

**THE EFFECTS OF POVERTY ON ACCESS TO JUSTICE. A CASE STUDY OF  
KAMULI DISTRICT UGANDA**

**BY**

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### DECLARATION

I Mugisha Benard, hereby declare to the best of my knowledge that this research report is my original work and has never been submitted by any student for the award of any academic documents in any institution

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## **DEDICATION**

This report is dedicated to my family for the inspiration, love and support they offered during the whole of my educational journey.

### APPROVAL

This research report of Mugisha Benard has been submitted to the board of examiners of Kampala international university with my approval.

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May God bless you all?

### **List of Acronyms and Abbreviations**

ACHPR :	African Charter of Human and People Rights
AU :	African Union
AIDS :	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ARV :	Anti Retroviral
BWI :	Bretton Woods Institutions (IMF and WB)
CABs :	Citizens Advice Bureaux
CARPA :	Caisse de Règlements Pécuniaires des Avocats
CDC :	Cameroon Development Corporation
CEMAC :	Central Africa Economic and Monetary Community
CPDM :	Cameroon People Democratic Movement
DSCN :	Statistics and National Accounts Department
ECAM :	Cameroon Household Survey
FPRG :	Facility for the Reduction of Poverty and Growth
HIPC :	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
HIV :	Human Immune Deficiency
IMF :	International Monetary Fund
LDCs :	Low and Middle Developing Countries
MDGs :	Millennium Development Goals
NGO :	Non Governmental Organizations
NGP :	National Governance Programme
NSI :	National Statistics Institute
PIB :	Public Investment Budget
PRSP :	Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper
UK :	United Kingdom
UN :	United Nations
UNDP :	United Nations Development Programme
USA :	United States of America
WB :	World Bank

## Table Contents

DECLARATION .....	i
NAME: MUGISHA BENARD.....	i
LLB/31040/102/DU .....	i
DEDICATION .....	ii
APPROVAL .....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT .....	iv
ABSTRACT .....	x
CHAPTER ONE .....	1
INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 BACKGROUND.....	1
1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT .....	2
1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY .....	2
GENERAL OBJECTIVE .....	2
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES.....	2
RESEARCH QUESTIONS .....	3
SCOPE OF THE STUDY .....	3
SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY .....	3
JUSTIFICATION.....	4
CHAPTER TWO .....	5
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE .....	5
2.2 Definition of access to justice: understanding what is justice.....	5

2.2.1 Theological basis .....	5
2.2.2 Philosophical approach .....	6
2.2.3 Legal approach: Rule of law .....	7
2.2.4 Sociological approach.....	8
2.2.5 Public management approach.....	10
2.3 Obstacles to access to justice for the poor .....	11
2.4 World Bank Statistics on Poverty.....	13
2.5 Poverty and the Law in Uganda .....	14
2.5.1 Legal Aid as a State Obligation.....	15
2.5.2 The Legal and Regulatory Framework for Legal Aid.....	15
2.5.3 The Operational Framework for Legal Aid.....	17
 CHAPTER THREE.....	 19
METHODOLOGY .....	19
3.1 INTRODUCTION.....	19
3.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA.....	19
3.3 RESEARCH DESIGN.....	20
3.3 SAMPLING PROCEDURE.....	20
3.4 DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUES .....	21
3.4.1 Data collection methods.....	21
3.4.2 Data collection tools .....	21
3.5 RESEARCH PROCEDURE .....	22
3.6 DATA ANALYSIS .....	22
3.7 VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY MEASURES .....	22
3.8 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS .....	23



3.9 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY .....	23
CHAPTER FOUR.....	24
PRESENTATION OF RESULTS.....	24
4.1 INTRODUCTION.....	24
4.2 Respondents' socio-demographic information.....	24
4.2.1 A pie chart showing the age of respondents in percentage .....	24
4.2.2 A pie chart showing the gender off respondents in percentage .....	25
4.2.3 A pie chart showing the marital status of respondents, in percentage .....	25
4.2.4 A pie chart showing the highest level of education attained by respondents, in percentage.....	26
4.2.5 A pie chart showing the percentage of monthly income earned by respondents.....	26
4.2.6 A pie chart showing whether or not the respondent was pursuing a case at the time of the study ....	27
4.3 Respondents' responses in relation to costs related with acquiring legal services .....	27
4.3.1 A graph showing responses as to whether people in Kamuli district get charged to get legal help ..	28
4.3.2 A graph showing responses as to what determines the costs of acquiring legal services?.....	28
4.3.3 A graph showing responses as to how better economic status affects quality and access to legal services .....	29
4.3.4 A graph showing if the amount of money invested in a case determined the verdict.....	30
4.3.5 A graph showing responses as to whether respondents would like some changes to be made in their legal system .....	30
4.3.6 A graph showing the changes that some of the respondents want made in their legal system.....	31
CHAPTER FIVE.....	32
DISCUSSION OF RESULTS.....	32
5.1 Age of the respondents .....	32
5.2 Gender of the respondents.....	32

