

**ASSESSING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES ON
THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN: A CASE STUDY OF BULIISA DISTRICT,
UGANDA**

BY

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A DISSERTATION

**SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF ENERGY AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES IN
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MARCH, 2025

DECLARATION

I, **MBONEKO PATIENCE** hereby declare that this dissertation is my work and it has not been submitted before to any other institution of higher learning for fulfilment of any academic award

MBONEKO PATIENCE



Signature:

Date: MARCH 2025

APPROVAL

This is to certify that, this dissertation entitled ‘ASSESSING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES ON THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN; A CASE STUDY OF BULISA DISTRICT, UGANDA’ has been done under my supervision and now it is ready for submission.

Signature



Supervisors Name: PROF BRUNO L. YAWE

Date; March 2025

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my Father Baguma Simon, my mother Nanyonga Betty Sanyu, my siblings Daniel, Deo, Charen and Mary. They have always inspired me to work harder and set a precedence to all my siblings, and to my beautiful Daughter Elizabeth I want this to be an inspiration in her academia.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

AFD	African Development Bank
CAO	Chief Administrative Officer
HB	Hotel Buffalo
PEAP	Poverty Eradication Action Plan
PESTEL	Political, Economic, Social, Technological, Environmental and Legal
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
US	United States
USA	United States of America

ABSTRACT

This study was conducted specifically among women in Buliisa District to assess the socioeconomic effects of oil and gas activities on the socio-economic status of women. The study was guided by 3 objectives which were; to determine the socio-economic status of women living in Buliisa District, to assess the social, and economic impacts of oil and gas activities on women's development, and to identify the challenges faced by women living in Buliisa District.

A descriptive cross-sectional study was employed and this involved utilization of mixed methods approach. The study involved 144 women in Buliisa District and 6 leaders in Buliisa. Questionnaire and Key informant guides were used to collect data. Data collected was analyzed using SPSS and tables and graphs created.

The results of the study revealed majority of women in Buliisa District reside in rural areas (63.9%), with most aged between 18–30 years (46.5%). 50% were single (50.0%), and 68.1% were unemployed, despite 48.6% attained secondary education and 41.0% a college education. Most were employed in private-sector jobs (44.4%) and farming (27.8%), 89.6% reported earning less than 500,000 Ugandan shillings monthly. Land ownership among women was notably low, with only 12.5% owning land, limiting economic opportunities. There was limited Women's participation in decision-making processes (25.7%). Oil and gas activities have led to increased access to education and skills development (59%), and improved healthcare services (77.8%). The study revealed that oil and gas activities have led to soil erosion (8.3%), low crop yields (8.3%), loss of grazing land (8.3%), and displacement of animals (6.9%), polluted water (5.6%) and increased flooding (10.4%). The findings highlight the need for improved community involvement in decision-making, equitable distribution of resources, and strategies to mitigate environmental impacts.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the study

In East Africa, where the Oil & Gas sector is burgeoning, particularly in Uganda's Western Region, infrastructure advancements and economic progress are evident, existing studies have showed that majority of the women suffer the challenges associated to oil and gas more than men for example a baseline report from Buliisa district showed that More women (41%) than men (25%) did not own land, more women (29%) than men (15%) reported that their household monthly earnings were less than UGX 50,000 (Uganda Consortium on Corporate Accountability, 2022).

Women have always been excluded from ownership of land in Uganda and these create a lot of inequality during compensation in oil rich areas. Although studies have been conducted, these studies have not specifically targeted particularly women¹ (Annette, 2014; Ogwang & Vanclay, 2019). Uganda continues to face gender inequality in economic empowerment and economic outcomes, despite closing gender gaps in rates of labor force participation and entrepreneurial activity. Women earn less than men, and according to the UEU, increasing women's earnings to match men's would boost national wealth by 11.8% (USD \$1,619 per capita) (World Bank, 2021)

As investments pour into regions like Buliisa District, anticipated benefits such as improved infrastructure and increased employment opportunities hold promise, but the extent of their impact on women's development remains largely unexplored, calling for comprehensive research to address this gap and ensure inclusive and sustainable growth ² (Ministry of Education & Sports, 2019). A study conducted by Moses (2021) also showed that Buliisa District residents had negative impacts from oil and gas activities and among them was the displacement of people (23.5%), divorce (17.1%), neglect by husbands, defilement (16.3%) and limited opportunities for women in

¹ Kutesa, A. (2014). Local communities and Oil Discoveries: A study in Uganda's Albertine graben Region

² Ministry of Education. Albert region Sustainable development project. <http://www.education.go.ug/albertine-region-sustainable-development-project/>

the oil and gas sector (Moses, 2021). All these are general aspects, but women alone remain neglected.

Despite the positive impacts created by oil and gas activities such as infrastructure developments and some initiatives supporting women's income-generating activities, a dearth of studies focusing on the socio-economic impacts of Oil & Gas activities on women development in Buliisa District persists, underscoring the urgency for further research to inform policy and practice (National Association of Professional Environmentalists, 2016).

1.2 Problem Statement

Despite the prevailing notion of oil and gas as a curse (Elwerfelli & Benhin, 2018) in Buliisa District, it has spurred infrastructure development. However, amidst this progress, the plight of women has often been overlooked. While some women have been displaced, lost families, remained unemployed, and lack finance to meet education needs of their children, others have managed to benefit from the activities. While these challenges persist, women remain without a voice and support since they remain discriminated in the society (Indrawati, 2015). Scant attention has been paid to oil and gas activities and their implications for women's advancement. Limited research has been conducted in the District, primarily focusing on the broader aspect of women development (Uganda Consortium on Corporate Accountability, 2022), thus neglecting the challenges and opportunities for women. If this continues, women are likely to remain of low socio-economic status, hence promoting inequality. One publication anticipated that women are likely to benefit less from the oil and gas proceeds³ (Environmental Justice Atlas, 2015; Uganda Consortium on Corporate Accountability, 2022). This study focused specifically on women in Buliisa District to address the existing knowledge gap regarding the socio-economic impacts of oil and gas activities on socio-economic status of women. While previous studies have explored the broader socio-economic effects of the oil and gas sector, there is limited research specifically examining how these activities affect women's economic status, social roles, and overall development within resource-rich areas like Buliisa. This study sought to provide critical insights

³ Oil exploitation conflict in Buliisa District, Uganda, 2015. <https://ejatlas.org/conflict/land-acquisition-conflict-and-waste-dumping-in-buliisa-district>

into these dynamics, bridging the gap in literature and contributing to more inclusive policy frameworks.

1.3 Objectives of the study

1.3.1 General Objective

The purpose of this study is to assess the socio-economic effects of oil and gas activities on socioeconomic status of women in Buliisa District.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

This study was guided by the following specific objectives;

- i. To determine the socio-economic status of women living in Buliisa District
- ii. To assess the social, and economic effects of oil and gas activities on women's socioeconomic status in Buliisa District.
- iii. To identify the challenges faced by women living in Buliisa District as a result of oil and gas activities.

1.3.3 Research Questions

- i. What is the socio-economic status of women living in Buliisa District?
- ii. What are the social, and economic impacts of oil and gas activities on women's development in Buliisa District?
- iii. What are the challenges facing women in Buliisa District as a result of oil and gas activities?

1.4 Scope of the study

This study will be conducted to determine the impact of oil and gas activities on socio-economic development of women in Buliisa District. It will look at the socio-economic status, and challenges faced by women. It will be conducted this year 2024 in Buliisa District which is located in Albertine region, western Uganda where oil activities are taking place.

1.5 Justification of the study

The study on the impacts of oil and gas activities on women's development in Buliisa District is being conducted to address the pressing need for understanding the differential effects of resource extraction on gender dynamics and to advocate for more inclusive and equitable development policies. Studies conducted earlier on in the District have been general among both sex ignoring the role of women in development (Moses, 2021). The oil sector in Uganda has not yet delivered for women. Similarly, the fossil fuel projects have not increased any accessibility to energy for women in Uganda. The Buliisa Initiative for Rural Development Organization (BIRUDO) also reported that there still exists gender inequality in the energy sector in Uganda. The same report also reveals that when compensation was done for the households, no follow-up was done to find out whether the women received their funds (Natural Resource Governance Institute, 2024).

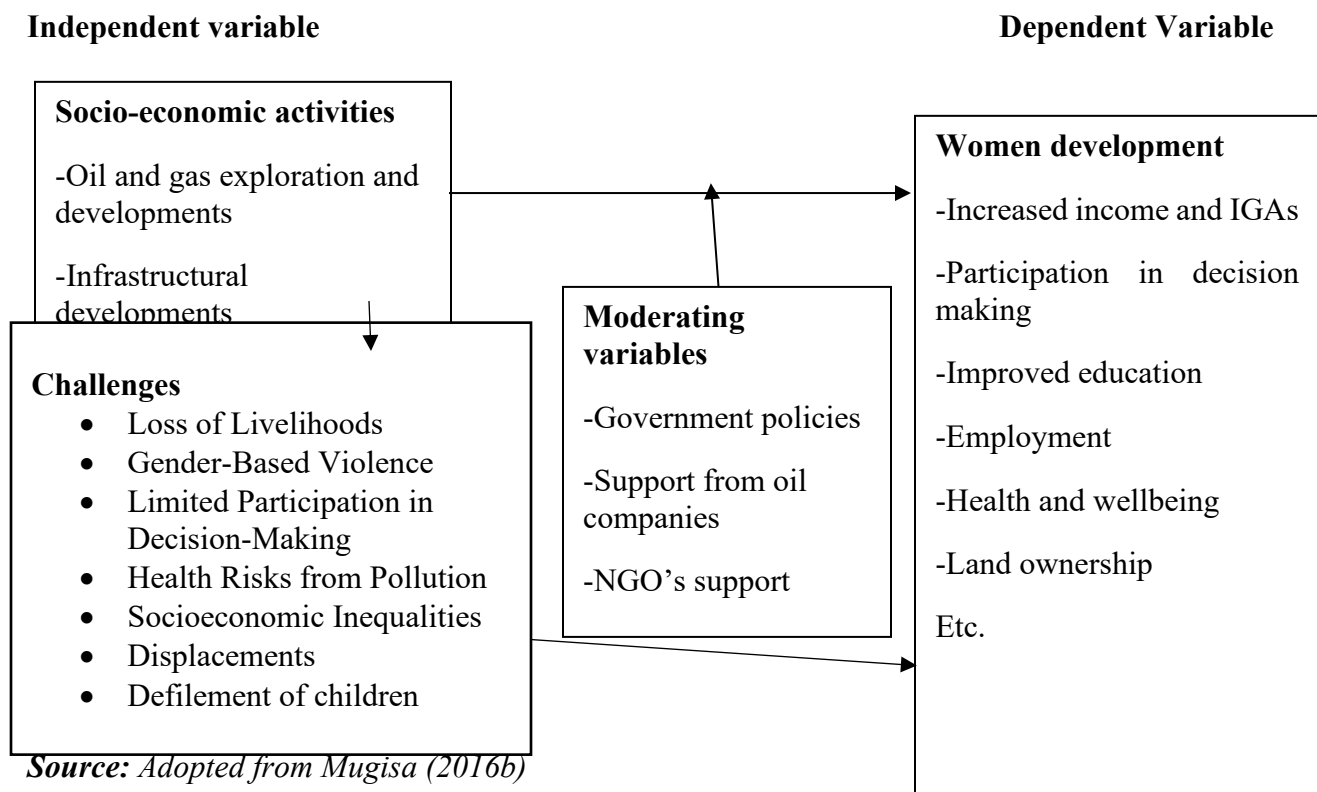
Buliisa District, being a region experiencing significant oil and gas activities, serves as a pertinent case study to examine the localized impacts on women, given their integral roles in households and communities. By focusing on women, the study aims to shed light on the challenges they face, such as changes in access to resources, shifts in social dynamics, and potential economic opportunities or vulnerabilities. Ultimately, the research seeks to empower women, inform policy decisions, and foster sustainable development practices that prioritize gender equality and the well-being of all community members in Buliisa and similar contexts.

