

**ASSESSMENT OF THE ROLES OF BOOMU WOMENS GROUP ON HOUSEHOLD
LIVELIHOODS IN PAKANYI SUB COUNTY**

BY

DAVIS TURYASINGURA

REGISTRATION NUMBER: 16/U/12087/EVE

STUDENT NUMBER: 216011091

**RESEARCH DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY
BIODIVERSITY AND TOURISM, SCHOOL OF FORESTRY ENVIRONMENTAL AND
GEOGRAPHICAL SCIENCES, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES FOR THE PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
AWARD OF BACHELOR OF TOURISM OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY**

DECLARATION

I, **Davis Turyasingura**, hereby declare that this special project report is my original work and has never been submitted for any academic award to any Institutions of higher Learning before.

Signature.....

Date.....*28th/08/19.*

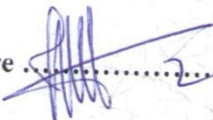
DAVIS TURYASINGURA

REGISTRATION NUMBER: 16/U/12087/EVE

STUDENT NUMBER: 216011091

APPROVAL

This special project report has been under my supervision and is now ready for submission.

Signature 

Dr. MUGIZI FRANCIS

(SUPERVISOR)

Date .../.../...
25/08/19

DEDICATION

I dedicate this piece of work to my beloved parents for the great work you have done towards my education.

I am also highly indebted to my respondents from Boomu Women's group on household livelihoods in Pakanyi Sub county giving me useful information for this study.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

First of all, I would like to acknowledge with sincere gratitude to my supervisor Dr. Mugizi Francis for his great and parental guidance he has given me for the period I have been writing this special project report. He gave a deal of his time to read and comment on the draft and final work. The results of all this valuable feedback of information was that I made many corrections, alterations which I trust improved on my final work. He sacrificed time and offered positive criticisms ds for which I am very grateful. May the Lord God reward you richly.

I thank God for giving me courage, wisdom, time and energy to complete this research report.

Special gratitude to my parents who encouraged me to go beyond myself, parents I treasure you.

I would like to also thank my friends and those who directly and indirectly rendered me their assistance.

Great thanks go to my respondents who provided me with data that enabled me to present this report. I also acknowledge my course mates for their cooperation and effects rendered to each other during the discussion groups periods and throughout the entire course.

Lastly I want to acknowledge for all the unconditional love and support during the past three years. I cannot think of many that would come along so blindly and sacrifice so much without knowing what the journey would entail.

May the lord god reward you all.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER ONE	1
1.1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.2 Research problem.....	2
1.3 OBJECTIVES	2
1.3.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE.....	2
1.3.2 Specific objectives	3
1.4 Research questions.....	3
1.5 Scope of the study.....	3
1.6 Justification of the study	3
CHAPTER TWO	4
LITERATURE REVIEW	4
2.1 Understanding the concept of community	4
2.2 Local community participation	4
2.3 Local community participation in tourism.....	5
2.4 Factors influencing community participation	8
CHAPTER THREE	10
METHODOLOGY	10
3.1 Research design	10
3.2 Area of study.....	10
3.3 Study Population.....	10
3.4 Sampling techniques and sample size.....	10
3.5 Methods of data collection.....	11
3.5.1 Observation method.....	11

3.5.2 Interview method	11
3.5.3 Questionnaire method	11
3.6 Data processing and analysis	12
CHAPTER FOUR.....	13
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS.....	13
4.1 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents	13
4.1.1 Age of the Respondents	13
4.1.2 Respondents' Level of Education	14
4.1.3 Marital Status of the Respondents	14
4.1.4. Years spent in the community.....	15
4.2. The willingness to participate in Boomu Women's Group activities	15
4.2.1 Desire for getting employment opportunities	16
4.2.2 Market opportunities	17
4.2.3 Low membership fees	18
4.2.4 Recommendation by friends	19
4.3 Strategies that can be used to influence women participation.	19
4.3.1 Education and sensitization of women members.....	20
4.3.2 Empowering women in decision making.....	20
4.3.3. Improve on infrastructure to support women.....	21
4.4 Challenges that may prohibit participation of Boomu Women's Group.	21
4.4.1. In adequate capital	21
4.4.2. Lack of awareness about tourism benefits	22
4.3.3: Conservativeness of local community	22
4.3.5 Lack of training and development of skills and competences	22

CHAPTER FIVE	24
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	24
5.1 Conclusion	24
5.2 Recommendations.....	24
References.....	26

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Respondents' Level of Education	14
Table 2 Marital Status of the Respondents	14
Table 3: Years spent in the community	15
Table 4 Factors that determine participation of Boomu Women's Group activities.....	16
Table 5. Strategies that can be used to influence women participation.	19
Table 6. Challenges that may prohibit participation of Boomu Women's Group	21

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1: A pie- chart showing age of the respondents.....	13
Figure 2: Showing Boomu accommodation facilities.....	17
Figure 3: Some of the crafts sold by Boomu women group	18

LIST OF ACRONYMS

SPSS	-	Statistical package for Social Scientific
CBT	-	Community Best Tourism
MFNP	-	Murchison Falls National Park
UN	-	United Nations
UNEP	-	United Nations Environment Programme
UNWTO-		United Nations World Tourism Organization
UTB	-	Uganda Tourism board
UCOTA-		Uganda Community Tourism Association
COBATI-		Community Based Tourism Initiative