5.3 Marital status of the respondents .....	32
5.4 Highest level of education attained by respondents .....	33
5.5 Monthly income earned by the respondents.....	33
5.6 Proportion of respondents charged to get legal services.....	33
5.7 The factors that determined the cost of getting legal help. ....	34
5.8 How one's economic status affects their access to legal services .....	34
5.9 Relationship between the amount of money invested in a case and the verdict/outcome.....	34
5.10 Whether or not respondents wanted changes made in their legal system .....	35
5.11 Specific changes wished for by respondents, in their legal system .....	35
 CHAPTER SIX .....	 36
SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION .....	36
6.1 CONCLUSION .....	36
6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS.....	37
 REFERENCES .....	 38
APPENDIX A: INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE .....	40
APPENDIX B: MAP OF UGANDA SHOWING KAMULI DISTRICT .....	42

## ABSTRACT

According to the recently accepted definition, poverty is pronounced deprivation in well-being, and comprises many dimensions. It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity<sup>1</sup>.

This study was conducted in kamuli district in eastern Uganda with the objective of assessing the effects of poverty on the access to justice of the people in this region.

The study population was 50 randomly selected respondents (strictly above 18 years of age) who were enrolled in the research from the district of Kamuli. These were chosen from a list that was provided by various LCs from different villages from their case files.

The data collection tools used were semi structured questionnaires, document review checklists, and observational checklists. Data analysis was done using Microsoft excel and was presented in bar graphs and pie charts.

The researcher discovered that the larger percentage of respondents (61%) thought that poverty had a negative impact on the access to justice of those under it while the rest (41%) thought otherwise and these were mostly law practitioners. Most respondents said that this is the reason why they take the law into their own hands for example by carrying out mob justice.

Despite the above, the district CEO reported that they are striving to put in place an even stronger system of the law which will be incorruptible, so that there is unquestionable equality in accessing justice.

The researcher recommended that the people of Kamuli district should air out their complaints to greater authorities if they think that they are being cheated by their district level judiciary, rather than take matters into their own hands. Also the government of Uganda should increase the effort to fight corruption staring from the bottom levels of governance.

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<sup>1</sup> World Bank 2000

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter contains the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, research questions, and purpose of the study, scope of the study and also the significance of the study, justification, and hypothesis and study indicators.

### **1.1 BACKGROUND**

Poverty has been defined differently by various international agencies. According to the United Nations, it is the inability of getting choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity. It means lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society. It means not having enough to feed and clothe a family, not having a school or clinic to go, not having the land on which to grow one's food or a job to earn one's living, not having access to credit. It means insecurity, powerlessness and exclusion of individuals, households and communities. It means susceptibility to violence, and it often implies living in marginal or fragile environments, without access to clean water or sanitation. On the other hand, the World Bank defines poverty as pronounced deprivation in well-being, and comprises many dimensions. It includes low incomes and the inability to acquire the basic goods and services necessary for survival with dignity. Poverty also encompasses low levels of health and education, poor access to clean water and sanitation, inadequate physical security, lack of voice, and insufficient capacity and opportunity to better one's life.

In terms of percentage of regional populations, sub-Saharan Africa at 47% had the highest incidence rate of absolute poverty in 2008. Between 1990 and 2010, about 663 million people moved above the absolute poverty level. Still, extreme poverty is a global challenge; it is observed in all parts of the world, including developed economies. UNICEF estimates half the world's children (or 1.1 billion) live in poverty.

Justice refers to standards of rights set or defined by substantive and procedural law and enforced by justice delivery institutions, with the state bearing primary responsibility. Access to justice

ultimately relates to whether or not individuals, groups and communities realize their rights from the enforcement of substantive law by the justice delivery institutions. It is an inalienable right provided for under international law that should be enjoyed by people world over. The principle of rule of law demands that there should be equality before the law.

## **1.2 PROBLEM STATEMENT**

Access to justice is one of the human rights and this should happen with utmost equality, however, so many factors act against this and these include, in most cases, poverty. In countries or communities where there is a clear cut between the upper class and lower class in terms of wealth levels, its presumed that the wealthier party has an upper hand in courts of law, and even though this should never be the case, it has become a challenge for human rights activists and supporting agencies to wipe it out.

In kamuli district, the community tends to think that in a legal proceeding, they do not stand a chance if they are up against a wealthier side. This makes the legal system lose its power in the eyes of such people, and they might hence resort to unlawful ways of solving issues.

