearson product moment correlation coefficient and the results are presented as follows;

Table 8: The Relationship between the Level of training and Participation of Special Interest Groups.

		Participation	Legal framework
Participation	Pearson Correlation	1.000	.560**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
	N	77	70
Legal Framework:	Pearson Correlation	.560**	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.
	N	70	77

****.** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 8 shows that a Pearson correlation coefficient of 0.560 was calculated at a probability of 0.000. The researcher also calculated a coefficient of determination to determine the strength of the relationship.

The Coefficient of determination is:

$$r^2 = r_{xy} \times r_{xy}$$

r^2 means coefficient of determination

r_{xy} means the Pearson Correlation coefficient

$$r_{xy} = 0.660$$

$$\text{Hence } r^2 = 0.560 \times 0.560 = 0.3136$$

From the coefficient of determination, it can be observed that the effect was 31.3% positive such that the effect of legal framework significantly affects participation in

the same way. As a result, the Null hypothesis which stated that there was no significant relationship between the level of training and participation of special interest groups was rejected and the research hypothesis was accepted.

The researcher first inquired on the general aspects that limited participation of interest groups in decision-making. The results are indicated in Table 9 below.

Table 9: Factors that limited participation of SIGs

Factors	Frequency	Percent
Level of education	18	23.4
The issue of culture	29	37.7
Limited communication	24	31.2
Lack of confidence	6	7.8
Total	77	100.0

Table 9 indicates that 18(23%) of the respondents pointed out that the factors limiting the participation of SIGs was associated to level of education, 38% noted culture, and 31% noted limited communication while 8% noted lack of confidence. Level of education (training) was presented as one of the aspects that limited participation. This was mainly associated with knowledge that people possessed that related to decision making at Lower Local Government. The researcher analyzed issue by issue as far as level of training was concerned.

It was important for the researcher to investigate whether interest groups had the necessary training and the results are indicated in Table 10.

Table 10: Respondents opinion on SIGs did not have necessary Training

Rating	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	22	28.6
Agree	18	23.4
Not sure	23	29.9
Disagree	10	13.0
Strongly disagree	4	5.2
Total	77	100.0

Table 10 shows that 22(29%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 18(23%) agreed, 23(30%) were not sure, 13% disagreed while 5% of them strongly disagreed. Respondents revealed that most of the special interest groups did not have the necessary training. The study indicates that the majority of the respondents agreed that special interest groups did not possess training necessary in decision-making. During interview with the respondents, it was revealed that some Special Interest Groups had not finished formal education. Some of the counsellors had not even finished senior four, they did not speak English and could not even analyse documents that were written in English. The researcher was not impressed by the fact that some counsellor could not communicate in English during the data collection exercise and the local languages was used in the process to obtain the

necessary information. The results revealed that the training possessed by the special interest groups was truly limited.

As a result, the researcher inquired about the level of confidence with which special interest groups approach policy matters. The results are indicated in Table 11.

Table 11: Special Interest Groups had Confidence in themselves

Rating	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	6	7.8
Agree	21	27.3
Not sure	29	37.7
Disagree	17	22.1
Strongly disagree	4	5.2
Total	77	100.0

Table 11 shows that 6(7.8%) of the respondents strongly agreed and 21(27.3%) of the respondents agreed as compared to 17(22.1%) of the respondents who disagreed and 4(5.2%) of the respondents who strongly disagreed while 29(37.7%) of the respondents were not sure when the inquiry was made.

During the face-to-face interviews, it was revealed that although the special interest groups were educated, some of them participated with confidence. It was revealed for example that some disabled individuals had managed to

confidently express themselves on various matters save for the lack of knowledge on policy making which limited their ability to make arguments.

It was hence necessary to inquire whether there was need for a special training for Special Interest Groups and the results in Table 12 were revealed.

Table 12: Special Interest Groups lack Knowledge of Management

Rating	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	20	26.0
Agree	33	42.9
Not sure	16	20.8
Disagree	8	10.4
Total	77	100.0

Table 12 shows that 20(26%) respondents strongly agreed and 33(42.9%) of the respondents agreed while 16(20.8%) respondents were not sure as compared to 8(10.4%) of the respondents who disagreed. During the interviews the researcher was asked to explain what management actually was and it was explained to cover the following aspects; organising, planning, budgeting, communication, directing and from the context of the study, it was used to mean involvement in decision making. During the discussion, each aspect was explained at a time and the level of participation of interest groups that was required. From the interaction however, it was found true that there was need for special training to Special Interest Groups. After explaining the meaning of management during the

interviews the researcher inquired on the knowledge of management possessed by SIGs, participants agreed that special interest groups lacked the knowledge of management.

It was also of interest to the researcher to examine whether some special interest groups understood the decision-making process at Local Government.

The results are indicated in Table 13.

Table 13: Special Interest Groups do not understand Policies

Rating	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	13	16.9
Agree	35	45.5
Not sure	20	26.0
Disagree	9	11.7
Total	77	100.0

The results in Table 13 show that the majority (62.3%) of the respondents indicated that they did not know while 26% were not sure as compared to 11.7% of the respondents who did not believe that special interest groups did not understand the policies. The results indicate that according to respondents, SIGs do not understand the decision-making process that applied in Local Government. During discussion with district officials, it was revealed that some members in the council just listen to others. The level of participation by making contributions to the proceedings was low. One District council woman

representative explained to the researcher that most SIGs know the process but they only have limiting opportunities to contribute fully. From the above views, it is possible to believe that most of the special interest groups do not necessarily understand the decision-making process because of the nature of their problems.

The researcher investigated on the ability of SIGs to argue during deliberations in council. During the interviews with the local leaders, it was revealed that trainings had been carried out by different organizations especially the NGOs to enhance the members' ability to make decisions. It was revealed that during such meetings, members are helped to understand the different policies that affected SIGs and how they should contribute. One participant however noted that though policies are in place, some people are usually manipulated either by the method of deliberation on the issues or by formation of cliques. As a result the women, the youth and the disabled members of the councils are influenced easily to accept desirous even without reflecting on the actual impact.

It was also revealed however that some interest groups are too challenged to participate. There are members especially the disabled who were not confident when some decisions were to be made and finally the culturally suppressed members of society. It was revealed that there are some people especially women who cannot sustain an argument especially with their male counter parts. Respondents argued that women are culturally trained to listen to the

men and even when men are arguing, they tend not to interfere and this has affected their ability to influence certain decisions.

The research also examined whether interest groups actually understood their roles in the management of the district. The results are presented in Table 14.

Table 14: SIGs did not Understood their Roles

Rating	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	19	24.7
Agree	37	48.1
Not sure	16	20.8
Disagree	5	6.5
Total	77	100.0

Table 14 shows that 19(24.75%) respondents strongly agreed and 37(48.1%) of the respondents agreed that SIGs did not understand their roles while 16(20.8%) of the respondents were not sure and 5(6.5%) of the respondents disagreed to the fact that Special Interest Groups did not understand their roles. When this inquiry was made during the face-to-face interaction, it was explained that the roles of SIGs were enshrined within different legal documents. However, only a few of the interest groups could appropriately read, write and analyse the written materials. This affected their ability to make substantial decisions at the lower local councils. One member revealed that, ‘there are some members who have never even touched the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda’. He argued that, as a result, they

do not know their roles since they are only prescribed in the constitution and the Local Government Statutes.