ABSTRACT

This study assessed the roles Boomu Womens Group on Household livelihood in Pakanyi Sub County. It was carried out in Kihaguzi parish, Pakanyi Sub County in Masindi district on the outskirts of Murchison Falls National Park near the main entrance of Kichumbanyobo gate south of the park. Majority of the respondents in Kihaguzi parish included the Boomu Women's Group, local leaders and project managers with different ethnic background and with different occupational interest. These include farming, trade, educationists, transporters (motorcycles) among others. The study recommends several strategies that can be used to influence women to participate in tourism and these were identified as education and sensitisation, empowering women in decision making, providing more funds to group initiative groups among others

Despite the strategies, the group faces a number of challenges in participation of tourism, which were identified as to include inadequate capital, conservatism of local community, limited skills and training among others

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The majority of African countries, particularly those in sub-Saharan Africa (S.SA), have embraced tourism as potential tool for development and poverty alleviation. Fayissa et al, (2007) observed that whereas tourism development has contributed significantly to the economic growth of developed countries especially through foreign exchange earnings, the full potential of the industry to do the same in Africa is yet to be realized. This can be fully realized with the incorporation of local communities in participation in community based tourism activities.

Community-Based Tourism (CBT) has along with other integrated conservation and development schemes, gained popularity over the last three decades. These relatively recent methods of development are based on a participatory approach and ultimately emerged because of the failure of “top-down” approaches to both conservation and development that had been widely practiced by both conservation and development organizations.

Scheyvens (1999) argues that community participation in community-based tourism has the potential to empower local communities at four levels: economic, social, psychological and political. Promoting Community Based Tourism as an additional livelihood option may complement other strategies and initiatives aimed at reducing poverty in rural communities. Organizations such as The Dutch development organization SNV. It has provided technical assistance to Community Based Initiatives in several countries, including Tanzania, Uganda, Botswana, Vietnam, Nepal and Nicaragua (Leijzer, 2003). The World Bank similarly added programs for Community-Based Initiatives to its funding mechanisms through its Learning Innovation Loans and Development Grant Facilities to support community development through tourism (Lindberg et al; 1999).

Community participation in tourism can be divided into three categories; primary communities, which are concentrated at the destinations, secondary communities- Those that live along the accessible routes and adjacent to tourism generating locality and are able to sale their goods and services to the tourists on transit. The territory communities may be looked at as those in trading centers along the main high ways and neighboring towns or districts that benefit directly and indirectly with a higher level of development facilities and services (UNWTO 2013)

Boomu women's group is a community based tourism project that is not an exception to the above impacts of tourism. This project is located on the southern part of Nile River; on the outskirts of Murchison Falls national park just before the Kichumbanyobo gate. Boomu women's group was formed in November 1999 and registered at the sub county level in 2000. In 2004, the simple Bandas (grass-thatched huts) for accommodation were constructed and are run by local women who offer an insight into how rural Ugandans live. Later, a volunteer called Marry from Denmark joined hands with the Boomu Women's group and started a local primary school which is run by this women's project through raising funds for it attained through the activities provided like camping, a fascinating cooking tour, a stay in the clean traditional Bandas , a village tour among others.

1.2 Research problem

Community participation in tourism for many years has been promoted as a tool for development whereby social, environmental and economic needs of local communities are met through the offering of tourism products and services. According to Tosun, (2000) community participation creates better opportunities for local people to gain larger and more balanced benefits from tourism development taking place in their localities. In Africa and Uganda in particular community participation became a dominant development discourse for environmental management process as well as a tool for community development (Jones and Murphy 2004). Boomu Women's group was initiated on the principle of community participation to conserve the environmental resources from the protected area and at the same time enhance women livelihoods. This study will investigate if Boomu women's group activities have impacted households in Pakanyi Sub-county.

1.3 OBJECTIVES

1.3.1 OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To investigate the contribution of Boomu Women's Group tourism activities to households in Pakanyi sub county, Masindi district.

1.3.2 Specific objectives

- I. To document the willingness to participate in Boomu Women's Group activities
- II. To determine the strategies that can be used to influence women participation.
- III. To evaluate the challenges that may prohibit participation of Boomu Women's Group.

1.4 Research questions

1. What factors determine the willingness of Boomu Women's group
2. What strategies can be put in place to influence Boomu Women's Group participation in enhancing household livelihoods in Pakanyi subcounty
3. What are the challenges that can prohibit Boomu Women's group participation.

1.5 Scope of the study

The study was carried out in Kihaguzi parish in Pakanyi Sub County where Boomu women's project is situated. The selection of this parish was based on the premise that the adjacent local communities are the most affected by both the Boomu women's project and the tourism activities. The study focused on the different activities carried out by the Boomu Women's Group, the participants and beneficiaries. It further considered the understanding of new strategies that can promote better practices. The study will take a period of three months because of its nature.

1.6 Justification of the study

The study will build on the knowledge of both the existing sustainable tourism development literature and the relationship between tourism and the participation of local community participation in tourism.

The study is not an exception of the requirements for the completion of my discipline of study that, upon completion will help me attain a bachelor's degree of tourism of Makerere University.

The study will also help the tourism planners and managers of all levels right from the local council level to the central planning levels since it is aimed at pointing out how local communities are being impacted upon by their participation in tourism.

CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Understanding the concept of community

Community is a very elusive and vague term that is used to refer to not only a locality but also a network of relationships (e.g. cyberspace communities). Most descriptions rely on Eurocentric conceptions that are explained in the theories of scholars like Tonnies, Marx, Durkheim and Weber (see Amit & Rapport, 2002). The Community Tourism Guide defines as a mutually supportive, geographically specific, social unit such as a village or tribe where people identify themselves as community members and where there is usually some form of communal decision-making (Mann, 2000). A community by definition according to the UN implies individuals some kind of collective responsibility and ability to make decisions by representative bodies (UNEP, 2000).

According to kyereere (2010), a community is a group of individuals living or working within the same geographical area with some shared cultures or common interests. Local communities have ben influential in the development and conservation of tourism resources in many tourism destinations in Uganda.

2.2 Local community participation

Community participation refers to a form of voluntary action in which individuals confront opportunities and responsibilities of citizenship. The opportunities for such participation include joining in the process of self-governance, responding to authoritative decisions that impact on one's life, and working co-operatively with others on issues of mutual concern (Till, 1984). Hence, to some extent, it is an educational and empowering process in which people, in partnership with those able to assist them, identify problems and needs and increasingly assume responsibility themselves to plan, manage, control and assess the collective actions that are proved necessary (Askew, 1989).

It is argued that the notion of community participation is deeply ideological in that it reflects beliefs derived from social, political theories about how societies should be organized (Midgley, 1986), and how development should take place. However, to Sewell and Coppock (1977), its

emergence as a new catchword that is rooted in the failures of the early of up-bottom approach theories.

In this sense community participation, as an ideal type, involves a shift of power, from those who have had major decision-making roles to those who traditionally have not had such a role (Willis, 1995). That is to say, community participation is a tool to readjust the balance of power and reassert local community views against those of the developers or the local authority, or to redefine professionalism, which may determine the conditions of successful participation and prevent manipulation of a community in the participation process.

Community participation implies a desire to avoid using traditional bureaucratic paternalism, according to which agencies believe that they are close to the ideas of members of the community, and they know best what is good for people in the community (Skelcher, 1993).

Hughes (1996), Stonich (1996), Tchamie (1994) argue that local community from the very beginning in planning a reserve and be able to give their opinions and to be heard and these communities must have a say in what they are willing to accept. Some of these changes can be very culturally detrimental. Without the whole hearted support of these local communities, development projects can fail; locals may start actually sabotaging and destroying the projects being implemented and retribution.

Local community's participation in the management of the resources is fairly a new concept. (Brandon 1993). Most communities are isolated due to lack of communication and tourists make the development of community tourism very difficult. This is because communities offering tourism services are often located away from the main roads and access to the sites is difficult, especially for markets that depend on local transport.

2.3 Local community participation in tourism

According to wall, (2003), there exists a complex relationship between tourism development and the needs of the host community residing in the areas adjacent to the tourism attractions. Van hassle (1994) hints that community participation should be considered the basic principle of sustainable tourism development. Besides, the question of equity is the least successful put into practice. In communities that have had minimum and little previous experience of tourism, it is unlikely that the goals of community planning and control of tourism can be fulfilled.

Wall (2003) argued that the involvement of the public in a development process has two main considerations. The first is philosophical and the second is pragmatic. The former is related to political theories of democracy that people have the right to be informed and consulted and convey their views on matters which affect them to make decisions.

Chicchon, (2009) envisages that working with indigenous people to conserve nature is an important aspect as it ensures the use of indigenous knowledge (IK), that is the local experience and knowledge of the particular resources being conserved and also ensures acceptance of the projects being undertaken thereby leading to sustainable development of such projects. Mantarriata (2010), also suggests that achieving sustainable tourism development, local communities need to participate in decision making processes. Local communities can take part in the identification and promotion of tourism resources and attractions that form a basis of community tourism development. To achieve long outcomes, local communities need to be active participants rather than passive observers.

The potential of Community Based Tourism Initiatives to contribute substantially towards poverty reduction is restricted. This can be partly attributed to their nature as small-scale operations. In most cases, the direct employment generated through a rural tourism enterprise is quite limited. Similarly, the economic value tends to be low, even though there are examples of joint ventures between communities and private companies that target higher value markets (Ashley and Jones, 2001; Roe et al., 2001). Furthermore, the poorest groups within communities appear to be excluded from the provision of tourism services. They often lack the necessary skills and resources to participate actively in local programs. However, depending on the mechanisms applied for distributing tourism-related revenues, they might receive indirect benefits in the form of infrastructural improvements and financial support in emergency situations.

UNWTO (2010) stated that tourism generates immense economic activity that globally and has grown to be one of the world's largest in terms of volume and revenue generated. The growth of the tourism industry has been phenomenal, with international tourist arrivals increasing from 1,197,000 in 2012 to 1,206,000 in 2013, then to 1,266,000 in 2014, to 1,303,000 in 2015 and currently standing at 1,449,000 tourist arrivals.

According to the UNWTO (2010), it defines tourism as the activities of people travelling to and staying in places outside their usual environment for not more than one consecutive year for leisure, business and other purposes. on the other hand, Mathieson and wall (1982) see tourism as a temporary movement of people to destinations and the facilities created to cater for those needs.