## **1.3 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

### **GENERAL OBJECTIVE**

To assess the effect that poverty has on the access to justice of people living in Kamuli district.

### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

- i) To assess how the economic status of an individual may affect their access to legal services.
- ii) To examine the costs, if any, associated with accessing legal services in Kamuli district .
- iii) To justify an individual's economic status really has a bearing on the kind of verdict they will get from the judicial system in Kamuli district.
- iv) To suggest how the people of Kamuli, regardless of their financial standing should be served by the judicial system.

## **RESEARCH QUESTIONS**

- i. How may the economic status of an individual affect the ease which they access legal services?
- ii. What are the costs, if any, associated with accessing legal services in Kamuli district?
- iii. Does the economic status of an individual have a bearing on the outcome or verdict they get from a judiciary system in Kamuli district?
- iv. What are the expectations of Uganda as a state on how every citizen should be served by the judiciary?

## **SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The research looked at the costs incurred by the people in Kamuli district as they looked to access legal services, how the economic status of an individual may affect their access to justice, the expectations of the people from legal services providers, and also any issues arising in areas they think need to be revised. The study was conducted in Kamuli district which is located in the Eastern part of Uganda.

## **SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

Because some of the obstacles faced by persons living in poverty in their quest for justice, such as the costs of legal advice, administrative fees and other collateral costs, relate directly to their lack of financial resources, it was important to assess whether this is being suffered by people in the study area, so that solutions could be sought by:

- i) Correcting the unjust situation in the legal system of the district, to the benefit of every one in equality (despite of their economic status).
- ii) Possibly put in place more poverty alleviation projects so that the people can be able to afford fundamental services such as legal services.

## **JUSTIFICATION**

Justice has always been a myth, alongside truth, freedom and democracy. Yet nowadays the concept of 'justice for all,'<sup>2</sup> remains one of the most fundamental and widely articulated principles of contemporary societies. As people make political claims for justice, democracy, equality, and human rights, scholars and researchers have believed it necessary to investigate these notions. By so doing, much has been said and written on access to justice. This research intends to find out how poverty affects particularly the access to justice of the people in kamuli district, with the hope that a solution will be found the problem.

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<sup>2</sup>.British Government, 2002

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

#### **2.1 INTRODUCTION**

The notion of access to justice is as vague as the concept of justice is diffuse. The concept of justice has often been framed in universal or absolute terms<sup>3</sup>. However, in attempting to understand what access to justice might mean and what might be required in practical terms to provide it in a society, a primary question is for which constituency group, class or segment of society is access required?<sup>4</sup>

All over the world, contemporary societies and nations are heterogeneous aggregations rather than homogenous – pluralistic in values, needs and structures rather than unitary. Nevertheless, in the context of pluralistic societies, even if access to justice is considered a fundamental and universal right, it must be recognized that there is no fundamental and universally applicable means of satisfying this right in practice - and thus no singular meaning of access to justice<sup>5</sup>. How is access to justice achieved, materially or physically? It is wondered if accessing to justice is just a question of accessing to courts. The concept of poor is also so elastic that it is uncertain how poor people should be to have difficulty in accessing to justice.

The focus of this chapter is to disentangle these notions. Defining them throws up several approaches: philosophical, legal, sociological, and public management. This overview highlights the relativity of poverty and elements to consider in any definition of poverty. This leads to a review of obstacles to access to justice for the poor.

#### **2.2 Definition of access to justice: understanding what is justice**

##### **2.2.1 Theological basis**

‘Justice is one of those sublime words attempts at defining which never seem adequate, never come up to the mere mention of it. It is not once defined in the Bible . Rather it is brought home

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<sup>3</sup> The Bible: Genesis and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

<sup>4</sup> Morris, 1973.

<sup>5</sup> Cappelletti and Garth, 1973 and Morris, 1973.



to us by precept, by warning, by stories and deeds, by fulfillment'<sup>6</sup>. The same is true for access to justice, which cannot be found as a phrase in dictionaries. For the purposes of this dissertation, however, a clearer understanding of the concept is required.