It was revealed that SIGs lacked confidence in their involvement and do not think they have anything substantial to contribute. During the face-to-face interviews, it was highlighted that some of them felt have nothing to contribute but the other people who are physically and mentally fit, felt SIGs can contribute but lack confidence. It was noted however that some other people stigmatised them. One participant for example argued “What does a blind person have to contribute to a decision. Let them wait and other people argue for them in a way of taking care of them.” This indicated to the researcher that there was already a level of stigma that needed to be broken through sensitization of all members of society. From the above results, it can be concluded that there is a significant relationship between the level of training and participation of special interest groups in decision making. If the contribution of special interest groups is to be enhanced, there is need for appropriate training to even other members of society in order to eliminate the stigma and lack of confidence.

4.4 Hypothesis Number Two: The Effect of Culture on Participation of Special Interest Groups

From the second objective of the study, a research hypothesis was derived. The hypothesis aimed at establishing the effect of culture in participation of special interest groups. The relationship was verified using the Pearson product movement correlation co-efficient whose results are indicated in Table 15.

Table 15: The Relationship Between Culture and Participation of SIGs in Decision-making

		Correlations	
		TRAINING	CULTURE
TRAINING	Pearson Correlation	1.000	.669**
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
	N	77	70
CULTURE	Pearson Correlation	.669**	1.000
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.
	N	70	70

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 15 shows that a Pearson correlation coefficient of 0.669 was calculated at a probability of 0.000. The researcher also calculated a coefficient of determination to determine the strength of the relationship.

The Coefficient of determination is:

$$r^2 = r_{xy} \times r_{xy}$$

r^2 means coefficient of determination

r_{xy} means the Pearson Correlation coefficient

$$r_{xy} = 0.669$$

Hence $r^2 = 0.669 \times 0.669 = 0.448$

From the coefficient of determination, it can be observed that the effect was 44.8% which implies that there was a positive effect exerted by culture on participation. The descriptive statistics were also analysed and the following results revealed; As a result, the Null hypothesis which stated that there was no significant relationship between the culture and participation of special interest groups was rejected and the research hypothesis was accepted.

The study established whether the SIGs had self initiative in practice. The distribution of the results is displayed in Table 16 below.

Table 16: SIGs lacked Self-Initiative

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	28	36.4
Agree	26	33.8
Not sure	18	23.4
Disagree	5	6.5
Total	77	100.0

Table 16 shows that 36% of the respondents strongly agreed, 34% agreed, 24% were not sure as compared to 7% who disagreed. The majority of the respondents believed that special interest groups lacked self-initiative. When their views were sought during the face-to-face interviews, it was clarified that some of the SIGs wait for decisions to be made for them rather than be part of the

process. One respondent expressed that “even during deliberations in meetings, some of the people do not want to talk. They wait for others to say what they want and if it does not turn out as they want, they start complaining.” This revealed to the researcher that at least other members knew that this was a special interest group that at times needed protection from the rest of the members.

Respondents argued that from the lower to the higher levels of decision making, special interest groups were catered for. They revealed that at every committee in the District, at least there was a woman. They reiterated that Government had gone ahead and established women councils, the youths and the disabled representatives at all levels of local governments. This indicated that they believed that SIGs were well represented and probably other circumstances limit their ability to meaningfully participate in decision-making at various levels.

During the interview with the respondents it was revealed that the social systems within society also affect participation of SIGs. It was revealed for example that girls' education had been greatly influenced by the social systems. One respondent argued that, “*if there were no money for fees in a home, the little that was available was spent on boys while the girls were left behind.*”

The social system further does not allow women to talk a lot or engage in strong arguments with men. This has made them psychologically affected since they cannot adequately present their views along side their male counterparts. Stigmatization was also highlighted by some members of society especially the disabled who are not empowered enough to make their contribution

The researcher also wanted to find out whether the SIGs did not have interest to participate in decision making. The results are presented in Table 17.

Table 17: Special Interest Groups were Interested in Participating in decision making

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	19	24.7
Agree	34	44.2
Not sure	23	29.9
Disagree	1	13
Total	77	100.0

Table 17 shows that 25% of the respondents strongly agreed, 44% agreed, 30% were not sure as compared to 13% who disagreed. The respondents felt the interest groups were interested in decision making. This however was rejected during the interviews when the respondents argued that there is nobody who would not be interested in defending their rights. However, circumstances always determine their effectiveness. During the discussions, some women expressed dissatisfaction

that men always believe their views were more superior and appropriate than those of women. They however revealed that since the Law universally applied to all, the situation will improve and their voices heard even in the District Councils. This could be the reason why the majority of the respondents believed that the views of SIGs are neglected during deliberations in meetings.

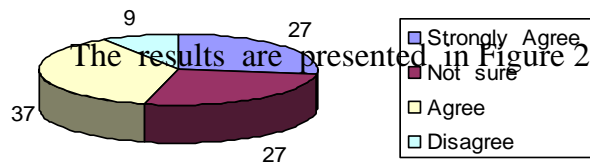


Figure 2: Distribution of respondents by their views of SIGs being neglected during deliberation.

As can be viewed in Figure (3), the majority (37%) of respondents believed that the views of special interest groups are neglected. The same view was highlighted during then face-to-face interviews.

The research also wanted to assess the extent to which SIGs were neglected. The same view was highlighted during the face-to-face interviews.

The researcher also wanted to assess the extent of participation of SIGs especially during the decision-making meeting. It was inquired whether actually, SIGs participate actively and the results are indicated in Table 18.

Table 18: Distribution of respondents on their views whether SIGs raise up their hands during Meetings

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	13	16.9
Agree	9	11.7
Not sure	9	11.7
Disagree	26	33.8
Strongly disagree	20	26.0
Total	77	100.0

Table 18 shows that 17% of the respondents strongly agreed, 12% agreed, 12% were not sure as compared to 34% who disagreed, and 26% strongly disagreed. The results generally indicate that the SIGs raise up their hands during meetings. This was revealed by the fact that the majority of the respondents did not believe when the inquiry was made. Even during the interviews it was revealed that during the deliberations, everybody talks. A member revealed that it was only not easy to establish what each member had said overtime so that the views said by different people could be examined.

It was however agreed by the respondents that the special interest groups had fear in themselves. This can be viewed in the Table 19.

Table 19: SIGs lacked Confidence

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	14	18.2
Agree	16	20.8
Not sure	40	51.9
Disagree	7	9.1
Total	77	100.0

Table 19 shows that 18% of the respondents strongly agreed, 21% agreed, 52% were not sure as compared to 9% who disagreed on whether the SIGs had fears in themselves. The results indicate generally that the SIGs lacked confidence. During the face to face interaction, it was revealed that some the them were not submitting their views during deliberations or would only end supporting other peoples' contributions only. The following information in Table 20 – 26 can also adequately explain participation of SIGs in decision-making.