The tourism industry involves many players like governments, tour and travel operators, hoteliers, non-governmental organizations and the local communities. To achieve all the needs of the tourism industry, community participation directly or indirectly is essential because if the community is not involved, tourism development becomes a problem. (Tourism development master plan 2014)

Behangana (1995) says involving the local people to benefit from tourism development will help in avoiding the conflicts because the surrounding communities often have subsistence needs that may conflict with the needs of the tourism sites. It has been noted that little attention tom the process of involving the local communities in the decision making though there are various associations formed within the community who are very interested in working for the good and development of a given community. These include; youths, and women groups such as Boomu Women's Group, environmental clubs and many others. He further added that these associations play some part in developing tourism through organizing and mobilizing members of the community to agree on common goals, objectives and targets for the community and giving them skills to solve the existing environmental problems and monitoring the effectiveness of the programs and the positive impact they have on the community tourism development.

Simmons and Yang (1994) argued that involvement of communities in the tourism development process is vital if any region wishes to deliver tourism experience which ensures both visitors satisfaction and ongoing benefit for residents of the destination areas. He further claimed that satisfying local needs may result into satisfying the needs of tourists which is one of the key components of the notion of the community participation.

Kyerere (1996) argues that it is of great importance to ensure a level of tourism development that is for and by the local community in order to improve their way of life, conserve and promote their way of life, promote their heritage and also highlighting their national identity and unity.

He further argues that tourism by nature involves contacts which can create considerable socio-cultural impacts particularly in the developing countries where traditional cultural patterns are prevalent and there are substantial social economic differences between tourists and residents.

The benefits of tourism preservation and development are over powered with their attempts to survive. The inhabitants of the destination area labor input in providing services and security to the tourists contact between the hosts and guests. The belief that tourism creates and promotes understanding between people of different nationalities and cultural backgrounds is questionable as tourism has a varying number of impacts that ought to be studied. It has been noted that direct contact and mere appearance of tourists and the participation of the local community in the management of tourism destination is important.

2.4 Factors influencing community participation

There are various ways through which communities can be involved in the tourism industry so as to attract their support and participation which in turn enhance development of the industry. Similarly, there are various ways that influence community participation in tourism and some of these factors have been examined by different scholars some of which are cited in this section.

According to the International Journal of Social Science and Humanity, (2016) Community participation in tourism is no doubt influenced by income. This is because the local communities' involvement in tourism related businesses is because they expect to earn more money. Grant (2001) as cited by Petra Claiborne (2010) did a study of poor communities in Guatemala City, without access to any kind of insurance or welfare benefits, struggling to achieve local development. Her findings show that social capital, consisting of e.g. community protests, together with a degree of security through land tenure, were critical factors for efficient community tourism development strategies

Kibicho (2003) in his study about community tourism in Kenya noted that local communities had the feeling that they were not fully involved in their country's coastal tourism, especially in decisions regarding its development, despite the fact that the industry has impacts on their well-being.

Residents' community participation preferences are contingent upon a number of factors. Having investigated the factors influencing residents' community participation preferences in heritage

management and tourism development, three categories of influencing factors become apparent: motivation, opportunity, and ability (Mostafa and Mastura, 2016)

Community participation via employment opportunities, as workers or as small business operators, can be a catalyst to the development of tourism products and services, arts, crafts and cultural values, especially through taking advantage of abundant natural and cultural assets available in communities in developing countries (Scheyvens, 2007). Tosun (2000) stressed that community participation through working in the tourism industry has been recognized to help local communities not only to support development of the industry but also to receive more than economic benefits.

Zhao and Ritchie (2007) added that communities, as a way of participation and as the input of the local workforce, may pursue tourism-related economic activities as paid or self-employed workers. While participation through employment has more direct impacts on the lives of poor households, it is arguably a useful way to curb poverty at the household level since it diverts economic benefits tourism brings directly to the family level (Zhao and Ritchie, 2007).

On top of participation in the decision making process, or simply, apart from the high need by local people to be consulted about local tourism development issues, Kibicho (2003) further identified that 88.6% of 236 members of the local community who participated in his study stated that encouraging local people to invest in, operate small scale businesses, and work for the tourism industry is a suitable means for community participation.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research design

The study was conducted using a case study design because it requires an intensive and holistic analysis. The case study design was preferred because it is recommended for quantitative and qualitative studies and when using small sample size (Yin, 1994; 2003). The methods used more interpretive/ qualitative than realist/quantitative view. Byaruhanga (2008) notes that qualitative research was concerned with the way people make sense of their social world and how they express their understanding through language and sound. Boomu women's group members and the local community were therefore giving their views on how they assess their impact to households.

3.2 Area of study

The study was carried out in Kihaguzi parish, Pakanyi Sub County in Masindi district on the outskirts of Murchison Falls national park through the main entrance of Kichumbanyobo gate south of the park. Kihaguzi parish is one of the four parishes in Pakanyi subcounty with a household population of 40,038 people (UBOS, 2009)

3.3 Study Population

Polit and Hungler (1999) defines a study population as an aggregate or totality of all the objects, subjects or members that conform to a set of specifications. In this study a sample of the population of community members were chosen. These included local council leaders, accommodation (bandas) managers and members of the group.

3.4 Sampling techniques and sample size

Sampling is the process of selecting a number of individuals for a study in such a way that the individuals represent the larger group from which they were selected. A sample is a smaller (but representative) collection of units from a population used to determine truths about that population (Field, 2005). Random sampling method was applied to Boomu women's group members since it provided a chance to participate or have equal chances of being selected. Forty

respondents which constituted the entire group members of Boomu women's group were selected. The local leaders and project managers were chosen because of their experience and the roles they play.