### 2.2.2 Philosophical approach

Justice is primarily viewed by philosophers as an ideal: 'Justice is that virtue of the soul which is distributive according to desert'<sup>7</sup>. Justice imposes on our consciences, and Saint Thomas Aquinas asserts that 'Justice is a certain rectitude of mind whereby a man does what he ought to do in the circumstances confronting him.' This has to do with duty and yet implies the principle of equality, which is fundamental to any attempt at definition. As Voltaire,<sup>8</sup> suggests, 'All men have equal rights to liberty, to their property, and to the protection of the laws', while Aristotle,<sup>9</sup> distinguishes between justice in the distribution of wealth or other goods (distributive justice) and justice in reparation, as, for example, in punishing someone for a wrong he has done (retributive justice). This suggests equality in accessing to justice for everyone and equality before it. The notion of justice now becomes more concrete than the previous ideal, and carries these two implications. The challenge is to achieve what political philosophers call a 'just state', 'to govern by promulgated established laws, not to be varied in particular cases.'<sup>10</sup> Ways are to be found to redress an inequality that has always existed in societies where people have not been able to access resources at the same level, and thus from that unequal basis, justice has not been properly rendered. To this regard, Smith<sup>11</sup> quoted by Christian Legal Services, states that 'We can end the existing denial of justice to the poor if we can secure an administration of justice which shall be accessible to every person no matter how humble.' From this viewpoint, access to justice is assumed to be the reserve of rich people for which the poor suffer. It may be that access to justice, above the quest for equality in justice for all, is mostly the promotion of access to

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<sup>6</sup> Clancy, 1951

<sup>7</sup> Aristotle, quoted by Shepard, 1999-2005

<sup>8</sup> Essay on Manners, 1756, quoted by Shepard, 1999-2005

<sup>9</sup> Leyden, 1985

<sup>10</sup> Locke, 1632-1704

<sup>11</sup> Smith, H 1919

justice for the poor<sup>12</sup>. This suggests a social approach, but before this is discussed certain legal requirements must be outlined.

### **2.2.3 Legal approach: Rule of law**

Although justice is straightforwardly defined in legal documents, this is not the case for access to justice for which we still have to construct a definition. Justice is the application of the law to govern and the use of infrastructures to administer justice: the Courts, the magistrates. The application of laws implies the rule of law.<sup>13</sup> A society or state where justice is applied would be one where there is rule of law. Rule of law is often confused and conflated with justice, and other ideas associated with democracy.<sup>14</sup> Rule of law suggests that the laws governing society, rather than people who are likely to follow their selfish interests are good laws.<sup>15</sup> In sum, from the various models of definition of rule of law, it is found that rule of law is a way of life: a spontaneous inclination to observe justice through the laws.<sup>16</sup> There is a necessary distinction to be made between good and bad laws, with rule of law suggesting rights for citizens and this in turn assumes that they have moral rights and duties with respect to others and political rights against the state.

Moreover, the notions of equality and duty still underpin this approach. In a word, societies where there is rule of law embody this definition of justice: 'the protection of individual rights from coercive and arbitrary actions on part of government institutions and other actors.'

These legal principles are enshrined in the United Declaration of Human Rights, and other major reference documents. The redundancy of equality, duty and protection is noticeable in Article 1 of the United Nations human rights charter which reads: 'All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights'; in article 7: 'All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law'; and in article 10; 'Everyone is entitled in full

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<sup>12</sup> UNDP, 2004

<sup>13</sup> Belton, 2005

<sup>14</sup> World Bank, 1994

<sup>15</sup> Plato, see Zdaravko, 1991 and Bloom, 1968.

<sup>16</sup> Belton, 2005

equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and any criminal charge against him.’<sup>17</sup>

Access to justice from this is likely to constitute fair access to those equal chances. Firstly, however, a paramount requirement seems to be the effectiveness of justice<sup>18</sup>. In effect, the access to justice suggests above all the possibility to access the infrastructures of justice: to have a judgment rather than just be arrested<sup>19</sup>. In practice, this is not often the case for everybody for several reasons among which the most significant one is that related to the means. To this regard., the problem of access to justice is due to the imbalance between poor and rich, so access to justice is definitely access to justice for the poor, the mechanisms that law put in place to deliver access to justice for the poor: the possibility for them to be judged, represented in justice and in the end have a fair justice. This notion suggests that of the poor. Who are the poor? As justice seems to have an international framework, is the notion of the poor homogenous? The poor are those in need of legal services, which may vary between societies. To this extent, the notion of ‘need’ suggests a sociological approach to the definition of access to justice.

#### **2.2.4 Sociological approach**

The sociological contribution should be to widen the focus from the individual to that of society. Sociologists must be interested in law as part of, as contributing to, and as affected by, wider aspects of the social structure.<sup>20</sup> In fact, a sociological approach to defining this legal concept should understand the social nature of the law and its relationship to social changes. From this standpoint, and as anticipated above, sociologists view access to justice in terms of needs, legal needs, for the poor. Both concepts vary from one society to another. ‘Need is socially defined. It is important to stress that legal need cannot be viewed in any absolute sense, nor can it be isolated from a more general idea of social needs.’<sup>21</sup> The author considers legal needs as ‘unmet needs’. Such needs emerge where certain groups of people fail to benefit from existing legal

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<sup>17</sup> United Nations,1948