Table 20: Interest Groups were Shy

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	15	19.5
Agree	29	37.7
Not sure	18	23.4
Disagree	12	15.6
Total	74	100

Table 20 shows that 20% of the respondents strongly agreed, 38% agreed, 18% were not sure as compared to 16% who disagreed. It can be acknowledged that the SIGs were generally shy though the results were normally distributed. Even during the interviews, it was revealed that some people were shy and could not adequately express themselves. The reason being that they could not adequately express themselves. The reason behind however was explained to be the fact that they were not fully empowered in terms of knowledge and skills. The views in Table 21 were also important in explaining the same eventually.

Table 21: SIGs fear that Decisions made for them were not Okay

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	18	23.4
Agree	30	39.0
Not sure	12	15.6
Disagree	15	19.5
Total	75	100

Table 21 shows that 18(23%) respondents strongly agreed, 30(39%) agreed, 12(16%) were not sure as compared to 15(20%) who disagreed. Generally the results indicate the affirmative. This is because the majority of the respondents believed that the SIGs were not comfortable with decisions made for them. During interviews, the same opinion was expressed. It was revealed that some of the members of the public were not satisfied with the decisions that were made

for them. At some instance, people complained about the nature of services provide especially the conditions in schools, the state of the roads, the poverty in the homes and the prices of goods and services. They associated all these challenges to the decision making process. This means that people did not believe that those who made decisions for them did it right.

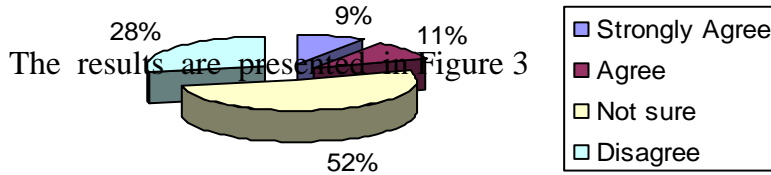


Figure 3: Distribution of respondents on

As can be viewed in Figure 3, the SIGs also expressed themselves since majority of the respondents disagreed when the inquiry was made. It was however not true that SIGs are not protected by policies as can be viewed in Table 22.

Table 22: Distribution of respondents by their views whether SIGs are Protected by Policies

		Frequency	Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	7	9.1
	Agree	30	39.0
	Not sure	23	15.6
	Disagree	15	19.5
	Total	75	97.4
Missing	System	2	2.6
	Total	77	100.0

Table 22 shows that 9% of the respondents strongly agreed, 39% agreed, 16% were not sure as compared to 20% who disagreed. The results generally indicate that the SIGs are protected by the policies. During the face-to-face interviews, it was revealed that there are guidelines within the Local Government Act, the Constitution and all other District Governing Committees, clearly showing that SIGs are protected. One respondent noted that it is only up to them to exploit opportunities available for their success.

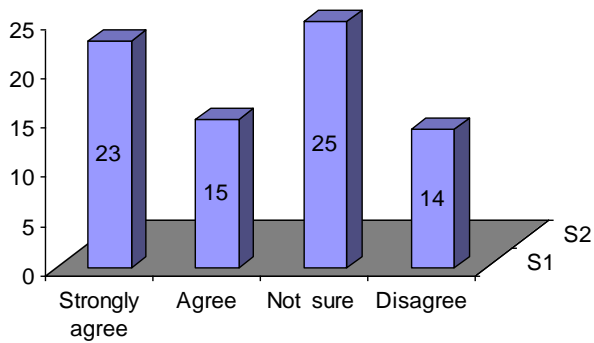


Figure 4: Distribution of respondents whether SIGs are usually few.

Figure 4 shows that 23% of the respondents strongly agreed, 15% agreed, 25% were not sure as compared to 14% who disagreed. The above data reveal that, the SIGs are usually few. Hence, not adequately represented in various decision-making for a. This was advanced also as a reason why their views are usually suppressed during meetings. It is from here that the researcher inquired whether they were used to the policies being made for them and the results are presented in Table 23.

Table 23: SIGs are used to the Policies being made for them

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	23	29.9
Disagree	36	46.8
Not sure	12	15.6
Strongly agree	5	6.5
Total	77	100.0

Table 23 shows that 30% of the respondents strongly agreed, 47% agreed, 16% were not sure as compared to 7% who disagreed. It can be inferred that SIGs were used to policies being made for them. It was revealed during the interviews however, that sometimes, there is no option but to accept whatever policy. One potholed road for one year, it is most likely that I will not complain in another year. But this would not mean that the road has improved; “I have only got used to the pot holed road.” He asserted that; this is the same thing with our policy makers. “Bad policies have been made over time and we are now used and probably they may think now the policies are appropriate.”

This revealed to the research that the relationship between culture and participation of SIG in Decision making was significant.

4.5 Research Hypothesis Three: The Effect of the Legal Framework on Participation of Special Interest Groups

From the third objective of the study, a research hypothesis was derived that aimed at establishing the relationship between the legal framework and participation of special interest groups in decision-making. The legal framework was premised on the policy guidelines, procedures and other provisions to participative decision making. The relationship was established using the Pearson product moment correlation co-efficient whose results are presented in Table 24.

Table 24: The Relationship between the Legal Framework and Participation of Special Interest Groups.

	Participation	Legal framework
Participation Pearson Correlation	1.000	.660**
Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000
N	77	70
Legal Framework: Pearson Correlation	.660**	1.000
Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.
N	70	77

****.** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Table 24 shows that a Pearson correlation coefficient of 0.660 was calculated at a probability of 0.000. The researcher also calculated a coefficient of determination to determine the strength of the relationship.

The Coefficient of determination is:

$$r^2 = r_{xy} \times r_{xy}$$

r^2 means coefficient of determination

r_{xy} means the Pearson Correlation coefficient

$$r_{xy} = 0.660$$

$$\text{Hence } r^2 = 0.660 \times 0.660 = 0.436$$

From the coefficient of determination, it can be observed that the effect was 43.6% positive such that the effect of legal framework significantly affects participation in

the same way. As a result, the Null hypothesis which stated that there was no significant relationship between the legal framework and participation of special interest groups was rejected and the research hypothesis was accepted.

The researcher further analyzed the descriptive statistics which was considered valid. For example, the study examined whether the decision making mechanism favours SIGs. The results are presented in Table 25.

Table 25: The decision making mechanism was favourable

Rating	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	13	16.9
Agree	22	28.6
Not sure	24	31.2
Disagree	12	15.6
Strongly disagree	6	7.8
Total	77	100.0

Table 25 shows that 13(17%) respondents strongly agreed, 22(29%) agreed, 24(31%) were not sure as compared to 12(16%) who disagreed while 6(8%) strongly disagreed. Majority of the respondents indicated that the mechanism was not favourable.

During the face-to-face discussion, it was also revealed that some members did not participate because of the means through which decisions were arrived at. It was revealed for example that most of the discussions were done in English

and majority of the SIGs could not even sustain a discussion in English. This means that whenever they stood up to speak, they could not exhaustively present their view points and consequently their views never get through successfully. This could be the reason why the majority of the respondents had to believe that lack of appropriate communication skills affected participation of some interest groups at various policy making organs.