3.5 Methods of data collection

3.5.1 Observation method

Marshalland (1999) defines observation as the systematic description of events, Behaviors and artifacts in the social setting chosen for the study. This method helped in critically observing the different tourism activities, businesses and cultural exchanges that take place between the tourists and the local community in Pakanyi Sub County.

3.5.2 Interview method

An interview schedule was prepared and predetermined questions were asked to the local leaders and the Boomu women's group project managers. This method was critical in the collection of both qualitative and quantitative data from the respondents.

Kyale (1983) defines interview method of data collection as an interview whose purpose is to gather descriptions of the life world of the interviewee with respect to interpretation of the meaning of the phenomenon. Interviewing is the systematic collection of data through asking questions, carefully listening to and recording or noting the responses concerning a given research topic.

According to Kothori (2006) an interview is a set of questions that are administered through oral or verbal communication or is a face to face interaction between the researcher and the interview respondent. This method of data collection was often more exploratory in nature and is more flexibility during data collection as it allows rephrasing of the questions by the interviewer to make them more and easily understandable.

3.5.3 Questionnaire method

The researcher used the questionnaire method to collect data from the Boomu women's group members and local community leaders. Quantitative data was collected from the community

members and the community leaders. This method of data collection involved the use of predetermined, structured set of questions to obtain information from a given sample of the targeted set of respondents and then recording the information obtained. Nicholas (2009) describes questionnaires as tools used to collect standardized data from large numbers of people. The questionnaires will be structured to allow the collection of systematic information from the respondents about the level and impact of tourism to the Boomu Women in Pakanyi Sub County.

3.6 Data processing and analysis

In this study, quantitative data was processed following steps constituting the process of checking the data and making them serviceable for analysis. These steps were applied exclusively as explained below;

Editing. This is a quality control process applied to ensure that the information on a questionnaire or interview schedule is ready to be transferred to the computer for analysis (Sonquist and Dunkelberg, 1977). This was carried out both during and after the process of data collection, and much of it occurred simultaneously with coding.

Classification and tabulating of data were applied respectively. The researcher used parametric testing and then analyze data using SPSS. The data was later presented using graphs and tables.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

4.1 Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

The background characteristics of respondents included age, level of education and marital status. These were considered vital understanding dynamics of willingness to participate in Boomu women's group activities.

4.1.1 Age of the Respondents

Age was considered as the major variable because age determines the willingness to participate in given economic activity. In this study, field findings revealed that most of the respondents were in the age bracket 46 – 60 years (Figure 4.1). This implies that they are mature and knowledgeable in their work thus have experience and therefore very resourceful to this study. Respondents in the age bracket of 31-45years were the second representing 35%. Other age brackets were also interviewed in order to get a rich feedback (Figure 4.1).

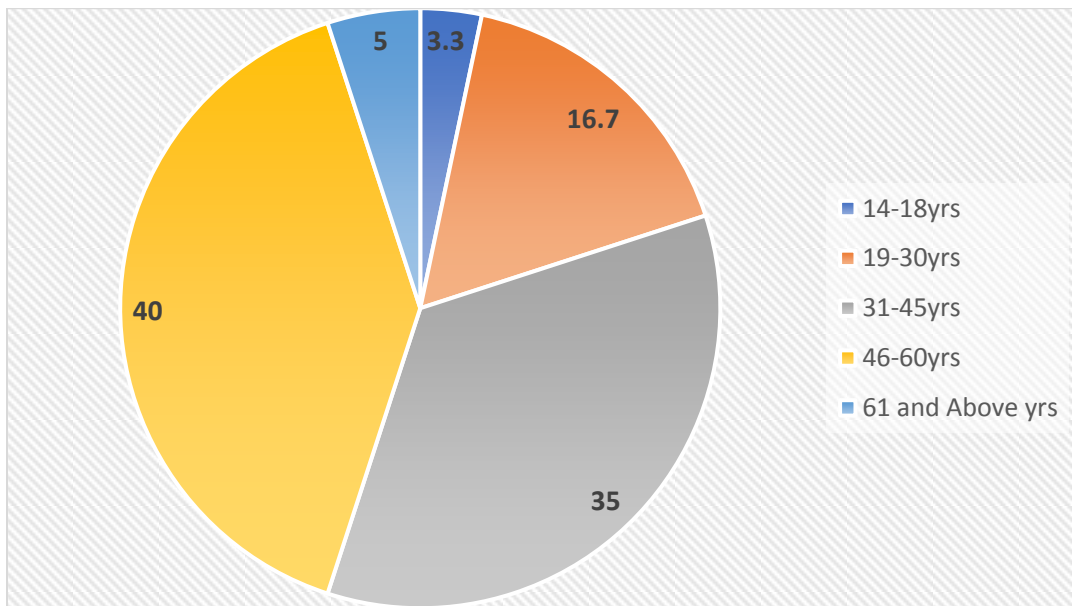


Figure 1: A pie- chart showing age of the respondents

4.1.2 Respondents' Level of Education

Table 4.1 reveal that majority of the respondents had a secondary level of education (43.3%) followed by those who attained a diploma level (31.7%). Very few of the respondents had a primary level of education (8.3%). This implies that quite a number of respondents were able to interpret and respond to the questions posed to them. Additionally, education influences the type of activity one engages in.