<sup>18</sup> World Bank 1999

<sup>19</sup> PRI Malawi,2000

<sup>20</sup> Morris,1973:48

<sup>21</sup> Morris 1973:50

solutions<sup>22</sup>. In many societies, these are likely to predominantly be those of representation at court by lawyers for the poor. As Morris points out, it is important not only to assess the extent of unmet need but to ensure that those affected see the relevance of solutions offered and will thus utilize them: what is necessary, both in the wider field of the social services and in the field of legal services, is to discover whether the relationship between the provision of services and the need (both met and unmet) is congruent with conceptions of social or legal need held by the community, as well as by individual clients. It would be dangerous to assume that because a service exists to meet what is thought to be a particular need, those who have such a need will necessarily see the relevance of what is being offered and will accordingly use it.<sup>23</sup>

From this standpoint, one's definition of the poor is crucial to attempt at defining access to justice from a sociological angle and considering new and modified services. As argued above in relation to the concept of need, poverty is also a subjective concept; standards of poverty are established by society and vary from time to time and place to place. But poverty usually implies something more than mere lack of money: poor people are not just people without money. 'The culture of poverty' as labeled by Lewis,<sup>24</sup> is itself deeply resistant to change.

An entire community may be at social and educational risk and may well be totally pathetic, seeing no way of resolving overwhelming problems, of which poverty is only a symptom: poor housing, bad schools, poor health and so forth. But those falling within the culture of poverty constitute only a minority of those having problems and who might be unable or unwilling to seek a legal remedy. Current arguments about changes in legal services<sup>25</sup> refer specifically to all those of very limited means and this will include those who have come to be known as the respectable poor (a term which is frequently used synonymously with the deserving poor)

At the end of the day the question is to know if the problem of the poor, what they need to gain access to, is a legal or poverty problem, and if as seems likely they are indistinguishable. This confirms that access to justice is not the same everywhere and that a unique definition cannot be applied. Nevertheless, it could be tentatively suggested that access to justice should be the

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<sup>22</sup> Morris 1973

<sup>23</sup> Morris, 1973:1-52

<sup>24</sup> Morris 1973

<sup>25</sup> Guy 1999

resolution of unmet financial needs of the poor in solving their legal problems. At this stage of the definition, the law intervenes to create definitional structures. It then turns/transforms the needs into rights, once needs and the poor have been determined in a given society, in order to make this coercive. This has political implications<sup>26</sup>. At this point, a public management approach is required, to determine what could be required in concrete terms from which participants in the day to day management of society to help meet the unmet legal needs.

### **2.2.5 Public management approach**

From a Public management view, theoretical attempts of definition and analysis made by philosophers, jurists and sociologists can be taken advantage of and considered in more concrete terms. In turn, public management is interested in determining the problem around access to justice and in finding ways for meeting the 'unmet needs' in terms of access to justice for the poor and implementation of policies deemed suitable. In a wholesale examination, justice is viewed as a form of legal aid<sup>27</sup>, a way of equalizing access to justice among citizens.<sup>28</sup> The problem of access to justice is summarized as due to that the poor lose cases in justice either because they do not use justice or because they do not know their rights, do not have money for an efficient representation in justice: failure by some citizens, poor to have representation in courts lawyers. Lawyers have not met the challenge of representing every citizen, or client in court.<sup>29</sup> There is therefore a 'market failure' for which the state has to compensate. Access to justice in this regard may thus be defined as an attempt to 'redress the imbalance of advocacy' <sup>30</sup> Such legal advice and representation for the poor once their needs are considered to be rights, becomes 'public goods,' in papers' sense of the market for lawyers' services.<sup>31</sup>

Yet it must be emphasized that access to justice is an experiment in how far the welfare state and legal institutions can go. If the welfare state is characterized by more and more laws- if law is the

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<sup>26</sup> World Bank 1994

<sup>27</sup> Le sueur et al, 1999

<sup>28</sup> Puymbroeck 2001

<sup>29</sup> Capelletti and Garth,1973 and Hazell,1978

<sup>30</sup> Capelletti and Garth,1973 and Gravelle,1996

<sup>31</sup> Gravelle,1996

means by which ‘social change’ on behalf of the ‘have not’s’<sup>32</sup> is implemented- then the legal system occupies a pivotal position. It stands between new, legislatively created rights and entitlements such as those of consumers, tenants, employees and persons unable to afford the minimum requirements for a decent life and their practical enforcement. The legal system as it has developed over the past centuries has too often been a barrier to the enforcement of new rights designed to help the disadvantaged. It was designed more for a *laissez-faire* economy than for a welfare state. High priced lawyers, complex adversary proceedings and relatively passive judges are ill-suited in many cases to the important new rights enjoyed by the poor, consumers, tenants, workers and the like. The difficult task of access to justice for reformers is accordingly to supplement, modify or even by-pass the traditional system with more effective methods for ‘law enforcement’ on behalf of the disadvantaged.<sup>33</sup> This constitutes a profound challenge to the legal profession and a difficult test of legal systems.