The researcher wanted to find out whether remuneration had an effect on the participation of special interest groups in decision-making.

Table 26: Remuneration affects Special Interest Groups

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	10	13.0
Agree	31	40.3
Not sure	23	29.9
Disagree	5	6.5
Strongly disagree	6	7.8
Total	75	100

Table 26 shows that 13% of the respondents strongly agreed, 40% agreed, 30% were not sure as compared to 6% who disagreed while 8% strongly disagreed. The results indicated that remuneration had a substantial effect. This is because the majority were in agreement.

During the interviews, it was revealed that sometimes sub county Counsellors dodge meetings because the remuneration is very low. One respondent argued that; *“it is meaningless to spend your money to go and attend a meeting at a sub-county and you do not get anything back in your pocket.”* This means that some of the SIGs were not fully participating in decision making process due to poor remuneration.

The study also examined the relationship between participation and the Constitutional provisions. It aimed at establishing whether the provision in the Constitution have increased participation of SIGs. The results are presented in Table 27 below.

Table 27: Constitutionalism has Increased Participation.

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly disagree	4	5.2
Disagree	25	32.5
Not sure	29	37.7
Agree	19	24.7
Total	77	100.0

Table 27 shows that 5% of the respondents strongly agreed, 33% agreed, 37% were not sure as compared to 24%. The results hence indicate that respondents agreed on the role of constitutionalism.

During the interviews, it was acknowledged that human rights. One respondent argued that, before the Constitution of 1995, special interest groups were not respected at all. They noted that the constitution has empowered everybody to the extent that special interest groups can now be represented at different forces. One respondent explained how today there were women counsellors, members of Parliament and that women were undertaking all kinds of jobs. It was also revealed that women have also been empowered in business and are highly respected by men. It was further revealed that, not only women but the youth, the disabled persons and other disadvantaged groups were all being represented at various levels of local leadership. This therefore shows that constitutionalism has enhanced participation of special interest groups in decision making.

The study also examined whether there were procedures in Local Government that involved everybody. The results are indicated in Table 28.

Table 28: The Procedures in Local Government involved everybody

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	10	13.0
Agree	23	29.9
Not sure	23	29.9
Disagree	20	26.0
Total	76	100

The results in Table 28, indicate that 43.4% of the respondents were in agreement as compared to 26% who could not believe while 29.9% remained neutral. Even during the interviews, it was revealed that, everything was done according to the guidelines. One of the respondents revealed that even if a person did not want someone to contribute, he could not succeed because the procedure was clear for everybody to be involved. It was also revealed that the procedures are usually communicated to everybody. This explains the view that those who did not participate did not do so because they were not aware of the procedures but only because of other factors discussed in objective 1 and 2.

The study also evaluated the issue of stigmatization. The results are indicated in Table 29.

Table 29: Distribution of respondents on whether there was need for Legislation on Stigmatization

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	28	36.4
Agree	37	48.1
Disagree	12	15.6
Total	77	100.0

The respondents agreed that there was need to legislate on stigmatization. It is only 12(15.6%) of the respondents who did not agree but all the other respondents accepted that there was need for legislation on stigmatization. This reflects what was revealed during the interviews that some individuals did either laughed or bored those SIGs when they expressed views in meetings. It is important hence that legislation is made to protect them.

It was also in the interest of the study to examine the need to improve the policies associated with decision making. The results are presented in Table 30.

Table 30: Distribution of respondents on whether there was need to Improve Policies

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	15	19.5
Agree	22	28.6
Not sure	26	33.8
Disagree	14	18.2
Total	77	100.0

As can be noted from Table 29, 15(19.5%) of the respondents strongly agreed, 22(28.6%) agreed as compared to 26(33.8%) who were not sure while 14(18.2%) disagreed. There was need to improve the policies in order to favour the SIGs. The policies could be improved in a way that the SIGs could appreciate. In the

policy guidelines, it was recommended that the SIGs should be given time to consult and their views should be presented in a way that they can evaluate themselves and make reviews. It was however agreed that there was a clear channel to express dissatisfaction and that the views were usually put into action. It was also agreed that there were systems to enhance political involvement of interest groups. These distributions are presented in the following tables.

Table 31: Distribution of respondents on whether there is a clear Channel to express Dissatisfaction

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	17	22.1
Agree	20	26.0
Not sure	18	23.4
Disagree	15	19.5
Strongly disagree	7	9.1
Total	77	100.0

Table 31, indicates that majority of the respondents that is, 17(22.1%) and 20(26%) believed that there was a clear channel to express dissatisfaction as compared to 15(19.5%) of the respondents who disagreed and 7(9%) of the respondents who strongly disagreed. During interviews however, it was revealed that dissatisfaction is rarely expressed specially by SIGs.

Table 32: Distribution of respondents on whether SIGs Views are usually put into Action

	Frequency	Percent
Strongly agree	7	9.1
Agree	21	27.3
Not sure	23	29.9
Disagree	16	20.8
Strongly disagree	10	13.0
Total	77	100.0

The results shows that the views raised by SIGs are usually put into action. This was revealed by 7(9.1%) of the respondents who strongly agreed and 21(27.3%) agreed. However, 23(30%) of the respondents remained neutral when the inquiry was made as compared to 16(20.8%) of the respondents who disagreed and 10(13.5) who strongly disagreed. From the results therefore, it can be deduced that the SIGs views are occasionally put into action.

CHAPTER FIVE
SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND
RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter of the study presents the summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations of the study as derived from chapter four.

5.1 Summary of Findings

The results revealed that there was need for special training to Special Interest Groups. On whether some special interest groups understood the decision-making process at Local Government, the results indicated that some SIGs do not understand the decision-making process that applied in Local Government. It was revealed that some members in the council just listen to others and the level of participation by making contributions to the proceedings was low. The findings of this study make it possible to believe that most of the special interest groups do not necessarily understand the decision-making process because of the nature of their problems.

It was further revealed that the ability of SIGs to deliberate during deliberations in council was also limited. It was explained that trainings had been carried out by different organizations especially the NGOs to enhance the members' ability to make decisions. It is also noted in the results that during such meetings, members are helped to understand the different policies that affected SIGs and how they should contribute. However though policies are in place, some people are

usually still manipulated either by the method of deliberation on the issues or by formation of cliques which technically reduces the effort of women, the youth and the disabled members of the councils who are easily influenced to accept even without reflecting on the actual impact.

The results further revealed that some interest groups were physically challenged to participate effectively. When inquiry was made during the face-to-face interviews, it was revealed that, there were members who were totally blind and could not contribute to any decision-making as they were not sure. There are some people especially women who cannot sustain an argument especially with their male counter parts. Results indicated that women are culturally trained to listen to the men and even when men are arguing, they tend not to interfere and this has affected their ability to influence certain decisions.