Table 1: Respondents' Level of Education

Education Level	Frequency	Percent
Primary	5	8.3
Secondary	26	43.3
Diploma	19	31.7
Degree	10	16.7
Total	60	100.0

4.1.3 Marital Status of the Respondents

Field findings presented in Table 4.2 revealed that majority of the respondents had a divorced / separated marital status (50%). These were followed by the marrieds with a representation of 31.7%. Those who are not yet married were 11.7% and the least respondents being the widows / widowers (6.7%). The interest in the marital status was to get different opinions since their willingness to participate is key to this study.

Table 2: Marital Status of the Respondents

Marital Status	Frequency	Percent
Married	19	31.7
Single	7	11.7
Divorced/Separated	30	50
Widow/Widower	4	6.7
Total	60	100.0

4.1.4. Years spent in the community

Table 4.3 indicated that majority of the respondents (30%) had lived in the community for a period between 16-20 years and 16% had lived for above 20 years. This indicated that majority of the respondents had lived in for 6 years and above and thus may have participated in different activities to earn their living.

Table 3: Years spent in the community

Years spent	Frequency	Percent
Less than 5 years	10	12
6 - 10 years	13	22
11-15 years	9	15
16-20 years	18	30
Above 20 years	10	16
Total	60	100

4.2. The willingness to participate in Boomu Women's Group activities

In order to determine the willingness to participate in Boomu women's group activities, respondents were asked in anyway if they participate in tourism activity. The study established that women participate in different activities to earn a living. One of the local leaders noted that women participate in tourism activities such as selling of crafts and local community guiding. However, women not participating in tourism activities attributed it to little awareness about the importance of tourism activities as a source of livelihood improvement.

As one of the objectives, the research aimed at identifying the factors that determine women participation in Boomu women's group activities. Participation in different activities influenced by different factors which range from employment opportunity, education and market for agricultural products.

Table 4 Factors that determine participation of Boomu Women’s Group activities

Factors	Frequency	Percentage
Employment opportunity	36	78
Low costs of membership fee	29	58
Market opportunities	32	74
Recommendation by friends	22	43
Advertisement about products	10	20

4.2.1 Desire for getting employment opportunities

Employment was indicated as a major determinant of willingness to participate in Boomu women group activities in Kihaguzi parish Pakanyi Sub County. From the study findings, 78% of the respondents were in agreement that participation of people in Boomu group activities is as result of eager to get employed (Table, 4.4). In an interview with the group chairperson, she noted that participation of people in group tourism activities such as selling of handcrafts like baskets (Figure 4.1) has provided different jobs that cater for both the skilled and unskilled particularly the women and the youth from the area. The chairperson noted that women members participate in different activities such as selling in the craft shop, community tour guides acting as waiters, waitresses, housekeepers. The earning though little has greatly improved on their standards of living. These results are in line with studies of (Scheyvens, 2007) who reported that local people participation in tourism group activities can be influenced by employment opportunities, as workers or as small business operators, can be a catalyst to the development of tourism products and services, arts, crafts and cultural values, especially through taking advantage of abundant natural and cultural assets available in communities in developing countries.



Figure 2: Showing Boomu accommodation facilities

4.2.2 Market opportunities

Apart from employment, the study established that the willingness to participate in Boomu women's group is seen from the areas of generating markets for the sale of agricultural products to the market and tourists. According to the interviewed respondents, 74% believed that by participating in tourism activities as a group helps to advertise different local products which will be seen as combined efforts to expand their market (Table 4.4). Field observation established that agriculture is one of the economic activity that women participate in. The different agricultural activities practiced include both crop production and animal keeping that are significant for the survival of the tourism industry particularly tourists and driver guides. One of the local resident who is a member of the group observed that, willingness for her to participate in Boomu women group was stimulated by the existing market demand for the agricultural products that the group could sell to tourism facilities such as Budongo Eco Lodge. The different crops sold in the tourist facilities include maize flour, ground nuts and beans while animal products include beef and goats' meat, milk etc.



Figure 3: Some of the crafts sold by Boomu women group

4.2.3 Low membership fees

Table 4.4 reveals that membership fee is an important factor in determining the willingness to participate in Boomu women activities. The study established that 58% of the respondents have been influenced by the low registration or membership fees. The secretary of the group reported that as result of several complaints from members of the public especially women who wanted to participate in the activities but failed because of high prices, they were forced to reduce on membership fees from 15000-8000 Uganda Shillings in order to have more members participate. The vice chairperson also confirmed that since reduction of membership fees last year to early this year, they have registered 15 new entrants. This implies that the entry cost to Boomu Women's group has an impact on women's willingness to participate in tourism activities that can improve on their households livelihoods literature. (Gomezelj, 2011) indicated that price plays a big role in local people's participation in any activity at various destinations. He argued

that people will always compare prices of groups and activities and will always choose those that are cheaper in terms of their budget.

4.2.4 Recommendation by friends

Although income is known to be a motivator, in this study recommendations, from friends was influential in determining women participation in Boomu women’s group activities. One of the members reported that her participation in Boomu women group activities was as result of recommendation from his closest friend who was a member of the group. Local community members will always join destination activities once they get positive recommendation from friend with experience. According to (Plog, 2011) recommendations from fiends and relations is one of the factors that determine people willingness to participate in tourism.