The public management approach thus narrows the definition of access to justice to focus on the ‘unmet needs’ of advocacy, although there might be many other ways in which justice is not met. It should therefore be stressed that this dissertation will focus on access to justice for the poor as legal aid, either for legal advice or for representation in justice. Before checking which mechanisms are designed for this end, the implications of lack of legal advice or lack of representation on the outcomes of the justice for the poor must be explored. This will help later in understanding the role of lawyers.

### **2.3 Obstacles to access to justice for the poor**

This dissertation does not intend to expand on the issue of money, which although admittedly at the core of the problem, has already been widely discussed. Many other factors prevent the poor from accessing justice or just serve as corollary or cause of the need of lawyers. These include:

- ❖ Access to legal information, rule of law, mistrust of the law

In a way the lack of a comprehensive and timely system for publishing laws has important consequences for the rule of law. The complex and exoteric nature of law is likely to prevent the

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<sup>32</sup> Morris 1973

<sup>33</sup> Belton 2005

poor from accessing it. This is characteristic of countries where there is no actual rule of law.<sup>34</sup> Additionally, any failure to punish corrupt people is likely to undermine the rule of law and suggest the poor's mistrust of the law.<sup>35</sup>

❖ Reluctance to use the law

It is commonly noted that in many cultures there is reluctance particularly among the poor, to become entangled with the courts. This is sometimes attributed to the strong stigma attached to any encounter with the law, no matter how innocent.<sup>36</sup>

❖ Education, legal literacy

The stand of education and legal background could be among these. These are linked to the problem of living in illegality. For instance, in circumstances of rapid urbanization and inadequate urban housing, the poor usually build their homes either on illegally occupied land or in violation of local planning regulations. In Alexandria [Egypt] for example, it is estimated that 68% of the housing stock is built informally.<sup>37</sup> Another factor could be that the poor not only lack sufficient education but they do not have legal literacy. Again this could be due to a poor rule of law. It should be added that the nature of law is so hermetic that even educated people would not literate in law. This can only complicate the picture.

❖ Inadequate legal representation

In most legal systems, private citizens are not even allowed to appear in court to present their own case- a monopoly of competence is bestowed on the legal profession. Legal rules thus require litigants to use lawyers but lawyers are often in short supply.

❖ Justice delayed

The inadequacy of justice personnel and infrastructures could be viewed as an important source of lack of access to justice for the poor.

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<sup>34</sup> The World Bank Institute 1999

<sup>35</sup> Anderson 2003 and Belton 2005

<sup>36</sup> Anderson 2003:16

<sup>37</sup> Anderson,2003:18

What happens to such conditions is that preferences are given to reach peoples' cases that however use pressure and corruption. And like it is said; justice delayed is justice denied.

## 2.4 World Bank Statistics on Poverty

World Bank data shows that the percentage of the population living in households with consumption or income per person below the poverty line has decreased in each region of the world since 1990.

Region	\$1 per day			\$1.25 per day	
	1990	2003	2004	1981	2008
East Asia and Pacific	15.40%	12.33%	9.07%	77.2%	14.3%
Europe and Central Asia	3.60%	1.28%	0.95%	1.9%	0.5%
Latin America and the Caribbean	9.62%	9.08%	8.64%	11.9%	6.5%
Middle East and North Africa	2.08%	1.69%	1.47%	9.6%	2.7%
South Asia	35.04%	33.44%	30.84%	61.1%	36%
Sub-Saharan Africa	46.07%	42.63%	41.09%	51.5%	47.5%
<b>World</b>				<b>52.2%</b>	<b>22.4%</b>

Life expectancy has been increasing and converging for most of the world. Sub-Saharan Africa has recently seen a decline, partly related to the AIDS epidemic.

According to Chen and Ravallion, about 1.76 billion people in the developing world lived above \$1.25 per day and 1.9 billion people lived below \$1.25 per day in 1981. The world's population increased over the next 25 years. In 2005, about 4.09 billion people in developing world lived above \$1.25 per day and 1.4 billion people lived below \$1.25 per day (both 1981 and 2005 data are on inflation adjusted basis). Some scholars caution that these trends are subject to various assumptions, and not certain. Additionally, they note that the poverty reduction is not uniform across the world; economically prospering countries such as China, India and Brazil have made more progress in absolute poverty reduction than countries in other regions of the world.