1.6 Significance of the study

This study holds significant importance as it seeks to illuminate the socio-economic ramifications of oil and gas activities, particularly on women's advancement in Buliisa District. By addressing this focal point, the research endeavors to bridge a critical void in current literature, often overlooking the distinct hurdles and prospects encountered by women in resource-rich areas. Grasping the impact of oil and gas ventures on women's livelihoods is paramount for policymakers, stakeholders, and local communities to devise more comprehensive strategies that tackle gender inequalities and foster women's empowerment.

1.7 Conceptual framework

The conceptual framework shows the relationship between dependent and the independent variables. The dependent variable in this study is women development and the independent variables are the oil and gas activities;



Source: Adopted from Mugisa (2016b)

The conceptual framework presented outlines the relationship between the independent variable, oil and gas activities, and the dependent variable, women development. In this framework, oil and gas activities are the factors that are hypothesized to influence or impact women development. The dependent variable, women development, is the outcome or phenomenon that is being studied and is expected to be influenced by changes in the independent variable

1.8 Summary of chapters of the research report

The research report is structured into several chapters, each addressing a specific aspect of the study. Chapter One introduces the study, including its background, problem statement, objectives, research questions, significance, scope, and conceptual framework. Chapter Two reviews relevant literature, presenting theoretical perspectives, empirical studies, and gaps in the existing

knowledge. Chapter Three details the research methodology, including the study design, population, sampling techniques, data collection methods, and analysis approaches. Chapter Four presents the findings of the study, organized around the research objectives and questions. Finally, Chapter Five discusses the findings in relation to the literature, Chapter six draws conclusions, and provides recommendations for practice, policy, and future research.

1.9 Conclusion

This chapter covered the introduction, background, objectives, problem statement, research questions, significance, scope, and conceptual framework of the study. It provided an overview of the study and highlighted its potential benefits to scholars, policymakers, and the government.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter discussed the critical review of the issues that have arose and studied by other scholars both theoretically and empirically on impacts of oil and gas activities on women development. The literature includes both local and international or global studies that have been conducted in the oil industry. This literature looks at secondary data from other scholars such as reports, journals, newspapers, and other articles related to the topic under study.

2.2 Theoretical review

This study was guided by three theories; Resource Curse, feminist and the Participatory Development Theory:

Resource curse theory (Main theory of this study)

Resource Curse Theory, as described by Auty, posits that nations abundant in minerals, oil, or other natural resources often exhibit superior economic performance compared to those lacking such resources, yet often face undesirable consequences (Frynas et al., 2017). The theory's key assumptions include the susceptibility of resource-dependent economies to boom-and-bust cycles, rent-seeking behavior, and a lack of economic diversification, which can result in political instability, corruption, and weak institutions, exacerbating the negative impact of resource dependence on socio-economic development (Auty & Warhurst, 1993; Frynas et al., 2017).

Resource-rich countries, according to the theory, typically experience higher levels of conflict and authoritarianism, coupled with lower rates of economic stability and growth, contrary to expectations of improved development outcomes following resource discovery. This leads to outcomes such as low human development, corruption, repression, and poor economic performance and gender inequality.

According to theorists like Venables (2016) and Dargent et al. (2017), resource-based growth brings both benefits and drawbacks, with institutions likely playing a role in the explanation. They argue that third-world countries may experience spatially unequal growth, particularly when the resource sector is located in peripheral areas, exacerbating poverty, inequality, and other socio-economic challenges. Additionally, factors such as lack of democracy, conflict, inefficient borrowing and spending, Dutch disease, slower institutional growth, social problems, and environmental issues contribute to the resource curse (Dargent et al., 2017).

Low-income nations are particularly vulnerable to the resource curse due to increasing discoveries of natural resources, necessitating policymakers' awareness and appropriate responses to mitigate its effects (Bebbington, 2012; Jedrzej, 2017).

In Buliisa District, where oil exploration activities have surged, concerns about adverse effects on local communities and the environment, alongside corruption and political instability risks, and inequalities are paramount. Although the Ugandan government has taken measures to manage petroleum revenues and develop oil and gas policies, challenges remain, particularly regarding environmental preservation, community involvement, and industry transparency. Effective governance and prudent management of resource revenues are essential to mitigate the resource curse's impacts (Humphreys, Jeffrey, & Stiglitz, 2007; Berman et al., 2017).

While the Resource Curse Theory has limitations, such as its focus on negative economic effects and neglect of natural resource diversity, it provides a valuable framework for understanding the social economic status of women, the risks and challenges of oil exploration and development in Buliisa District.

Feminist Theory

Feminist theory emerged in various forms during the late 19th and 20th centuries, with notable contributions from authors such as Simone de Beauvoir, Betty Friedan, and bell hooks. This theoretical framework posits that social, economic, and political inequalities are rooted in gender-based oppression and discrimination (Neziri, 2023). Key assumptions of feminist theory include the recognition of patriarchy as a system that privileges men over women, the importance of

intersectionality in understanding how gender intersects with other social identities, and the necessity of challenging and dismantling gender norms and stereotypes.

In the context of the study on the impacts of oil and gas activities on women's development in Buliisa District, feminist theory is crucial for illuminating the ways in which these industries may perpetuate or exacerbate existing gender inequalities. It provides a lens through which to analyze power dynamics, access to resources, and decision-making processes, allowing researchers to advocate for gender-sensitive policies and interventions. Studies such as Mohan and Stokke (2000) and Miller and Razavi (1995) have utilized feminist theory to examine gender dynamics in development contexts, demonstrating its relevance and applicability in addressing women's issues

Participatory Development Theory:

Participatory development theory emerged in the 1970s and 1980s as a response to top-down development approaches that marginalized local communities and ignored their knowledge and perspectives (Huesca & perspective, 2003). Authors such as Robert Chambers and Robert Arnstein played significant roles in shaping this theory. Key assumptions of participatory development theory include the belief in the importance of local knowledge and expertise, the necessity of involving communities in decision-making processes that affect their lives, and the recognition of development as a process that should empower marginalized groups.

In the context of the study on oil and gas activities in Buliisa District, participatory development theory is important for ensuring that women have a voice in decisions related to resource extraction and benefit-sharing. By promoting community participation and empowerment, this theory can help mitigate the negative impacts of oil and gas projects on women's development and promote more inclusive and sustainable development outcomes. Studies such as Cooke and Kothari (2001) Pretty (1995) have applied participatory development approaches in various development contexts, underscoring its effectiveness in promoting community ownership and empowerment.

2.2 Empirical literature

2.2.1 Socio-economic status of women

The socio-economic status of women has long been a subject of scholarly inquiry and societal concern. In regions abundant in oil resources, such as the Middle East, Africa, and parts of South America, the interplay of wealth, power, and gender roles presents a tapestry of challenges and opportunities for women. While oil wealth promises economic prosperity, its distribution and impact on gender equality are often nuanced and multifaceted.

A study conducted by Grecu and Bataille (2024) which was on Oil discoveries and gender inequality revealed that giant oil discoveries are associated with relatively worse female outcomes as measured by higher male/female population ratios, higher teen birth rates, and lower educational attendance of tertiary education among women relative to men.

Gyan (2013) Conducted a study in Tema Oil Refinery which was established in 1963 in Ghana. The study revealed that majority of the women working in the refinery were married, majority between 36 to 50 years old, majority believed that the oil companies require men more than women in employment. The study showed that women in top priority areas also felt bossy. This signifies that oil and gas activities do not favor all the women in the neighboring areas.

One of the fundamental dimensions of socio-economic status is access to education. In many oil-rich countries, gender disparities persist in educational attainment despite overall progress. For instance, in Saudi Arabia, while there has been a significant increase in female literacy rates over the past few decades, women still face barriers to higher education, particularly in fields deemed traditionally male-dominated (Alsuwaida, 2016). Similarly, in Nigeria's oil-rich Niger Delta region, cultural norms and socio-economic factors contribute to lower enrollment and retention rates for girls in schools (Enyioko, 2021). These studies have been done outside this study setting which shows a geographical gap in Uganda.

Women's participation in the labor force is another crucial indicator of socio-economic status. In oil-rich Gulf countries like Kuwait and Qatar, significant strides have been made in integrating women into the workforce, particularly in sectors such as education and healthcare (Gharam &

Abeer, 2022). However, gender segmentation persists, with women often concentrated in low-wage and less prestigious occupations. Moreover, in regions marked by oil extraction, such as the Amazon rainforest in Ecuador, women are disproportionately affected by environmental degradation and displacement, leading to precarious employment in informal sectors (Merithew, 2008). Similarly, studies also done in Uganda have showed that men are over paid by 0.388 log points compared to women (Nkounmou et al., 2021).

The political empowerment of women is essential for advancing gender equality and addressing systemic inequalities. In oil-rich nations like Norway, where robust welfare policies are funded by oil revenues, women have made significant strides in political representation, with gender quotas ensuring a more equitable distribution of power (Shalaby, 2015). In contrast, in countries like Saudi Arabia and Iran, patriarchal norms and legal restrictions curtail women's participation in political life, despite some recent reforms (Tønnessen, 2016). In Uganda, Economic empowerment of women in oil Areas has remained insufficiently explored (Africa Development Bank, 2016).

The UAE stands as a prominent example of a Gulf nation undergoing rapid socio-economic transformation fueled by oil wealth. While the country has made considerable progress in women's education and workforce participation, gender disparities persist in leadership positions and legal rights (Kemp et al., 2013). Cultural norms and institutional barriers continue to shape women's socio-economic status, underscoring the complexities of gender dynamics in resource-rich economies.