The results further revealed that the allocation of roles are defined within different legal instruments which only a few of the interest groups could appropriately access, read and comprehend. This affected their ability to make substantial decisions at the lower local councils. The results indicate that there are some members who have never even touched the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda' and as such they do not know their roles since they are only prescribed in the constitution and the Local Government Statutes.

The results further revealed that some of the SIGs felt that they had little to contribute compared to others who were physically and mentally fit. From the results

however it was noted that some other people stigmatised them with comments like “What does a blind person have to contribute to a decision, Let them wait and other people argue for them in a way of taking care of them” which indicated to the researcher that there was already a level of stigma that needed to be broken through sensitization of all members of society.

Generally from the results, it can be observed that there is a significant relationship between the level of training and participation of special interest groups in decision making. The results hence objectively suggest that if the contribution of special interest groups is to be enhanced, there is need for appropriate training to even other members of society in order to eliminate the stigma and lack of confidence so that the contribution of special interest groups could be maximised.

The study further focussed on the effect of culture on participation of special interest groups. The relationship was verified using the Pearson product moment correlation co-efficient whose results are indicated that the relationship was positive such that culture significantly affects participation in the same way. The results revealed that special interest groups lacked self-initiative and that “even during deliberations in meetings, some of them do not want to talk but wait for others to say what they want and if it does not turn out as they want, they start complaining.

The results however revealed that at every committee in the District, at least there was a woman. Government had gone ahead and established women councils, the youths and the disabled representatives at all levels of local governments to show that SIGs were well represented and probably other circumstances limit their ability to meaningful participate in decision-making at various levels.

The results indicate that the social systems within the society also affects participation of SIGs. Girls education had been greatly influenced by the social systems that had made them psychologically affected that they cannot adequately present their views along side their male counterparts. Some women expressed dissatisfaction that men always believe their views were more superior and appropriate than those of women.

5.1 Discussion

5.1.1 Discussion of findings on Objective One

The study analysed the effect of training on participation of interest groups in decision-making. Limited participation was associated with knowledge that people possessed that related to decision making at the Lower Local Government. This finding relates to those of Decenzo (2002) where he notes that Participation of special interest groups in decentralised decision-making has generally been perceived to be low because these groups were considered having low knowledge on decision making.

The study further reveals that the level of participation of the special interest groups at the various committees and sub-county council deliberations is considered very low compared to those of directly elected councillors. The directly elected councillors therefore maintain absolute dominance over the affairs of the council, including decision-making.

From the study it was revealed that some of the councillors had not even finished senior four, they did not speak English and could not even analyse documents that were written in English. The researcher hence was not impressed by the fact that some councillor could not communicate in English during the data collection exercise and the local languages were in the process to be able to get the necessary information. The results hence revealed that the training possessed by the special interest groups was truly limited. This finding is related to the views expressed by Bandung, (2002) when he found out that sometimes deliberations in councils were in English as the official medium of communication. Hence, the less educated tended to shy away during deliberation on complex policy matters.

The study further revealed that, though the special interest groups did not possess high level of formal education, some of them participated with confidence. It was revealed for example, that some disabled individuals had managed to confidently express themselves on various matters although they lacked knowledge on policy making and which limited their ability to argue and analyse available policy options.

5.1.2 Discussion of findings in Objective Two

The second objective aimed at establishing the effect of culture on participation of special interest groups. The relationship was verified using the Pearson product moment correlation, co-efficient whose results are indicated that the relationship was significant. It was further revealed that girls education had been highly constrained by the social systems where *if there were no money for fees in a home, the little that is available is spent on boys while the girls are left behind*. The social system further does not allow women the freedom to talk or make strong arguments with the men which has made them psychologically affected since they cannot adequately present their views. The findings have a connection with those of other scholars like Gita and Maryam (1998) who noted that the status of women have only been helped by the provisions of the current constitution of Uganda than before. They noted that provisions represent a step in the right direction but should also ensure a qualitative improvement of women's participation in decision making.

As found out by this study however, the situation is not any better with the youth either. It was found out that in most cases, poor leadership skills have greatly affected their level of participation in the decision-making process. As noted by Action Aid (2002) however, their activities are limited by lack of funding, lack of clear roles and limited skills. Lack of cohesiveness, high rate of illiteracy and are some of the likely factors that inhibit youth participation in decision making at the lower local governments.

The current study further found out that special interest groups lacked self-initiative. It was revealed that some of the SIGs wait for decisions to be made for them. One respondent expressed that even during deliberations in meetings, some of the people do not want to talk. They wait for others to say what they want and if it does not turn out as they want, they start complaining. This relates to the views raised in the New Vision, Wednesday, 2003 where it was argued that the status of persons with disability in the policy formulation process seems to be constrained despite the enabling reforms at the lower local council structures. Furthermore, it should be noted that lobbying and conceptual capacity of the majority of Persons with Disability (PWD's) leaders in the legislative organs especially at local council level is still low, thus their inability to influence the councils and other service providers.

It was found out in this study that from the lower to the higher levels of decision making, special interest groups were catered for. They revealed that at every committee in the District, at least there was a woman. Government went ahead and established women, youths, and disabled councils all special interest groups were represented. This is provided for in the Uganda Constitution of 1995 and the Local Government Act cap 243. However, various circumstances impact on their effectiveness. The study revealed that some women expressed dissatisfaction that men always think their views are more superior and appropriate than those of women. They further revealed that since the Law applies to all, they were

optimistic about change and that their voices will be heard even at the district council.

5.1.3 Discussion of findings on Objective Three

From the third objective of the study, a research hypothesis was derived that aimed at establishing the relationship between the legal framework and participation of special interest groups in decision-making. The legal framework was approached in terms of the policy guidelines, procedures and other provisions to participative decision making. The relationship was established using the Pearson product moment correlation coefficient whose results indicated that there was a significant relationship. The study revealed further that some members of SIGs did not participate because of the means through which decisions were arrived at.

The results indicated that remuneration had a substantial effect. This is because the majority of respondents were in agreement. Even during the interviews, it was revealed that sometimes Sub-county Counsellors dodge meetings because the remuneration was very low. These findings meant that some of the SIGs were not fully participating due to poor remuneration. These findings are related to those of other scholars especially Robert (2002) who notes that the limited participation was due to limited empowerment to local government and lack of streamlined systems for participation especially characterised by bureaucratic structure.

The system challenges had presented themselves as serious barriers to representation by marginalised groups, corruption, lack of accountability, policy frameworks that are themselves restrictive. Enabling factors include mobilisation by citizens and action by civil society for policy reform, monitoring of local government and developing participatory forms of consultation.

Participation is a social and political activity that requires awareness, organization and mobilization for it to become an effective, reliable and predictable mechanism for decision-making and action. The scenario at the local government level is even worse for these interest groups whose representations in the council are limited to a few council members. In the case of persons with disabilities and the youth, their views are frequently ignored in the consultation stage or even during council deliberations. This finding also makes it completely different from the Tanzania situation in which Bazaara (2002) notes that the *kitongoji* chairperson is elected by residents and automatically becomes a member of the village council. The remaining members of the village council, including the chairperson, are elected by the village assembly, which consists of all adult members of the village.