4.3 Strategies that can be used to influence women participation.

In order to influence women participation tourism related activities in Kihaguzi parish in Pakanyi Sub County. Respondents were asked to mention different strategies that can be used to influence women participation. Different strategies to enhance women participation were suggested ranging from education and sensitization, empowering women in decision making, proving more fund to group initiative groups among others as indicated in (Table 4.5) below

Table 5. Strategies that can be used to influence women participation.

Strategy	Frequencies	Percentage of responses
Education and sensitization	42	84
Improve on infrastructure to support women	23	46.
Providing more funds to women initiatives	21	42
Empowering women in decision making	24	48

4.3.1 Education and sensitization of women members

The majority (84%) of respondents suggested that educating women was the major strategy that can be used to influence women participation in tourism activities. Women sensitization on tourism activities and their benefits that may result from participation in women community meetings creates awareness among the women of the community on the importance of tourism activities which would motivate them to participate in tourism activities and therefore the women will embrace the activity and take an initiative to protect and involve in tourism activities of Boomu women's group in Masindi district. In an interview with LC1 of Kigaragara village indicated that educating the women is the best strategy to create awareness about tourism activities and benefits which may influence their participation. Some of women interviewed also added that some of the fellow woman are not aware of the value of tourism to their community, and the only way to make them aware of the importance of developing tourism is through educating the locals on importance of conserving the available cultural tourism resources and activities. This is linked to studies of (Kibicho ,2003) who noted that community sensitization enlightens the community perceptions about tourism activities who in turn participate in tourism for their benefits.

4.3.2 Empowering women in decision making

Respondents (48%) indicated women empowerment in decision making as another strategy that can be used to influence women participation in tourism related activities. One of the members of Boomu women group indicated that as women they are sidelined when it comes to decision making on tourism resource ownership and little is known about their interests. It was pointed out that women involvement as one of the strategies that will help the local women members to express their interest and tourism involvement can be done in consideration of community needs. The leader at Boomu Women's Group added that women involvement in decision making is one way to reduce negative feeling amongst the members on tourism participation. However, it is challenging in terms of costs incurred to organize and mobilize the women and the time taken to get everyone's opinion. In this sense women participation is an ideal type, involves a shift of power, from those who have had major decision-making roles to those who traditionally have not had such a role' (Willis, 1995). That is to say, community participation is a tool to readjust the balance of power and re-assert local community views against those of the developers or the

local authority, which may determine the conditions of successful participation and prevent manipulation of a community in the participation process.

4.3.3. Improve on infrastructure to support women

Furthermore, respondents suggested infrastructural development as another strategy to influence women participation in tourism activities in Masindi district. Availability of infrastructural facilitates, easy transportation and accessibility of women in order for them to engage in tourism activity in the parish. One of the women respondents revealed that village infrastructural development like tarmacking the road connecting to the to tourist sites, putting up a visitor center in Pakanyi sub county and avail women with soft training in tourism related jobs can help /influence women to participate in tourism activities.

4.4 Challenges that may prohibit participation of Boomu Women’s Group.

There are different challenges that prohibit participation of Boomu women group in tourism as explained in this section.

Table 6. Challenges that may prohibit participation of Boomu Women’s Group

Challenges	Frequency	Percent
In adequate capital	33	80
Lack of awareness about tourism benefit	22	64
Lack of training and development of skills and competences	9	20
Conservatism of local community	12	33

4.4.1. In adequate capital

Table (4.6) indicates that limited capital is a major challenge in tourism participation. 80% of the respondents (women) indicated that they don’t have enough funds to start up business ventures that would enable them participate in tourism. During face to face interview with LC1 of Kigaragara village revealed that majority of women are small income earners that don’t have the capacity to set up better infrastructures to help boost tourism activities that would enable them participate in tourism. Furthermore one of the craft shop owners found at Bokwe centre reported that she people don’t have enough disposal to participate in tourism activities. These results are connected with literature reviewed by (Mostafa and Mastura, 2016) who noted that lacking of

sources of funding by the stakeholder's hampers tourism participation in the tourism industry especially tourism business activities.

4.4.2. Lack of awareness about tourism benefits

For the community members especially women to benefit from the tourism development, they should first understand its existence and then value. In this study, respondents expressed ignorance about how to benefit from tourism as the major challenge in tourism participation. According to the respondents not much is known about the opportunities that are brought by tourism activities in their area that is why they have not effectively exploited the available tourism opportunities. The ignorance about the existing opportunities could be partly explained by the existing low levels of education or negative attitude towards tourism by women groups. In an interview with the chairman Boomu womens group, she noted that quite a number of sensitization meetings about the benefits of tourism have been organized in various communities. These meetings' main objective is to equip women with tourism skills and knowledge to be able to exploit the existing tourism opportunities such that tourism participation can be enhanced. It is important to note that lack of tourism awareness may hinder the participation of stakeholders especially local community members in tourism operations (Kim, 2002).