The absolute poverty measure trends noted above are supported by human development indicators, which have also been improving. Life expectancy has greatly increased in the developing world since World War II and is starting to close the gap to the developed world. Child mortality has decreased in every developing region of the world. The proportion of the world's population living in countries where per-capita food supplies are less than 2,200 calories (9,200 kilojoules) per day decreased from 56% in the mid-1960s to below 10% by the 1990s. Similar trends can be observed for literacy, access to clean water and electricity and basic consumer items.

## **2.5 Poverty and the Law in Uganda**

According to the Copenhagen Declaration, Absolute poverty is a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to social services. The term 'absolute poverty' is sometimes synonymously referred to as 'extreme poverty'. Poverty is usually measured as either absolute or relative (the latter being actually an index of income inequality. Absolute poverty refers to a set standard which is consistent over time and between countries. First introduced in 1990, the dollar a day poverty line measured absolute poverty by the standards of the world's poorest countries. The World Bank defined the new international poverty line as \$1.25 a day for 2005 (equivalent to \$1.00 a day in 1996 US prices) but have recently been updated to be \$1.25 and \$2.50 per day. The term 'absolute poverty', when used in this fashion, is usually synonymous with 'extreme poverty'.

In the Participatory Poverty Assessment on Safety, Security, and Access to justice conducted by the justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS) in 2002, poverty was reported to severely constrain safety, security and access to justice, particularly for women. The poor reported that expensive, cumbersome and complex procedures severely reduced their use of formal justice systems. Constraints highlighted by the poor included lack of access to legal services, gender based obstacles and inadequate legal awareness among others. As a consequence of poverty, disempowerment severely constrains access to justice for the poor. On the other hand, failure to realize legal protection through justice delivery agencies results in disempowerment of the users. The intersection between poverty and access to justice is therefore manifested in empowerment.

### **2.5.1 Legal Aid as a State Obligation**

Legal aid is a human right and a key ingredient of the right to a fair hearing under Article 14 of the International Convention on Civil Political Rights. The states as a key duty bearer to respect, protect, promote and fulfill human rights of citizens, is expected to provide legal aid to those who are unable to afford paid legal services to enable them seek legal redress. This obligation calls for an number of strategies including the establishment of functioning institutions and systems and enhancing access to legal aid.

The provision of legal aid to the indigent has emerged as a dominant intervention in enhancing access to justice for the poor. This comprises legal representation, mediation, advice and counseling, referral as well as legal education. In Uganda legal aid is defined under the Advocates (Legal aid to Indigent Persons) Regulations as ‘the provision of legal advice or representation by a lawyer, an advocate or a paralegal, as the case may be, to a client at no cost or at a very minimal cost.’

Legal aid services address the concerns of the poor and vulnerable by focusing on challenges arising from: affordability of user costs, lack of legal representation, alienation due to technicalities and ignorance of legal rights. Legal aid has the potential not only to enable these vulnerable groups resolve their disputes at the family and community level but to enhance awareness of legal and human rights and empower them to claim their rights and advocate for social, policy and legal change at community and national level.

While legal aid interventions do not in principle transform the poverty situation of the recipients of services, they contribute to the empowerment of individuals and communities- a key ingredient of poverty reduction efforts.

The Government of Uganda as the key duty bearer to provide legal aid recognizes that access to justice is an important aspect of poverty eradication and central to all processes in the justice, Law and Order Sector.

### **2.5.2 The Legal and Regulatory Framework for Legal Aid**

Legal aid services in Uganda have for a long time been provided by both the State and non- state actors without any comprehensive policy backing from the government. At the annual JLOS

review of 2008, an undertaking to develop a national legal aid policy and institutional framework was adopted. Key issues to be covered by the policy include: the definition of legal aid, institutional arrangements and legal aid service delivery mechanisms, M&E of service delivery, resourcing, standard setting and quality assurance. Until the National Legal aid policy is approved and formally adopted, legal aid services will still largely remain the domain of non state actors. However, the right to legal aid is contained in various laws including the Constitution, the Trial on Indictment Act, the Poor Persons Defence Act, the Magistrates' Court Act and the Advocates Act and Regulations relating to legal aid made there under.

#### ❖ Constitution of the Republic of Uganda

The 1995 constitution of Uganda clearly embodies human rights, freedoms, principles of rule of law, good governance and due process as enshrined in the major human rights treaties. Article 21 of the constitution guarantees equality before the law to all citizens. The constitution further articulates the principles upon which the government of Uganda is to construct the mechanism for governance and improved personal safety, security and access to justice.