In Nigeria, the oil-rich Niger Delta region presents a contrasting narrative of wealth extraction and socio-economic marginalization. Despite being home to vast oil reserves, the region grapples with poverty, environmental degradation, and social unrest, with women bearing the brunt of these challenges (Achunike, 2020). Limited access to education and economic opportunities exacerbates gender disparities, perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality.

2.2.2 Extent to which oil and gas activities have impacted the socio-economic status and livelihoods of women.

It has been reported that oil and gas activities have led to the development of infrastructure such as hospitals where women have access to better health care and this has been evidenced by less number of women delivering from homes. Road constructions also which come as a result of oil activities also benefit women in the oil reach areas (International Alert, 2014). However, women in Buliisa District in the oil rich area haven't been specifically studied. A study done in Buliisa District looked at impact of oil and gas activities on welfare of the general people and not women (Moses, 2021). Another study also conducted by Amon (2021) also studied infrastructure development in Hoima District as a result of oil and gas activities taking place in the area. The study found out that oil and gas activities led to creation of SMEs and increase in income generating activities in Hoima District. Therefore, this study will be conducted to determine the impact of oil and gas activities on women.

Ogwang et al. (2018) Conducted a study in the Albertine graben area to examine the impact of oil exploration on local communities' livelihoods. The research revealed a mix of positive and negative consequences associated with oil exploration. These included the creation of employment opportunities, infrastructural development, displacement of residents, influx of migrants, food insecurity, land acquisition issues, environmental degradation, and heightened levels of fear and anxiety among the population.

Similarly, Byakagaba et al. (2019) investigated the socio-economic and environmental ramifications of oil and gas exploration in Uganda. Their findings indicated a direct correlation between oil and gas exploration activities and the construction of roads, as well as an increase in business ventures. Additionally, the study highlighted employment opportunities generated by the oil and gas sector, leading to a rise in wage rates. Oil and gas activities promote employment opportunities but in this state no study has showed the number of women employed as a result of oil and gas activities.

Although oil companies have contributed to the development of certain communities in oil-producing regions, the responsibility of creating employment opportunities for locals ultimately

rests with the government. For instance, in Uganda, Tullow Oil emphasized the importance of fostering shared responsibility through partnerships, which facilitated positive relationships with various stakeholders and promoted economic development in local towns. However, most of these studies and reports do not report the side of women development and these are general studies.

In Ghana, the discovery of oil and gas raised expectations, particularly among individuals employed in the fisheries industry. There was optimism that revenue from oil and gas activities could support and bolster the economies of fishing communities (Egyir, 2012). However, the capital-intensive nature of the oil and gas industry, as highlighted by Karl (2007), meant that job opportunities were limited and required high levels of skill. Despite hopes for employment, only a small fraction of fishermen and traders in the Shama area anticipated securing jobs in the industry (Karl, 2007).

Research conducted in the Taranaki region demonstrated improvements in community relationships fostered through support from groups and organizations sponsored by oil and gas companies. These initiatives, which include scholarship and investment programs, have had a positive impact on the local community. For example, Todd Energy's sponsorship of the construction of the raceway in Plymouth has contributed to community development. Additionally, companies within the oil and gas supply chain have made significant contributions to the education sector in the region, further enhancing local opportunities for advancement.

2.2.3 Challenges faced by women as a result of oil and gas activities

According to the daily monitor, it was reported that there is inequality in the labor market which has created a gender gap in the employment sector. Women frequently face limited job prospects and reduced pay, leading to their vulnerability in the economic sphere. Additionally, the issue of land rights and displacement arises as oil exploration often necessitates acquiring land and uprooting communities⁴. Women mainly in developing countries have higher chances of living near oil fields and refineries and these remain exposed to pollution, increased chances of getting diseases such as cancer and respiratory issues and these also face challenges in accessing clean

⁴ Daily Monitor (2023). How oil activities harm women. <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/oped/letters/how-oil-activities-harm-women-4401664>

water. The oil and gas sector in Uganda has not yet delivered developments to women and the jobs created have restricted women to only informal labor such as cleaning (Natural Resource Governance Institute, 2024).

Oil exploration and exploitation have direct economic, social and cultural impacts on local communities⁵. Oil activities can reduce people's access to traditional livelihood resources, but can also open up new opportunities. Women and men, girls and boys, play specific economic roles in their families and communities. The oil sector, therefore, has unique and gender-differentiated impacts on their livelihoods. Also the report by Uganda Consortium on Corporate Accountability (2022) revealed disparities among women in economic activities. The report anticipated that women would benefit less from the oil and gas proceeds in Buliisa District.

Similarly, the African Development Bank Group (2017) revealed a considerable gender gap in access to opportunities and wealth generated by oil and gas industries. Evidence also suggests a gender bias in the distribution of risks and benefits within the sector⁶. Economic empowerment of women in the oil and gas industry remains an area insufficiently explored. Low job creation combined with a skills-biased pattern of labor demand contributes to maintaining high levels of inequality.

In 2012, International Alert conducted a baseline study in Uganda's Albertine region as part of the 'Harnessing the Potential of Oil to Contribute to Peace and Development in Uganda' project. The study aimed to gather baseline data necessary for assessing changes in livelihoods within communities affected by oil exploration. One aspect examined was gender dynamics, focusing on women's involvement in decision-making, household gender roles, asset control, and perceived shifts in gender roles. Findings revealed male dominance in household decision-making and asset control, along with women bearing a higher household workload. The study concluded that without changes in gender relations, women would likely benefit less from oil exploration proceeds. Additionally, it suggested that the development of the oil sector, particularly as it progresses

⁵ International Alert (2014). Gender issues in Uganda's oil and gas sector

⁶ African Development Bank Group (2017). Women's economic empowerment in oil and gas industries in Africa.

commercially, might influence gender dynamics. Factors such as changes in family income, education, and exposure to diverse cultures could potentially lead to conflicts between genders.

International Alert (2011) Study on the impact of oil activities on communities' livelihoods in the Albertine Graben region yielded significant findings and consequences. Notably, the study revealed that the absence of effective laws and enforcement mechanisms to protect the environment and local way of life has allowed oil companies to operate without adequately addressing the environmental and social impacts of their operations. This lack of clear regulations and enforcement mechanisms has profound implications for both the nearby communities and the broader region. The study highlighted that the local economy has been adversely affected, leading to worsening poverty in the area due to decreased fish catch and reduced revenue for fishermen. As fish serves as a crucial source of nutrition for many residents, the decline in fish stocks has also impacted food security in the region.

In a similar context, a study examining the correlation between oil exploration and biodiversity conducted by Ehirim et al. (2018) revealed that local communities rely on resources such as fertile soils and clean rivers for their economic well-being. However, these essential resources have been adversely affected by activities associated with crude oil processing, exploration, and transportation, leading to the deprivation of potable water sources for the majority of the communities due to oil spills originating from crude oil.

Furthermore, research by Pittock et al. (2018) highlighted the detrimental impact of oil spills on aquatic life, exacerbating hunger and poverty. The runoff from crude oil deposit sites was also found to affect agricultural farmlands, resulting in the transformation of once-fertile soils into wastelands. This decline in soil fertility has led to reduced crop output and productivity, contributing to economic downturns (Sam et al., 2017; Chijioke et al., 2018), which in turn affect sales and the overall gross domestic product derived from agriculture.

Moreover, gas flaring emits potentially harmful chemicals and particles, posing risks to both human and animal health (Otitolaju & Dan-Patrick, 2010). Over 250 chemicals, including polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), hydrogen sulfide, toluene, benzene, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxides, and xylene, have been identified in flared gases. Some of these substances have

been associated with adverse environmental effects such as acid rain, ozone depletion, global warming, cancer, and other health hazards.

Kabugho (2015) revealed in a study that oil drilling activities in Uganda's Albertine Graben region exacerbated the issue of prostitution. Kabugho expressed regret that prostitution was not prevalent before the discovery of oil in Hoima. However, following the discovery, the Albertine Graben region witnessed an increase in social problems due to in-migration, commonly referred to as the "honey-pot effect." This phenomenon led to the proliferation of vices such as prostitution, with individuals migrating from the Democratic Republic of Congo across Lake Albert to settle in areas with high concentrations of fish landing sites like Kaiso, Sebagoro, and Kyehoro, Buhuka.

Literature gap

While the literature extensively explores the socio-economic and environmental impacts of oil and gas activities in various regions, there remains a noticeable gap regarding the specific effects on women's development. While studies such as those conducted by Ogwang et al. (2018), Byakagaba et al. (2019), and International Alert (2013) shed light on the broader repercussions of oil exploration, they often fail to delve deeply into how these activities specifically affect women. For instance, while Kabugho (2015) mentions the exacerbation of prostitution in Uganda's Albertine Graben region due to oil drilling, it does not comprehensively explore the broader implications for women's socio-economic status, health, and overall well-being. Similarly, while Ehirim et al. (2018) and Pittock et al. (2018) discuss the environmental consequences of oil exploration, they do not explicitly address how these factors intersect with gender dynamics and impact women differently. Thus, there is a clear need for more research that specifically examines the gendered dimensions of oil and gas activities, including their effects on women's livelihoods, access to resources, participation in decision-making processes, and overall empowerment. Such studies would provide valuable insights into the unique challenges faced by women in resource-rich regions and inform more targeted interventions to promote gender equality and women's development in these contexts.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGICAL APPROACH

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the research methodology that was used in this study. Research methodology is of great essence as it gives a clear description of the procedures to be followed in conducting a study. This chapter presents the research design, study population, sample size determination, sampling technique, data collection methods, data collection instruments, validity and reliability of the study tools, data collection procedure, data analysis and presentation, ethical considerations and study limitations.

3.1 Research design

This study was descriptive in nature. This employed a mixed methods approach where both quantitative and qualitative study methods were used. This method allows for exploration into intentions, values and creates meaning⁷ (Clifford et al., 2010). The 2 methods were preferred because they help in generalization of findings and comparing findings from both qualitative and quantitative. Qualitative findings were utilized to support the quantitative findings and thereby giving a solid work with proof and supporting evidence.

3.2 Area of study

The research was conducted within Buliisa District, situated in Western Uganda. Like many other districts in Uganda, Buliisa District derives its name from its principal town, Buliisa, where the district headquarters are situated. Geographically, Buliisa District shares borders with Pakwach District to the northwest, Nwoya District to the northeast, Masindi District to the east, Hoima District to the south, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, across Lake Albert, to the west. The central town of the district, Buliisa, lies approximately 100 kilometers (62 miles) northwest

⁷ Clifford Nick, French Shaun, Valentine (2010). Getting started in geographical research: how this book can help. <http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.596.6417&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

of Masindi and approximately 91 kilometers (57 miles) north of Hoima, the largest city in the Bunyoro sub-region. Established by the Ugandan Parliament in 2006, Buliisa District was previously a part of Masindi District. The district is predominantly rural, with a population engaged in pastoralism, fishing, or subsistence agriculture. Administratively, Buliisa District falls within the Bunyoro sub-region, which corresponds to Bunyoro Kingdom. As of October 2020, Bunyoro Kingdom comprises eight districts, including Buliisa District. Population-wise, the district has seen significant growth over the years, with the 1991 census recording a population of 47,709, which increased to 63,363 in the 2002 census.