4.3.3: Conservativeness of local community

The researcher took initiative and formulated questions to tourism business operators asking them what hinders women involvement in tourism. The study established that some women are static to change mainly because they know that their locality is known for agriculture thus finding it hard to consider tourism among their priority. One of the respondents noted that he grew up growing crops and rearing cattle as her job, it has improved his livelihood hence he does not see a reason for change. This type of character as the researcher found out cannot influence a person from considering tourism as an economic contributor to his life. Thus a concern in the village since even if such people have the money they cannot invest in tourism activities in Masindi district

4.3.5 Lack of training and development of skills and competences

Skills and competence among the Boomu Women Group members is worrying. Results of this study show that 20% (Table 4.5) of the respondents agreed with the lack of training and development in skills and competences is lacking yet it determines efficiency of the activities

and products. The leader of the group was alarmed by the quality output. She revealed that over the last 10 years the trend in substandard quality of the products is steadily growing. The leader continued that as a member of the group, the urge to produce products similar to those from Kenya has impacted on the Nubian Art they had borrowed from their parents and mastered. She thus called for retraining of the members using the same strategies their grandparents used to develop their skills in order to improve more on their participation

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Conclusion

Boomu Women Group has been engaged in tourism activities over a period of time. They have over the years been influenced by different factors that determine their participation in tourism activities such as employment opportunity, market opportunities, recommendation by friends among others and with such factors they have been able to see more people participating in tourism.

The study further concludes that there are several strategies that can be used to influence women to participate in tourism and these were identified as education and sensitization, empowering women in decision making, providing more fund to group initiative groups among others.

Despite the strategies, the group faces a number of challenges in participation of tourism which were identified as to include inadequate capital, conservatism of local community, limited skills and training among others.

5.2 Recommendations

Based on the findings, discussions and conclusions, the following recommendations were made based:

- One of the challenges the country is trying to address is the skills gap. Boomu Women Group should liaise with UTB, UCOTA and COBATI to benefit for the skilling program countrywide particularly in product development and marketing. UTB as a destination marketing organization and standards assessor need to arrange for a periodic training program with the women on how to improve their products.
- If the community women are to fully benefit from the existing tourism opportunities, there is a need for the government to give local community a startup capital for the beginners especially the craft producers to expand and improve on their business. This capital can be attained through a tourism loan scheme as a revolving fund which can be extended to other community members.

- The Local leaders should support and encourage local communities to remove the conservativeness and improve on the attitude of the community members towards tourism as an alternative source of income other than fishing. This can be changed through local leaders, religious leaders and using the same people working in the industry as ambassadors of change since local people believe in their very own.

References

Bradshaw, T.K. 2008, The post-place community: contributions of the debate about the definition of community, community development. Vol.39 No. 1, pp. 5-16.

Brahman, J. 199, new direction in tourism for third world development, annals of tourism research, Vol.23 No. 1, pp.48-70

Brunt, P and Courtney, P. 1999; Host perception of social cultural impacts, annals of tourism research, Vol. 26 No. 3, pp. 492-515

Butler, R. 1974 Tourism as an agent of social change, annals of tourism research No.2,pp 100-111.

Butter, R.1980, The concept of a tourism area cycle of evolution: Implications for management of resources. Canadian geographer 24:5-12 Canedy, Lowell, and Jeffery zeifer 1991

Butterworth- Heinemann. Ionnides,D 1995. A flawed implementation of sustainable tourism, the experience of Akamas, Cyprus, tourism management,Vol.16, No.8: 583-592

Dwyer, L., Forsyth, P., Spur, R 2004 Evaluating tourism's economic effects: New and old approaches, tourism management, Vol.25: 307-308; 38

Eagles, P.F 2002 Trends in park tourism: economic, finance and management. Journal, of sustainable tourism, Vol. 10 No.2 pp132-153

Factors of local community participation in tourism-related business: an International Journal of Social Science and Humanity, Vol. 6, No. 8, August 2016

Goelder,C.and Ritchie, B. 2012 tourism. Principles, practices, philosophies. New Jersey. Godfrey, K and Claeke,J 2000

<http://doi.org/10.1002/jtr.2191>. Tourism research, 20(3), 400-409.

https://gupea.ub.gu.se/bitstream/2077/22603/1/gupea_2077_22603_1.pdf

Kibicho, W. (2003). Community tourism: a lesson from Kenya's coastal region, Journal of Vacation Marketing, 10 (1) 33-42

Kim,K 2002. The effects of tourism impacts upon quality of life of residents in the community

Kreag, G 2001. The impacts of tourism, university of Minnesota press, Minnesota.

Lee,T.H 2013. Influence analysis of community resident support for sustainable development, tourism management, No. 34, pp. 37-46

Long, P, T., R.R. Perdue and L.Allen 1990. Rural resident tourism perceptions and attitudes by community level of tourism. Journal of travel research 28(3):39.

Matarrita Cascante, D 2010. Beyond growth: Reading tourism-led development, Annals of tourism research, Vol.37 No. 4, pp. 1141-1163

Muganda michael Community involvement and participation in tourism development in tanzania a case study of local communities in barabarani village, mto wa mbu, arusha-tanzania

Petra Claiborne. Community Participation in Tourism Development and the Value of Social Capital -the case of Bastimentos, Bocas del Toro, Panamá

S. Mostafa Rasoolimanesh and Mastura Jaafar. Community Participation toward Tourism Development and Conservation Program in Rural World Heritage Sites. 2016

Scheyvens, R. (2007). Exploring the tourism-poverty nexus, Current Issues in Tourism, 10 (2&3) 231-254

Tosun, C. (2000). Limits to community participation in the tourism development process in developing countries, Tourism Management, vol. 21. 613-633

Tosun, C. (2006). Expected nature of community participation in tourism development, Tourism Management, 27 (3) 493-504

Zhao, W. and Ritchie J.R. (2007). Tourism and poverty alleviation: an integrative research framework, Current Issues in Tourism, 10 (2&3) 119-143