In conclusion therefore, there was a significant relationship between the legal framework and participation of special interest groups in decision making. The findings of the study were found to have a strong relationship with those of other scholars most especially on institutional and legal framework under decentralised system of governance.

5.2 Conclusions

From the findings, it was concluded that there is a significant relationship between the level of training and participation of SIGs in decision-making. The results revealed that level of training determines the ability to understand the policies, guidelines, the procedures and communication ability. It is the basis of confidence with which accurate deliberations are made.

The findings also revealed that culture and participation in decision making have a significant relationship. The results revealed that the ability of SIGs to express themselves was suppressed by cultural orientations. Whenever they came up to express themselves, it involved a level of stigma that eventually held them back.

The findings also revealed that the legal framework is significantly influences the participation of SIGs. The results revealed that the ability to express themselves is related to the clarity of the policies and guidelines, of the rules of the game.

5.3 Recommendations

Basing on the above conclusions, the following recommendations were derived at;

- 1) Government needs to invest in training of SIGs to enhance their ability to participate in decision making. The training should concentrate on understanding the policies and how to apply them in the day-to-day operation of local council organs.

- 2) There is need to sensitize the public about the role of SIGs in decision-making. The public should know that SIGs have a stake in the management of public affairs Natural Management and their views must be enlisted and translated into concrete actions for sustainable and holistic socio-economic progress and community welfare.
- 3) Finally, there is need to enhance policy making process to ensure that the SIGs are socially protected. The Articles of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda that protects the SIGs must be invoked and enforced whenever their rights are suppressed.

5.4 Areas for Further Research

- 1) A related study should be carried out in other districts for a comparative analysis.
- 2) There is need for a study on the effect of political pressure on the participation of SIGs in decision making.
- 3) A related study can also be carried out on the effect of Economic background on the participation of special interest groups in decision making.

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APPENDIX I: THE RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

THE SELF ADMINISTERED QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondent, I am a student of Uganda Management Institute carrying out a study on the factors influencing participation of interest groups in decision making at the lower local governments. You have been chosen at random to participate in this study and the views provided will only be used for academic purposes. The questionnaire is divided into four sections and some questions require choosing the appropriate alternative while others require expressing your opinion.

SECTION A

Answer the questions as appropriate

1. Gender

Male

Female

2. Level of education

(Specify).....
.....

3. Age

(Specify).....
.....

4. Indicate categories of special interest groups in your community

.....
.....

5. Religion

(specify).....

.....

6. Do you feel the interest group are limited in participation in decision-making?

Yes

No

If yes in (6), what aspects do you feel limit their participation?

.....

.....

SECTION B

Level of Training and participation of Special interest groups in decision making

Training attribute	SA	A	N	D	SD
1. Most of the special interest groups do not have appropriate training for decision making.					
2. Special interest groups lack confidence					
3. Special interest groups lack knowledge of management					
4. Special interest groups do not understand the policies					

5. Special interest groups need special training					
6. Some special interest groups cannot read and write					
7. Some special interest groups do not understand the decision-making process					
8. Some special interest groups cannot argue about decision aspects because of lack of adequate knowledge					
9. Some special interest groups are too challenges that it is not necessary to have them participate in decision-making					
10. Some special interest group feel decision-making is an aspect of the educated.					
11. Special interest groups do not understand their role in the management of the District.					
12. Majority of the special interest groups are to local and perceive themselves as not helpful in decision-making.					
13. Special interest groups are not socially empowered to execute their role.					
14. Special interest groups are not physically empowered to understand their role.					
15. Special interest groups lack self-initiative					
16. Special interest groups are deliberately eliminated from decision-making process.					

SECTION C

Culture and participation of special interest groups in decision making

This part of the intends to examine the effect of culture on participation by special interest groups in decision making. The questionnaire is arranged in SA - Strongly Agree, A- Agree, N-Neutral, D – Disagree and SD – Strongly Disagree.

Choose the best alternative

Cultural attribute	SA	A	N	D	SD
1. There is no interest by interest groups to participate in decision making.					
2. During deliberations, the views of some interest groups are neglected.					
3. Interest groups do not put up their hands during deliberations.					
4. Interest groups fear themselves					
5. Interest groups are shy					
6. They always feel the decisions made for them are okay.					
7. Interest groups do not like to express themselves.					
8. Interest groups are not protected by policies					
9. There are usually few interest groups involved in decision-making.					

10. Interest groups are used to policies being made for them and are usually comfortable.					
11. There is a negative attitude from the public towards interest groups.					
12. The decision making mechanism does not favour interest groups.					
13. Language affects participation of interest groups					
14. Distance affects participation of interest groups					
15. Remuneration affects participation of interest groups					
16. Required knowledge affects participation of interest groups					

SECTION D

The legal framework and participation of interest groups

Item	SA	A	N	D	SD
1. Participation has been increased by constitutionalism					
2. There are procedures in local government to streamline the contribution of everybody					
3. The procedures are communicated to all people					
4. There is legislation against stigmatisation of special interest groups					

5. Sensitization of the public on the role of interest groups can enhance participation					
6. There are policy challenges affecting participation of special interest groups					
7. There is need to improve the policies associated with decision-making.					
8. There is need to improve regulations regarding the communication process during decision-making.					
6. Special interest groups are aware of the areas that need improvement in enhancing their participation					
7. There is clear channel of raising dissatisfaction by interest groups					
8. The views of interest groups are usually put into action					
9. There are laid down systems to Enhancing political involvement of interest groups					

Thank you for participating

APPENDIX II: THE INTERVIEW GUIDE

In your opinion, do you feel special interest groups are affected by training in decision making.

If Yes, in (13) above, how is lack of training manifested?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

In your own opinion how do you think culture affects the involvement of special interest groups in decision-making.

.....
.....
.....
.....

In your opinion how do you think the participation of special interest groups can be improved?

.....
.....
.....
.....

Thank you for your co-operation

APPENDIX III: ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

Frequencies

The gender of the respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Male	57	74.0	75.0	75.0
	Female	19	24.7	25.0	100.0
	Total	76	98.7	100.0	
Missing	System	1	1.3		
Total		77	100.0		

Level of education of respondent

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Secondary	31	40.3	40.8	40.8
	Tatially (Certificate/Diploma)	26	33.8	34.2	75.0
	Tatially (Degree)	19	24.7	25.0	100.0
	Total	76	98.7	100.0	
Missing	System	1	1.3		
Total		77	100.0		

The age distribution of respondents

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	22-26	13	16.9	17.1	17.1
	27-31	21	27.3	27.6	44.7
	32-36	21	27.3	27.6	72.4
	37-41	14	18.2	18.4	90.8
	42-46	5	6.5	6.6	97.4
	47 and above	2	2.6	2.6	100.0
	Total	76	98.7	100.0	
Missing	System	1	1.3		
Total		77	100.0		

Categories of special interest groups identified by the respondents

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Women	13	16.9	16.9	16.9
Disabled people	23	29.9	29.9	46.8
Refugees	18	23.4	23.4	70.1
Victims of GBV	12	15.6	15.6	85.7
Orphans	11	14.3	14.3	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