Subsequent censuses and surveys conducted in August 2014 and July 2020 reported populations of 113,161 and an estimated 149,300 people, respectively. The district has a total female population of 83,423 and of these, 39,399 are aged 18 years and above. This growth represents an average annual rate of 4.86 percent between 2014 and 2020, according to estimates from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS). Notably, during the first two decades of the 2000s, substantial crude oil reserves were discovered in Buliisa District, prompting the Ugandan Government to prepare for oil extraction in Buliisa and neighboring districts. This factor underscores the significance of selecting Buliisa District for the study, given the ongoing oil and gas activities and their potential impact on the welfare of local communities.

3.3 Sources of Information

The sources of information were both secondary and primary sources. Primary sources were obtained through the use of the Questionnaire method, meaning that primary information was directly gathered from participants in this study. The information to be obtained included the socio-economic status of women, the impact of oil and gas activities on women empowerment and also the challenges faced by women in the oil rich region.

Additionally, data was acquired from secondary sources including online articles, reports accessible in various offices related to oil and gas, newspapers, and from significant sources of information such as the Ministry of Energy, District offices, magazines, reports, and any other existing written materials.

3.4 Population and sampling techniques

The target population included all females aged 18 years and above living in Buliisa District. According to surveys conducted in July 2020, Buliisa District reported a population of 39,399 females aged 18 years and above⁸. However, the target population is 230 women. Therefore, the sample size was drawn from 230 women in Buliisa District.

The study employs kregcie and Morgan (1970) sample size determination formula.

Formula for determining sample size

$$s = X^2 NP(1 - P) + d^2 (N - 1) + X^2 P(1 - P)$$

s = required sample size.

X^2 = the table value of chi-square for 1 degree of freedom at the desired confidence level (3.841).

N = the population size.

P = the population proportion (assumed to be .50 since this would provide the maximum sample size).

d = the degree of accuracy expressed as a proportion (.05).

Source: Krejcie & Morgan, 1970

$$s = 3.841 * 230 * 0.5(1 - 0.5) / 0.05 * 0.05 + 3.841 * 0.5(1 - 0.5)$$

$$s = 220.892 / 1.53275$$

$$s = 144.1$$

$$s = 144$$

Therefore this study involved 144 women from Buliisa district. These were drawn from 2 divisions in Buliisa District. One was selected from the urban which Buliisa Town Council and another from

⁸ Buliisa District Local Government (2023). <https://buliisa.go.ug/content/district-one-oldest-uganda-originally-it-consisted-rakai>

a rural was setting (Butiaba) so as to balance the participation. From rural area, 92 respondents were involved and in urban area 52 were involved. The study involved 144 local residents selected from the Buliisa town council and butiaba. Key informants included 6 district officers (5 leaders, 1 District officials). Since this study was conducted among dispersed population, 2 research assistants were employed to help in the process of data collection.

Women were included in the study to determine their socio-economic status, the impacts of oil and gas to their activities and then it also helped to identify the challenges faced by these women. Key informants were involved in the study since these are knowledgeable about the key women empowerment projects taking place in Buliisa District. These provided firsthand information about the key women empowerment projects in Buliisa District arising as a result of oil and gas activities in the District

The study employed purposive and simple random sampling techniques to select samples meant for the study⁹ as used by Mugisa (2016a). Quantitative methods of data collection involved the use of questionnaires and qualitative methods involved interviewing to collect data. Random sampling was used on women and purposive sampling was utilized on Leaders, Government officials and Management of Non-government Organizations.

A sample size is defined as a subject or a sub-group of the population (Sakaran, 2003). Given the difficulty in ascertaining the total targeted population, it was prudent to decide on a sampled population and utilize a subset. For quantitative data collection, the sample size was determined using Kregcie and Morgan's (1975) sample size determination table, while for qualitative data, emphasis was placed on Creswel's (1998) recommendation for a sample size ranging from 5 to 25 for saturation of findings.

⁹ Mugisa Samuel (2016). Socio-economic effects of oil exploration

Table 3. 1: Sample size distribution for quantitative and qualitative data collection

Nature of respondent	Target	Sample size	Sampling method
Community members	39,399	144 (Kregcie and Morgan,1970)	Simple random sampling
Leaders	5	5	Purposive sampling
District officials	3	1	Purposive sampling

The study employed purposive and simple random sampling techniques to select samples meant for the study as used by Mugisa (2016a). According to Bill (2011) purposive sampling enables the investigator to choose participants of his own interest based on education and experience. Purposive sampling technique was used to select 5 leaders and 1 district official in Buliisa District, and district officials. These were purposely selected because they have great knowledge on the study topic and also are well versed with the entire activities taking place in their district/society.

Simple random sampling was utilized to sample women living in Buliisa District. This was utilized because it allows for selection without biasness. Every woman who would wish to take part in the study was given a small box with papers folded with letter “A” and “B”. Those who selected letter A were allowed to participate in the study while those who select B were excluded from the study. This gave every individual an equal chance of participation in the study.

For qualitative data collection, Creswell, (1998) recommends a sample of between 5 to 25 respondents as a representative to the study. Therefore, this study involved 6 participants for qualitative data collection (5 leaders and 1 district officials). Snowball method was used to identify local leaders at the District.

3.5 Variables and indicators

The variables under study were;

Dependent variable; the dependent variable of the study was women socio-economic development in Buliisa District. The indicators are levels of education, income level, asset

accumulation, farming, number of children under sponsorship, increased income generating activities, and employment.

The independent variables of the study were; oil and gas activities taking place in Buliisa District and among others are; drilling, constructions, exploration or generally the upstream activities.

3.6 Procedure/protocols for data collection

After the proposal was approved by the research committee at IPSK, an introduction letter from IPSK introducing the Investigator to Buliisa District was obtained. The Investigator then requested permission from Buliisa District management to conduct the study in the district. Subsequently, the Investigator was introduced by the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to the relevant leaders at the district level, such as local councils, sub-county chiefs, and the oil companies in the area. The Investigator was introduced by the respective village heads/LCs to the study participants, and the purpose of the study was explained to them. The Investigator engaged two research assistants to assist in data collection, and they were trained prior to their involvement in data collection to enable the collection of data from a larger population in the shortest time possible. Consent was sought from the study participants before the actual data collection takes place. Subsequently, the Investigator proceeded to collect data and interview respondents, recording responses in the questionnaire and conducting interviews with key informants.

3.7 Data collection instruments and equipment

This section examined the study instruments used for data collection. The study utilized interview guides and questionnaires for data collection, as outlined below.

Questionnaire:

Questionnaires was employed to collect data from women in the oil-rich areas of Buliisa District. This method was chosen due to its effectiveness in gathering data from numerous respondents within a short timeframe. The questionnaire was organized into sections corresponding to the study objectives, with direct questions to facilitate quick data collection by research assistants. Section A covered the socio-demographic characteristics of women in Buliisa District, Section B covered the Socio-economic status of women, section C the impact of oil and gas activities on women

development and then Section D the challenges faced by women in Buliisa District (**See attached Appendix II**).

The questionnaire was in English, the language commonly used in primary schools and education in Uganda. For respondents unable to communicate in English, research assistants provided translations as necessary in Lugungu Language, with responses recorded in the questionnaire. Research assistants also explained the purpose of the study to respondents.

Key informant Interview Guide:

The Investigator utilized Key informant interview guides for District leaders and district officials. These interviews were conducted face-to-face (Ragin, 2007). The interview guide was structured according to the specific objectives of the study, with questions designed to elicit information from respondents efficiently. The first questions covered the socio-economic status of women in Buliisa District, the second section addressed the impact of oil and gas activities to women empowerment in the district and then the key informants were asked about the key challenges which have been reported by women in their areas (**See attached Appendix III**).

3.8 Quality/Error control

In order to evaluate the quality of the research tools, validity and reliability was assessed. Reliability refers to the consistency of a measure, while validity pertains to the extent to which the scores from a measure accurately represent the intended variable (Wiederman, 2012). Validity, indicating the truthfulness of findings or the instrument's relevance in measuring the intended variable (Earl-Babbie, 2013). 5 experts in the field of oil and gas and research will be contacted to rate the questions on the questionnaire. These were rated from 1-Not relevant to 4-Highly relevant. The Content Coefficient Validity Index (CVI) was computed using standardized measures and appropriate adjustment will be generated from the formula below;

$$CVI = \frac{\text{Item related relevant}}{\text{Total number of items on the questionnaires.}}$$

Prananto et al. (2022) Suggests that a coefficient value between 0.500 and 1.000 is considered acceptable. The CVI score was 0.76 which rendered the study valid.

To ensure credibility; regular checks and prolonged contact was ensured. The responses were reviewed by the researcher to ensure the credibility of the information provided.

This study involved a pre-test of the questionnaire on 10 individuals in Biiso Town council. This pre-test identified errors in sentence construction, which were corrected before the actual data collection process.

The reliability of the study instruments was assessed using Cronbach's alpha reliability test in Statistical Package for Social Science version 25. The value obtained was 0.91, the items in the instrument were then considered reliable. Quality control measures were implemented to ensure that the study findings met acceptable standards, including assessing the validity and reliability of the data collection instrument.

A panel of expert supervisors from IPSK validated the instruments. Additionally, research assistants underwent training to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge for data collection and recording. This training, conducted over a 2-day period, helped familiarize them with the data collection tool and the purpose of the study. Trustworthiness in data collection was ensured from research approval to data collection, maintaining credibility to ensure that the study findings are applicable to other contexts.

A pilot study was conducted in Hoima District which is also one of the beneficiaries of oil and gas activities taking place in the greater Albertine region. The data collection tools were pretested in Hoima District among 10 women, this was done to identify the errors in the questionnaire and correct them before the actual data collection process is done in Hoima District.

3.9 Strategy for data processing and analysis

This section discusses how data was analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively, and how the results were presented.

Quantitative Data Analysis:

Quantitative data was entered and analyzed using Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20. Upon data entry, it was cleaned for errors. For objective one which looks at the socio-economic status of women in Buliisa. The data was analyzed at Univariate level involving frequencies, percentages, average, Minimum and maximum. Objective 2 on the impact of oil and gas activities of women empowerment was assessed using the frequencies and percentages and this analysis method will be similarly applied to objective three. Data analysis involved descriptive

statistics such as charts, tables, measures of central tendency, and cross-tabulation of various variables. The results were organized according to the study objectives.

