

**WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN
MBALE DISTRICT, EASTERN UGANDA**

A Thesis

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ABSTRACT

The study was carried out to investigate women economic empowerment and community development in Mbale District. The purpose of the study was to; test the hypothesis of no significant relationship between women economic empowerment and community development, To validate the theory (Economic Modernity Theory; the classical development perspective) where the study is underpinned, To generate new information on women economic empowerment and community development. This study was based on four objectives: 1) to determine the social demographic characteristics of respondents in terms of; Gender, Age, Educational qualification, Marital status. 2) To assess the extent of Women Economic Empowerment in Mbale District. 3) To assess the level of community development in Mbale District. 4) To establish the relationship between women economic empowerment and community development. The researcher formulated one hypothesis to guide the study. The researcher used Sample size of 331 which was calculated using the sloven's formula from a research target population of 1920 respondents. The researcher used questionnaires and descriptive coloration The study indicated that the female respondents were the highest (58.0%), in terms of age; respondents aged between 25-35 years provided a high response to the study. As of marital status, married people emerged the highest respondents of the study (40.5%), and in the education qualification, certificate holders ranked high among the respondents. the study which intended to find out the extent of women economic empowerment revealed that the strategy has fairly satisfactory enhanced community development (at a mean of 2.37). The study revealed that the level of community development is tentatively improving with influence from women economic empowerment (at a mean of 2.33). The study concluded that there is significant relationship between women economic empowerment and community development. The study found out that women were the highest respondents; however women economic empowerment has not done a lot yet in improving the position of women in the community in terms of taking part in community meetings and taking part in decision making, protecting community natural resources, ownership of resources among others., it was revealed that women economic empowerment and community development are synonymous and mutually exclusive. The research recommended that Women economic empowerment should encourage more women to take part in community decision making, Women economic empowerment should set up income generating actives.