Religion of the respondent

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Catholic	52	67.5	67.5	67.5
Protestant	17	22.1	22.1	89.6
Born again	8	10.4	10.4	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

Whether interest groups' participation in decision making is limited

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Yes	56	72.7	72.7	72.7
No	9	11.7	11.7	84.4
Dont know	12	15.6	15.6	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

Aspects that limit participation of interest groups

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Level of education	18	23.4	23.4	23.4
The issue of culture	29	37.7	37.7	61.0
Limited communication	24	31.2	31.2	92.2
Lack of confidence	6	7.8	7.8	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

Most interest groups do not have necessary training

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	22	28.6	28.6	28.6
Agree	18	23.4	23.4	51.9
Not sure	23	29.9	29.9	81.8
Disagree	10	13.0	13.0	94.8
Strongly disagree	4	5.2	5.2	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

Special interest groups lack confidence

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	6	7.8	7.8	7.8
Agree	21	27.3	27.3	35.1
Not sure	29	37.7	37.7	72.7
Disagree	17	22.1	22.1	94.8
Strongly disagree	4	5.2	5.2	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

Special interest groups lack knowledge of management

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	20	26.0	26.0	26.0
Agree	33	42.9	42.9	68.8
Not sure	16	20.8	20.8	89.6
Disagree	8	10.4	10.4	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

Special interest groups do not understand policies

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	13	16.9	16.9	16.9
Agree	35	45.5	45.5	62.3
Not sure	20	26.0	26.0	88.3
Disagree	9	11.7	11.7	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

There is need for a special training

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	19	24.7	24.7	24.7
	Agree	37	48.1	48.1	72.7
	Not sure	16	20.8	20.8	93.5
	Disagree	5	6.5	6.5	100.0
	Total	77	100.0	100.0	

Some SIG do not understand the decision making process

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	24	31.2	31.2	31.2
	Agree	23	29.9	29.9	61.0
	Not sure	30	39.0	39.0	100.0
	Total	77	100.0	100.0	

SIG do not argue about some policies due to lack of knowledge

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	6	7.8	7.8	7.8
	Agree	13	16.9	16.9	24.7
	Not sure	40	51.9	51.9	76.6
	Disagree	17	22.1	22.1	98.7
	33.00	1	1.3	1.3	100.0
	Total	77	100.0	100.0	

Some interest groups are too challenged to participate

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	19	24.7	24.7	24.7
	Agree	34	44.2	44.2	68.8
	Not sure	23	29.9	29.9	98.7
	Disagree	1	1.3	1.3	100.0
	Total	77	100.0	100.0	

Some Interest groups

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	11	14.3	14.3	14.3
	Agree	26	33.8	33.8	48.1
	Not sure	36	46.8	46.8	94.8
	Disagree	4	5.2	5.2	100.0
	Total	77	100.0	100.0	

Some members of interest groups do not understand their roles in the management of a district

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	19	24.7	24.7	24.7
Agree	29	37.7	37.7	62.3
Not sure	21	27.3	27.3	89.6
Disagree	8	10.4	10.4	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

They perceive themselves as too look and dont think they can contribute

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	18	23.4	23.4	23.4
Agree	37	48.1	48.1	71.4
Not sure	17	22.1	22.1	93.5
Disagree	5	6.5	6.5	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

Special interest groups are not socially empowered to execute their work

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	14	18.2	18.2	18.2
Agree	23	29.9	29.9	48.1
Not sure	25	32.5	32.5	80.5
Disagree	12	15.6	15.6	96.1
Strongly disagree	3	3.9	3.9	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

They lack self initiative

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	28	36.4	36.4	36.4
Agree	26	33.8	33.8	70.1
Not sure	18	23.4	23.4	93.5
Disagree	5	6.5	6.5	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

They are deliberately eliminated from the decision making process

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	11	14.3	14.3	14.3
Agree	22	28.6	28.6	42.9
Not sure	23	29.9	29.9	72.7
Disagree	16	20.8	20.8	93.5
Strongly disagree	5	6.5	6.5	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

There is no interest by interest groups to participate in decision making

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly disagree	9	11.7	11.7	11.7
Agree	23	29.9	29.9	41.6
Not sure	23	29.9	29.9	71.4
disagree	14	18.2	18.2	89.6
Strongly disagree	8	10.4	10.4	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

their views are neglected during deliberations

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	21	27.3	27.3	27.3
Agree	28	36.4	36.4	63.6
Not sure	21	27.3	27.3	90.9
Disagree	7	9.1	9.1	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

They do not raise up their hands when questions are asked

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	13	16.9	16.9	16.9
Agree	9	11.7	11.7	28.6
Not sure	9	11.7	11.7	40.3
Disagree	26	33.8	33.8	74.0
Strongly disagree	20	26.0	26.0	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

They have fear in themselves

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Stronly agree	14	18.2	18.2	18.2
	Agree	16	20.8	20.8	39.0
	Not sure	40	51.9	51.9	90.9
	Disagree	7	9.1	9.1	100.0
	Total	77	100.0	100.0	

Interest groups are shy

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Stronly agree	15	19.5	20.3	20.3
	Agree	29	37.7	39.2	59.5
	Not sure	18	23.4	24.3	83.8
	Disagree	12	15.6	16.2	100.0
	Total	74	96.1	100.0	
Missing	System	3	3.9		
Total		77	100.0		

At times they feel the decisions made for them are okay

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	18	23.4	24.0	24.0
	agree	30	39.0	40.0	64.0
	Not sure	12	15.6	16.0	80.0
	Disagree	15	19.5	20.0	100.0
	Total	75	97.4	100.0	
Missing	System	2	2.6		
Total		77	100.0		

They do not like to express themselves

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	7	9.1	9.3	9.3
	agree	8	10.4	10.7	20.0
	not sure	39	50.6	52.0	72.0
	disagree	21	27.3	28.0	100.0
	Total	75	97.4	100.0	
Missing	System	2	2.6		
Total		77	100.0		

they are not protected by policies

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	strongly agree	7	9.1	9.3	9.3
	agree	30	39.0	40.0	49.3
	not sure	23	29.9	30.7	80.0
	disagree	15	19.5	20.0	100.0
	Total	75	97.4	100.0	
Missing	System	2	2.6		
Total		77	100.0		

they are usually few

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	23	29.9	29.9	29.9
	agree	15	19.5	19.5	49.4
	Not sure	25	32.5	32.5	81.8
	Disagree	14	18.2	18.2	100.0
	Total	77	100.0	100.0	

They are used to policies being made for them

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly disagree	23	29.9	29.9	29.9
	Disagree	36	46.8	46.8	76.6
	Not sure	12	15.6	15.6	92.2
	Strongly agree	5	6.5	6.5	98.7
	33.00	1	1.3	1.3	100.0
	Total	77	100.0	100.0	

there is negative attitude from the public

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	11	14.3	14.3	14.3
	agree	28	36.4	36.4	50.6
	Not sure	27	35.1	35.1	85.7
	disagree	10	13.0	13.0	98.7
	strongly disagree	1	1.3	1.3	100.0
	Total	77	100.0	100.0	

the decision making mechanism does not favour some interest groups

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	13	16.9	16.9	16.9
Agree	22	28.6	28.6	45.5
Not sure	24	31.2	31.2	76.6
Disagree	12	15.6	15.6	92.2
Strongly disagree	6	7.8	7.8	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