Qualitative Data Analysis:

Following data collection, written interviews were typed on paper, ensuring completeness, consistency, and addressing any omissions or unusual responses. Qualitative data was analyzed thematically and presented in a narrative format. The data collected was read several times to identify the key themes emerging. The data was organized into themes. The researcher familiarized herself with the data and then identified the key themes which were later analyzed and presented using Quotes as said by the interviewee. This method was preferred for collecting stories from participants.

3.10 Ethical considerations

To ensure the success of this study, this study was approved by IPSK and an introduction letter was obtained from IPSK, introducing the Investigator to the leadership of Buliisa District. Permission to conduct the study was requested from Buliisa District Local Government, including leaders and staff of the district, as well as local council leaders where the study was conducted. The purpose of the study was explained to the participants, who were informed of their right to withdraw voluntarily from the study. Consent was obtained from both the study participants and the respective district leaders, ensuring that only participants who have consented are included in the study. These were availed consent forms to sign which contains all information about the study, the rights of the participants, and voluntary participation. Finally, all information obtained from the field was kept confidential and private, accessible only to the Investigator and the research assistants involved in data collection and report writing. Respondents were advised not to write any names on the questionnaire and the filled questionnaires were kept in lockable drawer to avoid unauthorized access.

3.11 Methodological constraints

The study was both qualitative and quantitative in nature and employing both approaches broadened the scope of the research. Gathering information from respondents within a limited

timeframe will require considerable effort from the Investigator. However, the Investigator enlisted the assistance of research assistants to aid in data collection from community members.

Obtaining ethical clearance posed challenges, particularly in terms of accessing people, area leaders and district officials. Access was delayed although they could finally accept to take part in the study. With the help of the introductory letter from IPSK, this gave credibility for the study as the researcher was cleared faster since its academic research.

Additionally, the Investigator emphasized the importance of confidentiality to the participants, assuring them that their privacy was protected throughout the study. Participants were granted the authority to consult with district leaders/Local Area persons regarding the study before providing any information.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the results of the study which was conducted in Buliisa District to determine the impact of oil and gas activities on socio-economic development of women in Buliisa District. It looked at the socio-economic status, and challenges faced by women. The study involved 144 women living in Buliisa District. The results of the study are presented as below.

The results in Table 4.1 present the socio-demographic and economic status of women living in Buliisa District, based on a study conducted to understand the impact of oil and gas activities on their socio-economic development.

Residence

The majority of respondents (63.9%) reside in rural areas, while 36.1% live in urban areas. This highlights a greater representation of rural women, indicating that any socio-economic impacts related to oil and gas activities may disproportionately affect women in these areas due to their higher prevalence.

Age Group

The study categorized participants into three age groups: 18-30 years, 31-43 years, and 44 years and above. The largest group of respondents (46.5%) were between 18-30 years old, followed by those aged 31-43 years (37.5%), while the smallest proportion was women aged 44 years and above (16.0%).

4.1 Socio-economic status of women living in Buliisa District

Table 4.1 shows the socio-demographic factors and economic status of women in buliisa District.

Table 4. 1: Socio-demographic factors and economic status of women living in Buliisa

Socio-economic factors	Frequency	Percent
Residence		
Urban	52	36.1
Rural	92	63.9
Age group		
18-30	67	46.5
31-43	54	37.5
44+	23	16.0
Marital status		
Single	72	50.0
Cohabiting	33	22.9
Married	26	18.1
Divorced/separated	7	4.9
Widow	6	4.2
Education level		
None	2	1.4
Primary	3	2.1
Secondary	70	48.6
College	59	41.0
University	10	6.9
Number of children		
1	63	43.8
2	41	28.5
3	19	13.2
4	7	4.9
6	1	.7
Employment		
Employed	46	31.9
Not employed	98	68.1

Occupation		
Civil servant	23	16.0
Private sector employee	64	44.4
Farmer	40	27.8
Self-employed/Business women	17	11.8
Average monthly income		
Less than 500,000	129	89.6
500,000 - 1,000,000	7	4.9
Above 1,000,000	8	5.6
Land ownership		
Yes	18	12.5
No	126	87.5

Marital Status

Half of the respondents (50.0%) reported being single, while 22.9% were cohabiting, and 18.1% were married. A smaller proportion were either divorced or separated (4.9%) or widowed (4.2%). This distribution highlights the diversity in marital status among women in the district, which may have implications on their economic opportunities and social roles.

Education Level

In terms of educational attainment, 48.6% of women had a secondary education, while 41.0% had completed college. Only a small proportion had attained a university degree (6.9%), and very few reported having no education (1.4%) or only a primary education (2.1%). The relatively high levels of secondary and college education reflect a population with some educational background, which can influence their employment opportunities and income levels.

Number of Children

A considerable proportion of women (43.8%) reported having one child, followed by 28.5% with two children, and fewer women with three or more children. This reflects a distribution with a larger concentration of women having fewer children.

Employment Status

A significant portion of the respondents (68.1%) were not employed, compared to 31.9% who were employed. This indicates a major challenge with economic engagement and stability among women in Buliisa. Among those employed, most worked as private sector employees (44.4%), followed by farmers (27.8%), civil servants (16.0%), and self-employed/businesswomen (11.8%).

Similarly results from qualitative findings support the results above;

“The socio-economic status of women in Buliisa is still challenging. Many of them rely on subsistence farming, and with limited access to land and resources, their livelihoods are under threat. We have also seen that despite oil exploration bringing some economic promise, women are not benefiting equally,” (KII 1, Buliisa District official, Male, 2024).

Income Levels

The majority of respondents (89.6%) reported earning less than 500,000 Ugandan shillings per month, illustrating a prevalence of low-income status. Only 4.9% earned between 500,000 and 1,000,000 shillings, and an even smaller proportion (5.6%) earned above 1,000,000 shillings monthly. This suggests economic challenges and limited earning potential among women, potentially affecting their standard of living.

“Women here primarily depend on agriculture, petty trade, and small-scale enterprises. Unfortunately, oil and gas activities have disrupted many of these traditional sources of income. We need to diversify their income options and empower them with new skills from savings to financial management of their small businesses. Women have learnt tailoring services, Art and Craft etc,” (KII 2, District Leader, Female, 2024).

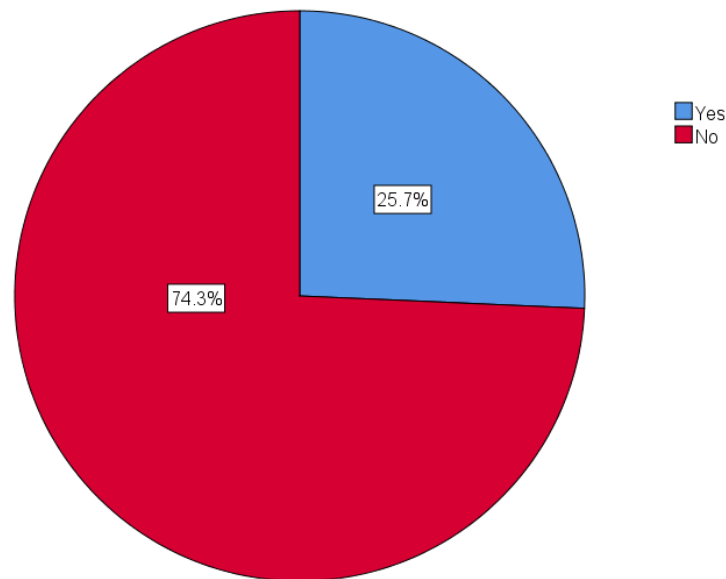
Land Ownership

Land ownership among women in Buliisa is notably low, with 87.5% not owning land and only 12.5% having land. This may limit women's economic opportunities, autonomy, and ability to

benefit from resources tied to land, such as agriculture or compensation from land-related oil activities.

4.2 Social, and economic impacts of oil and gas activities on women's development in Buliisa District.

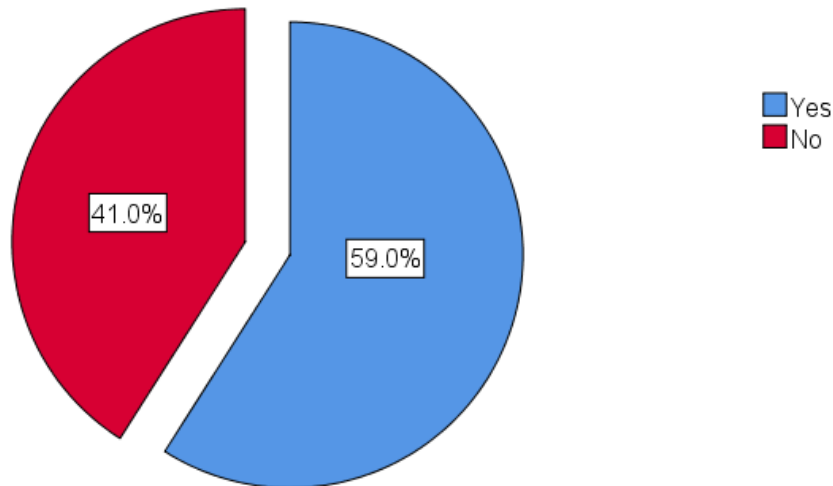
Figure 4. 1: Women participation in Decision making in oil and gas activities



The result of the study in figure 1 show that only 25.7% of the mothers (144) had ever participated in decision making processes within the community regarding oil and gas activities. The majority (74.3%) have never participated in any decision making in the community. Similarly, qualitative results also showed women participation in oil and gas activities of decision making is limited;

"Women's participation in decision-making is limited. Oil companies and community meetings often exclude their voices. We need platforms that prioritize women's involvement so they can shape their future," (KII 3, District leader, Female, 2024).

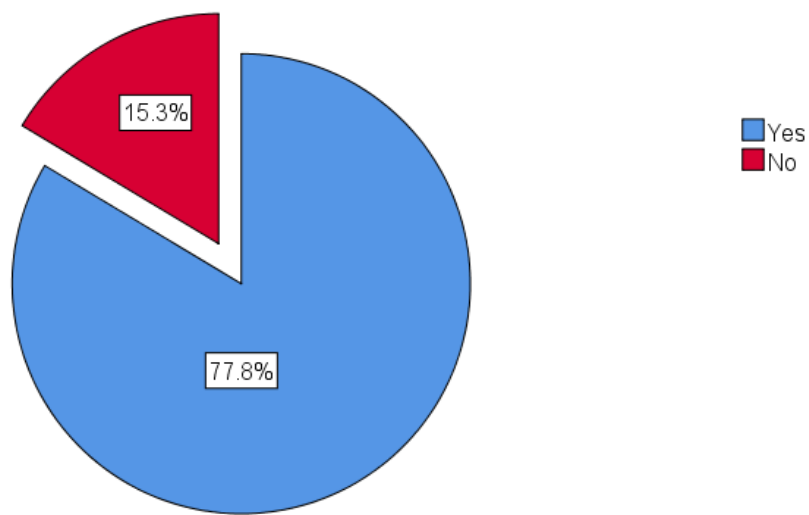
Figure 4. 2: Influence of oil and gas activities on accessibility to education and skills development opportunities



Results in figure 2 show that 59% of the women believed that oil and gas activities have positively influenced their access to education and skill development opportunities. However, 41% reported that they have not yet felt any influence from oil and gas activities regarding education and skills development.

“We need to diversify their income options and empower them with new skills from savings to financial management of their small businesses. Women have learnt tailoring services, Art and Craft etc,” (KII 2, District Leader, Female, 2024).

Figure 4. 3: Influence of oil and gas activities on accessibility to healthcare services



Results in figure 3 show that majority of the women in Buliisa District (77.8%) reported that oil and gas activities have influenced accessibility to healthcare services in the district. 15.3% reported that they hadn't seen an influence created by oil and gas activities on healthcare services in Buliisa District.

Table 4. 2: Increment in household income as a result of oil and gas

This table presents data on the impact of oil and gas activities on household income, the level of training in income-generating activities among women, and other developments achieved. The table highlights the proportion of households experiencing income increments, the extent of training in income-generating skills, and various socioeconomic advancements attributed to oil and gas, such as land acquisition, improved education for children, and business opportunities.

Variables	Frequency	Percent
Household income		
Increased	102	70.8
Not increased	42	29.2
Training on Income generating activities/skills		
Trained	102	70.8
Not yet trained	42	29.2
Other developments because of oil and gas		
Bought Land	2	1.4
Constructed a House	2	1.4
Education for my child	7	4.9
Got employed	8	5.6
Increased Business Skills	2	1.4
Increased income	2	1.4
Started business	2	1.4

As per the results above, a significant majority of respondents (70.8%) reported an increase in household income as a result of oil and gas activities, suggesting that the industry has contributed to economic upliftment for many families in the community. The increase in income could be

attributed to direct employment opportunities, indirect business prospects, or other economic activities spurred by the presence of the oil sector. However, 29.2% of households did not experience any increase in income.

Similarly, qualitative results depict this that some women have managed to get some small jobs;

"Oil and gas activities have had a dual impact on women. Economically, a few women have gained casual jobs, but most are excluded from meaningful opportunities in this sector. The influx of external workers has also created social challenges," (KII 6, District official, community development office, Female, 2024).

The same proportion (70.8%) of respondents had received training on income-generating activities or skills, reflecting efforts to empower women economically through capacity-building programs. Such training is crucial for enhancing women's abilities to engage in productive work, entrepreneurial ventures, or skill-based employment, thereby enabling them to capitalize on opportunities created by the expanding oil sector. However, 29.2% of women had not yet been trained, indicating room for improvement in reaching more individuals with these empowering programs.

Respondents also mentioned several specific developments achieved due to oil and gas-related economic changes. Only a small percentage (1.4% for each) of respondents reported buying land or constructing a house as a result of their increased income or opportunities associated with the oil sector. A slightly higher proportion (4.9%) indicated using the increased income to support their children's education.

Employment as a direct benefit was cited by 5.6% of respondents, showing that job creation remains a notable yet limited outcome of the sector's presence in the district. 1.4% mentioned that they have increased their knowledge in business and had started up businesses.

Another 1.4% of women specifically highlighted that they experienced a general increase in their income without specifying particular outcomes, emphasizing a financial upliftment but not necessarily translating into broader developments.

4.3 Challenges faced by women living in Buliisa District as a result of oil and gas activities.

Table 4.3 provides an overview of the challenges faced by women living in Buliisa District due to oil and gas activities. The table outlines the various difficulties reported, including environmental pollution, sexual harassment, defilement of girls, family separations, land grabbing, and reduced access to farmland. Additional issues such as climate change and other unspecified challenges are also highlighted, reflecting the multifaceted impact of oil and gas activities on women's lives in the region.

Table 4. 3:

Challenges	Frequency	Percent
Pollution	29	20.1
Sexual harassment	10	6.9
Defilement of our girls	24	16.7
Separation of families/failed relationships	26	18.1
Land grabbing	17	11.8
Limited land for farming	19	13.2
Climate Changes	16	11.1
Others	3	2.1
Total	144	100.0

The most frequently reported challenge was pollution, cited by 20.1% of respondents. This underscores widespread concerns about the environmental consequences of oil and gas activities, which may include air, water, and soil pollution from oil and gas operations, hazardous waste, or chemical leaks. Pollution has both direct health impacts on women and their families and indirect effects on agricultural productivity and overall quality of life.

A smaller proportion of respondents (6.9%) reported facing sexual harassment, indicating that oil and gas activities, potentially through the influx of external workers and the changing social dynamics, have led to safety and gender-related vulnerabilities for women. This reflects broader social challenges that arise with rapid growth, where women may become more exposed to exploitation and harassment.

Defilement (underage sexual exploitation) was highlighted by 16.7% of respondents, revealing a significant and troubling issue related to the presence of oil and gas activities. This may be linked to the economic changes and new social interactions brought about by the industry, potentially leading to heightened risks for young girls in the community.

A notable challenge for 18.1% of respondents was the separation of families or failed relationships. This could be attributed to increased tensions, economic strains, or social changes driven by employment dynamics, migration, or income disparities resulting from the oil and gas sector. Family instability can have deep-rooted effects on social cohesion and women's emotional well-being.

Land grabbing was cited by 11.8% of respondents. The expansion of the oil industry often involves land acquisition, which can lead to disputes or even forced displacement of community members. For women, this challenge is especially concerning, as land access is crucial for their economic security and social standing in the community.

Closely related to land grabbing is the limited land for farming, experienced by 13.2% of respondents. The loss or restriction of arable land due to oil activities threatens food security and the livelihoods of women who rely on agriculture. This creates further economic instability and hinders efforts toward poverty alleviation.

Climate changes were reported by 11.1% of respondents as a challenge resulting from oil and gas activities. Oil and gas operations can contribute to changes in local climate patterns, potentially affecting rainfall, temperatures, and other factors critical to agricultural productivity and overall living conditions. Climate-related challenges can disproportionately affect women, who often bear the burden of securing food and water for their families.

The study also identified strategies the women believed could help to empower women in Buliisa District the greater region with oil and gas developments. Among the strategies/recommendations

given were; construction of Markets, educate a Girl Child, government support, identify able women to supply, increase awareness on IGAs, increase employment, oil companies support, and Strict enforcement of defilement laws.

Qualitative findings also revealed;

"The main challenges for women include land dispossession, lack of compensation, and exclusion from jobs created by oil companies. Women have been left behind while men dominate the new opportunities," (KII 1, Buliisa District official, Male, 2024)

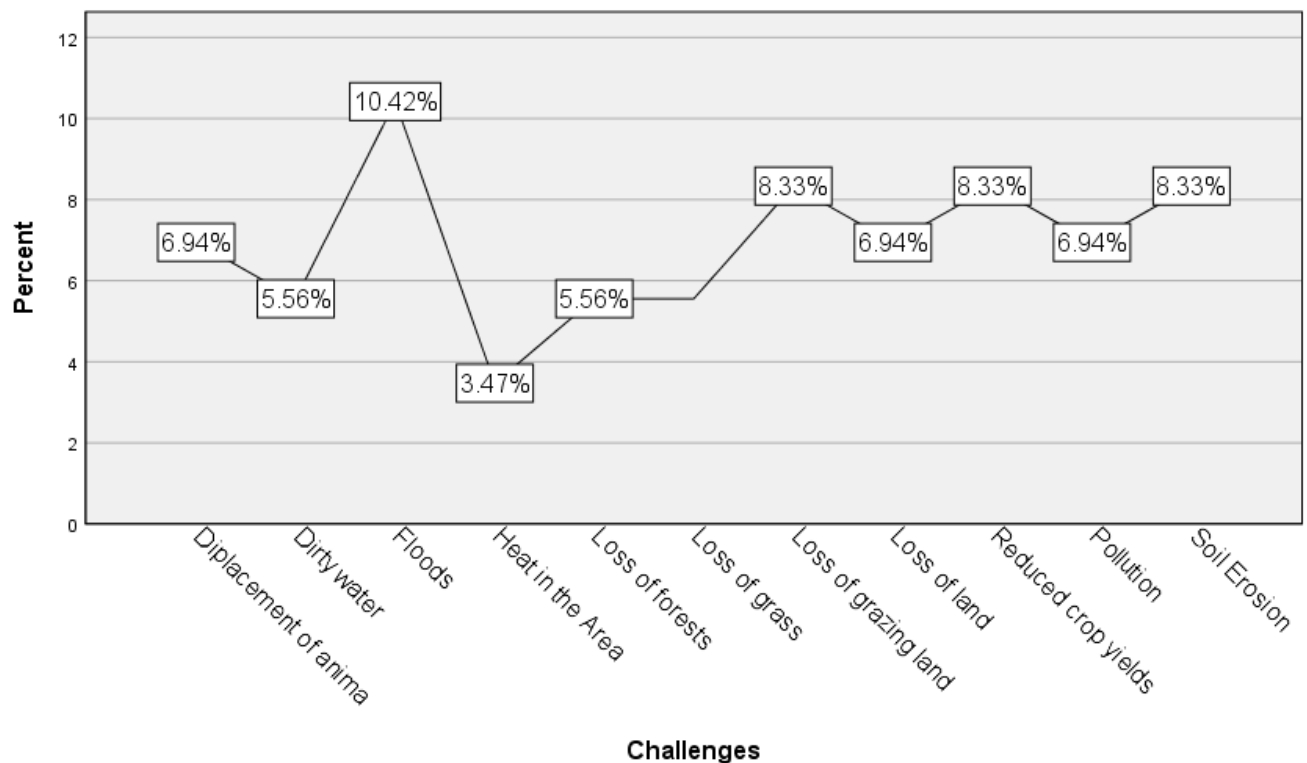
Table 4. 4: Other challenges faced by women in Buliisa District.

Table 4.4 highlights additional challenges faced by women in Buliisa District, emphasizing environmental and agricultural impacts resulting from oil and gas activities. The table captures issues such as displacement of animals, access to dirty water, flooding on the lake, increased heat, and deforestation, loss of grazing land, reduced crop yields, pollution, and soil erosion. These challenges illustrate the broader environmental and socioeconomic disruptions experienced by women in the district.

Impacts	Frequency	Percent
Displacement of animals	10	6.9
Dirty water	8	5.6
Floods on the lake	15	10.4
Heat in the Area	5	3.5
Loss of forests	8	5.6
Loss of grass	8	5.6

Loss of grazing land	12	8.3
Loss of land	10	6.9
Reduced crop yields	12	8.3
Pollution	10	6.9
Soil Erosion	12	8.3

Figure 4. 4: other challenges faced by women in Buliisa District



Results in table 4.4 and figure 4.4 show the other challenges faced by women in Buliisa District as a result of oil and gas activities. The results are explained below;

Displacement of Animals

A total of 6.9% of respondents reported the displacement of animals as an impact. This issue likely arises from habitat disturbances due to oil and gas activities, including drilling, construction, and land clearing. The displacement can disrupt local ecosystems and affect biodiversity, potentially altering wildlife patterns and affecting the livelihoods of people dependent on these animals.