Communication affects some interest groups

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly disagree	27	35.1	36.0	36.0
Agree	21	27.3	28.0	64.0
Not sure	9	11.7	12.0	76.0
Disagree	10	13.0	13.3	89.3
Strongly disagree	8	10.4	10.7	100.0
Total	75	97.4	100.0	
Missing System	2	2.6		
Total	77	100.0		

renumeration affects some interest groups

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	10	13.0	13.3	13.3
agree	31	40.3	41.3	54.7
not sure	23	29.9	30.7	85.3
Disagree	5	6.5	6.7	92.0
Strongly disagree	6	7.8	8.0	100.0
Total	75	97.4	100.0	
Missing System	2	2.6		
Total	77	100.0		

required knowledge affects some interest groups

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid strongly agree	21	27.3	28.0	28.0
Agree	24	31.2	32.0	60.0
Not sure	19	24.7	25.3	85.3
Disagree	11	14.3	14.7	100.0
Total	75	97.4	100.0	
Missing System	2	2.6		
Total	77	100.0		

In Uganda participation of SIG has been increased by constitutionalism

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly disagree	4	5.2	5.2	5.2
Disagree	25	32.5	32.5	37.7
Not sure	29	37.7	37.7	75.3
Agree	19	24.7	24.7	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

There are procedures in LG to involve every body

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid strongly agree	10	13.0	13.2	13.2
Agree	23	29.9	30.3	43.4
Not sure	23	29.9	30.3	73.7
disagree	20	26.0	26.3	100.0
Total	76	98.7	100.0	
Missing System	1	1.3		
Total	77	100.0		

The procedures are usually communicated to everybody

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	4	5.2	5.2	5.2
Agree	31	40.3	40.3	45.5
Not sure	36	46.8	46.8	92.2
Disagree	6	7.8	7.8	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

There is need for legislation against stigmatisation of SIG

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	28	36.4	36.4	36.4
agree	37	48.1	48.1	84.4
Disagree	12	15.6	15.6	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

Sensitisation of the public on the role of SIG should be enhanced

	Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid Strongly agree	33	42.9	42.9	42.9
Agree	33	42.9	42.9	85.7
Not sure	4	5.2	5.2	90.9
Disagree	7	9.1	9.1	100.0
Total	77	100.0	100.0	

there are policy challenges affecting participation of SIG

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	23	29.9	29.9	29.9
	Agree	35	45.5	45.5	75.3
	Not sure	12	15.6	15.6	90.9
	Disagree	7	9.1	9.1	100.0
	Total	77	100.0	100.0	

There is need to improve the policies associated with decision making

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	22	28.6	28.6	28.6
	Agree	29	37.7	37.7	66.2
	Not sure	15	19.5	19.5	85.7
	Disagree	11	14.3	14.3	100.0
	Total	77	100.0	100.0	

Special interest groups are aware of areas for improvement

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	15	19.5	19.5	19.5
	Agree	22	28.6	28.6	48.1
	Not sure	26	33.8	33.8	81.8
	Disagree	14	18.2	18.2	100.0
	Total	77	100.0	100.0	

There is a clear channel to express dissatisfaction

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	17	22.1	22.1	22.1
	Agree	20	26.0	26.0	48.1
	Not sure	18	23.4	23.4	71.4
	Disagree	15	19.5	19.5	90.9
	Strongly disagree	7	9.1	9.1	100.0
	Total	77	100.0	100.0	

Their views are usually put into action

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	7	9.1	9.1	9.1
	Agree	21	27.3	27.3	36.4
	Not sure	23	29.9	29.9	66.2
	Disagree	16	20.8	20.8	87.0
	Strongly disagree	10	13.0	13.0	100.0
	Total	77	100.0	100.0	

There are systems to enhance political involvement of interest groups

		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent	Cumulative Percent
Valid	Strongly agree	4	5.2	5.2	5.2
	Agree	27	35.1	35.1	40.3
	Not sure	37	48.1	48.1	88.3
	Disagree	9	11.7	11.7	100.0
	Total	77	100.0	100.0	

APPENDIX IV: RELIABILITY TEST RESULTS

Reliability

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha	Cronbach's Alpha Based on Standardized Items	N of Items
.749	.861	46

Item Statistics

	Mean	Std. Deviation	N
Most of the special interest groups do not have appropriate training for decision making	1.2857	.48795	20
Special interest groups lack knowledge of management	1.2857	.48795	20
He encourages feedback from staff and clients	1.5714	.53452	20
Special interest groups lack confidence	1.5714	.53452	20
Special interest groups need special training	2.0000	.57735	20
During deliberations, the views of some interest groups are neglected	1.4286	.53452	20
There is no interest by interest groups to participate in decision making	1.4286	.53452	20
Special interest groups do not understand the policies	1.7143	.48795	20
Interest groups do not put up their hands during deliberations	1.4286	.53452	20
Some special interest groups cannot read and write	1.4286	.53452	20
Interest groups are shy	1.8571	.69007	20
They always feel the decisions made for them are okay.	1.5714	.53452	20

Interest groups do not like to express themselves	1.1429	.37796	20
Language affects participation of interest groups	1.7143	.48795	20
Interest groups fear themselves	1.8571	.69007	20
Interest groups are not protected by policies	1.5714	.78680	20
There are usually few interest groups involved in decision-making	1.5714	.53452	20
There is need to improve the policies associated with decision-making	1.7143	.48795	20
The procedures are communicated to all people	1.5714	.53452	20
There are policy challenges affecting participation of special interest groups	4.5714	1.71825	20

	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Range	Maximum / Minimum	Variance
Item Means	1.714	1.143	4.571	3.429	4.000	.496
Item Variances	.438	.143	2.952	2.810	20.667	.361
Inter-Item Covariance	.010	-.905	.452	1.357	-.500	.036
Inter-Item Correlations	.082	-.778	.906	1.684	-1.165	.162

Scale Statistics

Mean	Variance	Std. Deviation	N of Items
34.2857	12.571	3.54562	46

APPENDIX V: INTRODUCTORY LETTER



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Your Ref

Our Ref: G/35

06 December 2011

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

MASTERS IN MANAGEMENT STUDIES DEGREE RESEARCH

Mr. Christopher Okumu is a student of the Masters Degree in Management Studies of Uganda Management Institute of the 6th Intake, specializing in Public Administration and Management.

The purpose of this letter is to formally request you to allow this participant to access any information in your custody/organisation, which is relevant to his research.

His Research Topic is: *"Factors Influencing Participation of Special Interest Groups in Decision-Making at the Lower Local Governments: A Case of Kitgum District"*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Benon C. Basheka'.

Benon C. Basheka (PhD)
HEAD, HIGHER DEGREES DEPARTMENT