Dirty Water

Dirty or polluted water was mentioned by 5.6% of respondents as a consequence of oil and gas activities. Water pollution could result from chemical spills, improper waste disposal, or runoff containing harmful substances. Contaminated water poses health risks to the community and threatens aquatic life.

Floods on the Lake

Flooding was identified by 10.4% of respondents as a significant impact. The correlation between oil activities and floods may arise due to disruptions in water flow patterns, alterations in the natural drainage system, or changes in the landscape caused by construction of infrastructure. Flooding can lead to property damage, loss of crops, and other socio-economic difficulties.

Heat in the Area

A small proportion (3.5%) of respondents cited increased heat in the area, potentially reflecting local climate changes or microclimatic effects caused by oil and gas extraction. Excessive heat can stress both human and natural environments, affecting crop productivity and the comfort of residents.

Loss of Forests and Grass

Both the loss of forests and the loss of grass were each noted by 5.6% of respondents. These impacts are often linked to deforestation, clearing of land for construction purposes, or the unintended consequences of infrastructure development. The loss of vegetation can have cascading effects, such as loss of biodiversity, soil degradation, and reduced carbon absorption.

Loss of Grazing Land and Loss of Land

The loss of grazing land (8.3%) and loss of land (6.9%) highlight the challenges faced by communities, especially those dependent on agriculture and livestock. Land acquisition or disruption of traditional land-use patterns due to oil and gas activities reduces the availability of resources for grazing and farming, which can threaten food security and livelihoods.

Reduced Crop Yields

Low crop yields were noted by 8.3% of respondents, suggesting a possible link between infrastructural development activities and agricultural productivity. Soil contamination, disruption of water sources, or changes in soil composition could all contribute to this issue, impacting the community's food supply and income generation.

Pollution

Pollution, cited by 6.9% of respondents, underscores a key concern related to oil extraction processes. The contamination of air, soil, or water through pollutants like chemicals and oil spills has far-reaching health and environmental consequences.

Soil Erosion

Soil erosion was mentioned by 8.3% of respondents as a consequence of oil and gas activities. Erosion can occur due to deforestation, land clearing, and changes in natural water sources. This degradation of soil quality affects agricultural productivity, contributing to food insecurity and land instability.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter shows the discussion of results, conclusion and recommendations arising from the study conducted to assess the socio-economic impacts of oil and gas activities on women development in Buliisa District.

5.1 Discussion of findings

Socio-economic status of women living in Buliisa District

This study revealed that majority of respondents lived in rural areas, indicating that socio-economic impacts from oil and gas activities may have a stronger influence on women in these areas. This finding aligns with observations in other regions where women in rural communities, such as the Niger Delta in Nigeria, face distinct socio-economic challenges from oil activities, including environmental degradation and limited access to resources (Achunike, 2020).

The age distribution of respondents showed that majority of the women were aged 18-30 years, followed by those aged 31-43 years. This means that most of the women who participated in the study were the most active age group. This echoes findings from regions such as the Amazon in Ecuador, where younger women face distinct challenges in navigating socio-economic changes due to oil extraction (Merithew, 2008).

The study revealed that most women who participated in the study in Buliisa District were single. Studies have noted that in oil-rich regions, single or unmarried women may experience greater social and economic marginalization due to entrenched gender roles and norms (Enyioko, 2021).

A significant proportion of women had attained secondary and college education. The relatively high educational attainment among respondents could influence their employment prospects, though evidence suggests this does not always translate into economic equity. In many oil-rich regions, gender disparities persist despite educational advancements, as seen in Saudi Arabia, where cultural norms restrict women's participation in certain sectors (Alsuwaida, 2016). In

contrast, Uganda's women continue to face limited access to advanced education opportunities in resource-rich areas (Africa Development Bank, 2016).

Women in Buliisa generally had fewer children, with majority having one child. Lower child numbers can reflect changing socio-economic priorities or challenges linked to economic instability. The ability to limit family size may enable women to pursue economic opportunities more actively, yet in many regions impacted by oil activities, familial and caregiving roles can still constrain women's economic mobility (Merithew, 2008).

Employment status revealed that majority of respondents were unemployed. Among employed women, the majority worked in the private sector, followed by farming. Employment disparity mirrors findings from other oil-producing regions, where women's labor force participation is often confined to less lucrative sectors due to gender segmentation (Gharam & Abeer, 2022). The results show that majority of the women practiced agriculture while others remained employed in the private sector.

This study revealed that majority of the women earned income which was less than 500,000 Ugandan shillings per month, indicating pervasive low-income status. This reflects similar trends in Nigeria's oil-rich regions, where vast wealth from resource extraction contrasts sharply with local economic marginalization (Achunike, 2020). Limited income may exacerbate poverty cycles and hinder socio-economic development, particularly in areas where gender disparities exist in earning potential (Nkoumou et al., 2021).

The study also revealed that few women owned land in Buliisa District. This echoes findings in other resource-rich regions where women are often excluded from land rights and ownership, limiting their capacity to benefit from resource-based economic activities (Achunike, 2020). Land ownership remains a critical factor for women's economic autonomy, and disparities can curtail their socio-economic gains from oil and gas activities.

The study's findings align with broader patterns observed in other oil-rich regions, underscoring the complexities of socio-economic development for women in such settings. While oil wealth can drive economic transformation, its distribution often perpetuates gender disparities. For instance, while Norway has successfully used oil revenues to promote gender equality through welfare policies and political representation (Shalaby, 2015), patriarchal norms in other oil-producing countries, such as Saudi Arabia, hinder women's socio-economic empowerment (Tønnessen,

2016). In Uganda, economic empowerment of women in oil-producing areas remains insufficiently explored, presenting both challenges and opportunities for development (Africa Development Bank, 2016).

Socioeconomic effects of oil and gas activities on the economic status of women in Buliisa District.

The study revealed that few women in Buliisa District had participated in decision-making processes related to oil and gas activities. This finding aligns with broader studies in resource-rich areas, where women's involvement in decision-making is often limited due to socio-cultural barriers and systemic gender disparities (Ogwang et al., 2018). Studies in oil-rich regions such as the Niger Delta echo similar trends, where women's voices are often marginalized in discussions and decision-making processes that affect their livelihoods (Merithew, 2008). This lack of participation has significant implications for gender equity, as it limits women's ability to influence policies and development initiatives that impact their communities.

This study revealed that most women reported positive influences of oil and gas activities on their access to education and skills development. The expansion of educational opportunities is a potential benefit of resource-driven investments, as has been observed in other regions where oil revenues support infrastructure and educational initiatives (International Alert, 2014). However, the mixed perception among women suggests disparities in how opportunities are distributed and accessed. The limited reach of educational benefits has been noted in other contexts, such as the Niger Delta, where socio-economic factors and community infrastructure often constrain access to education (Enyioko, 2021).

A majority of respondents noted improved accessibility to healthcare services due to oil and gas activities. This reflects similar findings in other oil-producing regions where infrastructure development often includes health facilities, potentially reducing maternal and child mortality (Ogwang et al., 2018).

The economic impact of oil and gas activities was evident in increased household incomes for majority of the women. This is consistent with findings from studies like Byakagaba et al. (2019), who observed that resource extraction often creates employment and business opportunities. However, while employment rates increased, many women were concentrated in lower-wage or

informal sector jobs, highlighting the persistence of gender disparities in economic opportunities (Achunike, 2020).

This study revealed that majority of the women had received Training in income-generating activities, illustrating efforts to economically empower women. This aligns with findings from various regions where oil revenues are leveraged to provide capacity-building programs. However, the fact that 29.2% of women were not reached by such initiatives indicates gaps in program delivery and suggests the need for targeted interventions to ensure inclusivity and broad impact. Information also from the leaders revealed that women have been involved in Village Savings and Loan associations with support from oil and gas activities.

Challenges faced by women living in Buliisa District as a result of oil and gas activities.

Women in Buliisa District face numerous challenges as a result of oil and gas activities, with pollution being the most frequently reported issue. This environmental concern affects air, water, and soil quality, posing serious health risks and threatening agricultural productivity. Women, often responsible for managing household resources, bear the brunt of these impacts, which can lead to economic hardships and health issues. Land-related challenges are also prominent, with many women reporting land grabbing and limited access to land. These issues undermine their economic security, disrupt traditional farming activities, and threaten food production, exacerbating poverty and food insecurity.

Social issues arising from oil and gas activities include sexual harassment and defilement of girls, highlighting the increased vulnerability women and young girls face in these changing environments. The influx of external workers and shifting community dynamics often heighten safety concerns. Additionally, the separation of families due to economic migration and employment shifts contributes to social instability, leaving many women as sole caretakers and breadwinners. This strain on family structures has far-reaching consequences on emotional well-being and social cohesion.

Gender inequality in employment within the oil and gas sector is another challenge. Women are often relegated to low-paying, informal roles due to barriers in accessing skilled positions. This limits their economic empowerment and perpetuates the existing gender gap. Reports indicate that the oil sector has failed to adequately distribute economic benefits to women, who remain underrepresented in decision-making roles and have limited influence over resource allocation.

Moreover, cultural dynamics and systemic male dominance further hinder women's ability to benefit from oil revenue and shape their communities' futures. Similarly, policy brief by the Civil Society Coalition on oil and Gas Uganda (2021) revealed that the low participation of women in the sector stems from challenges emanating from the pre-existing socio-economic and cultural set-up. For instance, they often need permission from husbands to participate in meetings. The negative attitudes and mind-sets about their status and stereotypes about women's capacities affect their participation in sector activities.

Exposure to pollutants and hazardous chemicals increases the risk of chronic illnesses, while land degradation and climate changes disrupt traditional livelihood practices. Similar to these results, another study which involved a review of 15 studies revealed that land grabs and unequal representation in political decision making, environmental damage and livelihood displacement caused by oil-extraction, poor health and wellbeing linked to land, air, and water pollution; homelessness and loss of ownership of land (Nkem et al., 2022). Without effective legal and regulatory protections, women in Buliisa continue to face these challenges with limited support. Addressing these issues requires a concerted effort to promote gender-sensitive policies, equitable economic opportunities, and community-driven advocacy to ensure women benefit fairly from the region's oil and gas activities.

Different challenges were reported by women including displacement of their animals, pollution of water, and loss of land. This aligns with Ogwang et al.'s (2018) findings in the Albertine Graben area, where oil exploration disrupted ecosystems and altered community livelihoods. Water pollution, for instance, poses direct health risks and impacts women's ability to sustain agricultural and household needs.

Issues like soil erosion, loss of grazing land, and low crop yields were identified by respondents as impacts of oil and gas activities. Similar findings have been documented in studies of other oil-rich regions, such as the Amazon rainforest, where resource extraction led to significant socio-economic challenges for indigenous populations (Merithew, 2008). Women, often heavily involved in subsistence farming, bear the brunt of these disruptions, which can exacerbate poverty and food insecurity.

Studies in other contexts, such as Hoima District and Ghana, illustrate the complex socio-economic dynamics of oil and gas activities. Infrastructure development, job creation, and economic

stimulation are common benefits, but these gains often fail to fully reach women due to entrenched gender roles, limited access to resources, and unequal economic participation (Egyir, 2012; Byakagaba et al., 2019). Comparative studies further suggest that while oil-driven development can promote economic growth, its transformative potential for women is constrained by social norms, limited employment opportunities, and insufficient policy interventions targeting gender equality (Africa Development Bank, 2016).

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Conclusion

In conclusion, the socio-economic status of women in Buliisa District is profoundly shaped by the presence of oil and gas activities, reflecting a mix of both positive changes and significant challenges. On one hand, there have been improvements in household income and access to skills development, offering some women pathways to economic upliftment.

The exploration and exploitation of oil and gas in Buliisa District have produced a complex set of socio-economic impacts for women. While some positive outcomes have emerged, including improved household incomes, access to skills training, and enhanced healthcare services, these benefits are unevenly distributed and often limited in scope. Economic opportunities for women, particularly in the oil and gas sector, remain constrained by gender inequality, with employment largely confined to low-wage, informal roles. Although oil-related activities have fostered some infrastructural development, including roads and healthcare facilities, their impact on women's socio-economic status has not been fully realized due to systemic barriers and gender biases.

On the socio-economic front, oil and gas activities have introduced both opportunities and challenges for women's development. While a minority of women have seen gains in educational access and economic empowerment, the majority continue to face significant obstacles, including limited participation in decision-making and land ownership. Pollution, land grabbing, and restricted access to arable land have further compounded economic difficulties, especially for women who rely on farming for their livelihoods. Environmental degradation and changing social dynamics also pose new challenges, including heightened risks of sexual harassment, family instability, and increased social vulnerabilities.

6.2 Recommendations

The key recommendations arising from the study were;

The concerned authorities and planners in Buliisa District should consider building and expanding local markets would enable women to trade their goods, including agricultural produce, crafts, and other items. Access to a structured marketplace could boost their incomes, enhance their economic independence, and foster greater participation in local trade. Women need hands-on training to enable them create income generating activities.

This study revealed that education is key for success of women and therefore, providing educational opportunities for girls is a crucial empowerment strategy. By investing in the education of girls, communities can ensure that women are better prepared to compete in the job market and assume leadership roles, ultimately reducing gender inequality. Educated women are more likely to have higher earning potential and greater decision-making power in their households and communities.

Women emphasized the need for stronger government interventions and programs specifically targeting women's welfare and empowerment. Therefore, the government of Uganda should provide more support to include grants, training programs, access to financial resources, and policy measures to enhance women's economic opportunities and social protection.

There is also need for partner organizations in the oil companies and agencies in the greater Buliisa District to raise awareness about income-generating activities and offering training and support can empower women to explore new business ventures. By gaining the skills and knowledge to start and manage small businesses, women can achieve greater financial independence and contribute more effectively to their community's economy. The study also recommended that oil and gas companies should support women's empowerment initiatives. This could include providing training and employment opportunities, promoting diversity and inclusion in their workforce, and engaging with local women-led businesses for supplies and services. Such efforts would promote gender equality and strengthen local economies.

Women groups should also advocate for more job opportunities for women, especially in the oil and gas sector, is another recommended strategy. By actively involving women in the workforce

and ensuring their representation at all levels, they can benefit from economic advancements within their communities and reduce dependence on traditionally male-dominated roles.

Among the challenges faced by women was defilement of their children. Therefore, there is need to enforce strict laws against defilement and gender-based violence is essential to protect young girls and women in the community. By implementing and rigorously upholding protective legal frameworks, women and girls can feel safer and more confident to engage fully in socio-economic activities without fear of exploitation or harm.

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APPENDICIES

APPENDIX 1: CONSENT FORM

ASSESSING THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF OIL & GAS ACTIVITIES ON THE ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN; A CASE STUDY OF BULIISA DISTRICT, UGANDA

Institutional/ Investigator Identity

I am called **MBONEKO PATIENCE** a Master student with Institute of Petroleum Studies Kampala; am studying for an award of a master's in Business administration of Oil and Gas Management.

Purpose of study

The purpose of this study is to examine the impact of oil and gas activities, specifically focusing on women's development so as to address the gap in existing research and provide insights that can inform policies and interventions to ensure that women are not left behind in the wake of oil and gas development.

Specific Objective(s)

- i. To determine the socio-economic status of women in Buliisa District
- ii. To assess the extent to which oil and gas activities in Buliisa District have impacted the socio-economic status of women.
- iii. To examine the challenges faced by women in Buliisa District as a result of oil and gas activities.

Alternative:

You will not be penalized for your refusal to participate in the study since this study is voluntarily and without any bias. We will do what we can to respect your rights as research participants.

Risks:

Respondents may find it hard to answer some of the questions in fear of the information being leaked out or experience psychological distress. This will be minimized by making appointments with them and assuring them that this information will be kept confidential. Participants may choose to participate or not. Otherwise, the study is of minimal risk, no risks are anticipated with participating in this study.

Benefit

Your participation will help in improvement of the economic status of women in your district and this will also guide on development of policies designed to benefit the women.

Confidentiality

Your responses to this research will be anonymous. Please do not write any identifying information on any questionnaire provided. Every effort will be made by the Investigator to preserve your confidentiality.

Voluntary participation

Your participation in this study is voluntary. It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part in this study. If you decide to take part in this study, you will be asked to sign a consent form.

Compensation for time, effort and inconvenience

You will be provided with a bottle of soda as an appreciation for your time in this study

In case you have any further questions concerning the study, please contact:

Patience Mboneko

The researcher

Tel +256771405036/702261681

Statement of Consent.

I confirm that I have read and understood the Participant Information Sheet

▪I have had the opportunity to ask questions and had them answered

▪I understand that all personal information will remain confidential and that all efforts will be made to ensure I cannot be identified (except as might be required by law)

▪I agree that data gathered in this study may be stored anonymously and securely, and may be used for future research

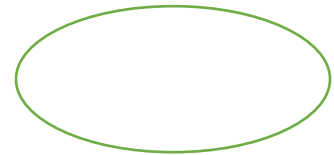
▪I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time without giving a reason.

▪I agree to take part in this study

Literate Participant

Thumb print

Date _____ & Signature _____



APPENDIX 2: QUESTIONNAIRE

Instructions

Questionnaire Number

You are kindly asked to read the following questions and select the best appropriate answer of your choice depending on how you feel

SECTION A: SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

1. What is your Residence

- a) Urban ☐
- b) Rural ☐

2. What is your Age in Years

3. What is your Marital status

- a) Single ☐
- b) Cohabiting ☐
- c) Married ☐
- d) Divorced/separated ☐

- e) Widow ☐
4. What is your Education level
- a) None ☐
- b) Primary ☐
- c) Secondary ☐
- d) College ☐
- e) University ☐

SECTION B: SOCIO-ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

5. How many children do you have
6. what is your Employment status
- a) Employed ☐
- b) Not employed ☐
7. Occupation
- a) Civil servant ☐
- b) Private sector ☐
- c) Farmer ☐
- d) Self-employed/business woman ☐
8. What is your Average monthly income in Uganda shillings
9. Do you own any land in your names?
- a) Yes ☐
- b) No ☐

SECTION C: SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACTS OF OIL AND GAS ACTIVITIES ON ECONOMIC STATUS OF WOMEN

10. Have you ever participated in decision-making processes within your community since the introduction of oil and gas activities?
- a) Yes ☐
- b) No ☐
11. Do you feel that oil and gas activities have influenced your access to education and skill development opportunities?

- a) Yes ☐
- b) No ☐

12. Have you experienced any changes in your access to healthcare services as a result of oil and gas activities in your area?

- a) Yes ☐
- b) No ☐
- c) Not yet ☐

13. Have there been any increment in your household's income or financial stability since the establishment of oil and gas activities nearby?

- a) Yes ☐
- b) No ☐

14. Have you been trained on income generating activities in your district as women?

- a) Yes ☐
- b) No ☐

15. What other development have you achieved as a result of oil and gas activities in Buliisa District?

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SECTION D: CHALLENGES FACING WOMEN IN OIL SECTOR IN BULIISA DISTRICT

16. What challenges have you faced as a result of oil and gas activities in the region? (Tick all that apply)

- a) Pollution ☐
- b) Sexual harassment ☐
- c) Defilement of our girls ☐
- d) Separation of families/failed relationships ☐
- e) Land grabbing ☐
- f) Limited land for farming ☐

g) Climate changes

☐

h) Others specify

☐

.....
.....

17. How have oil and gas activities impacted the environment in your community, and what effects have you observed on your daily life?

.....
.....

18. What do you think should be done in your district to promote women empowerment?

.....
.....

THE END

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION

APPENDIX 3: KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE

Introduction:

Thank you for participating in this interview. Your insights are crucial for understanding the socio-economic status of women in Buliisa District, particularly in relation to oil and gas activities.

The purpose of this interview is to gather information about the impact of oil and gas activities on women's empowerment and the challenges faced by women in the district.

Background Information:

- a) Could you provide an overview of the current socio-economic status of women in Buliisa District?
- b) How would you describe the existing level of women's empowerment in the district?
- c) What are the main sources of income for women in Buliisa District?

Oil and Gas Impact on Women's Development:

- a) In your opinion, how have oil and gas activities influenced the socio-economic status of women in Buliisa District?
- b) What are some of the changes put in place to ensure that women access economic opportunities since the commencement of oil and gas activities in the district?
- c) How has the presence of oil and gas activities affected women's participation in decision-making processes within the community?
- d) What are some of the programs put in place to promote women empowerment in the context of oil and gas development in the district?
- e) Can you highlight any success stories or positive outcomes for women resulting from oil and gas activities in the district?

Challenges Faced by Women in the oil sector:

- a) What are the main challenges faced by women in Buliisa District, particularly in relation to socio-economic factors in the oil sector?
- b) What are some of the specific challenges that women encounter as a result of oil and gas activities in the district?

- c) Please highlight some of the disparities in access to resources or opportunities between men and women in the context of oil and gas development?
- d) How do cultural or social norms impact women's ability to benefit from oil and gas activities in the district?
- e) What are some of the gaps or areas where additional support is needed to address the challenges faced by women in Buliisa District?

End

Thank you

APPENDIX 4: MAP OF UGANDA SHOWING THE LOCATION OF BULIISA DISTRICT