#### ❖ The Trial on Indictment Act Cap 23

This Act provides for a person accused of an offence before the High Court to be defended by an advocate, at his or her own expense as of right<sup>38</sup>. However, because the majority of the cases tried in the High Court are of a capital nature, and attract life imprisonment or the death penalty, the practice is that all accused persons appearing in the High Court must be defended by an advocate either of their choice at their own expense or by one assigned to them by the state at the expense of the state.<sup>39</sup>

#### ❖ The Poor Persons Defence Act, Cap 20

Under this Act, legal aid is provided where it appears for any reason that it is desirable in the interests of justice, that a prisoner should have legal aid in the preparation and conduct of his or her defence, at his or her trial and that the means of the prisoner are insufficient to enable him or

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<sup>38</sup> Section 55 Trial on Indictment Act ,Cap 23

<sup>39</sup> Article 28(3) (e) of the 1995 Constitution

her to obtain such aid.<sup>40</sup> Upon committal of the prisoner for trial, or at any time after reading the summary of the case submitted at the committal proceedings, a certifying officer may certify that the prisoner ought to have the legal aid, and if an indictment is filed against the prisoner and it is possible to procure an advocate, the prisoner is entitled to have an advocate assigned to him or her.

❖ The Magistrates' Court Act, Cap 16

This Act provides for any person accused of an offence before a Magistrates' Court to be defended by an advocate as of right.<sup>41</sup> However, many persons appearing in these courts are poor and cannot afford counsel. The result is that the majority of persons appearing in Magistrates Courts' end up defending themselves, except for those cases which attract life imprisonment where the state provides an advocate at its cost under the state brief system.

❖ The Advocates Act, Cap. 267 as amended by Act. No. 27 of 2002 and its Regulations.

One of the functions of the Uganda Law Council as provided under the Advocates Act as amended is to exercise general supervision and control over the provision of legal aid and advice to indigent persons. The mechanism of performing this function is provision of a regulatory framework within which legal aid service providers operate as well as a monitoring and evaluation framework to measure impact and enhance accountability through reporting.

### **2.5.3 The Operational Framework for Legal Aid**

The operational framework for the provision of legal aid is currently found in three main structures namely; the Justice Law and Order Sector (JLOS) on the supply side, the Legal Aid Basket Fund (LABF) on the funding side and the Legal Aid Services Providers Network (LASPNET) on the demand side.

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<sup>40</sup> Section 2 of The Poor Persons Defence Act, Cap 20

<sup>41</sup> Section 158 of MCA

The rational of this research is paper is to establish how the poor people of Kamuli District are fairing in regard to access to justice and suggest mechanisms to improve on their access to justice.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 INTRODUCTION**

This chapter focuses on the entire study design which includes methods that were used in the data collection process, the study population from which information for the study was collected, the method of sampling that was used, research tools and the processes that were used in data analysis among other factors.

#### **3.2 DESCRIPTION OF THE STUDY AREA**

Kamuli District is bordered by Buyende District to the north, Luuka District to the east, Jinja District to the south and Kayunga District to the west. Kamuli district headquarters are located approximately 74 kilometers, by road, north of Jinja, the largest city in Busoga sub-region. The coordinates of the district are: 00 55N, 33 06E.

The people from this area mostly speak lusoga and luganda, and their staple food is sweetpotatoes and ground nuts. Majority of them are subsistence farmers, growing mainly maize, beans, groundnuts and sugarcane, and others are small scale livestock keepers. About 28% of the adult population is illiterate, according to demographic reports from the 2002 national census.

#### **Population**

As of December 2002, Kamuli District had a population of about 712,000 (2002 population census) with a population density of 236 persons/km<sup>2</sup>. Males comprise 40.5% of the population and females make up 59.5%. The population growth rate is estimated at 5.1% per year. In 2006, Kaliro District, with a population of 153,513 people in 2002, was split off Kamuli District to form a separate district. That left 558,487 people (712,000 - 153,513) in 2002 numbers in the new Kamuli District. In 2010, Buyende District, whose 2002 population was approximately 191,266, was also peeled off to form a separate district. That left 372,221 people (558,487 - 191,266) in 2002 numbers. It is estimated that as of 2014, the population of Kamuli District has grown to about 754,100.

### **Economic activity**

The larger population of Kamuli derives their livelihood from farming, and a smaller percentage from fishing. The economic status is directly proportional with asset index and education level among other factors.

A survey by the World Bank showed that approximately 47.5% of the population of Kamuli district was living on less than 1.25 US dollars a day. This means that all those people were living in absolute poverty.

### **3.3 RESEARCH DESIGN**

Three major research designs were employed in the study, namely;

- a) Qualitative design: was used to obtain the greater proportion of the information for the study, which was from the research participants to whom a questionnaire was administered, and also from focus group discussions.
- b) Quantitative design: was used in obtaining data which was numerical in nature, such as margins for various economic classes, amounts of money required for specific legal procedures, among others.
- c) Descriptive design: this was used to describe the various observable facts discovered in the study.

### **3.3 SAMPLING PROCEDURE**

50 randomly selected respondents were enrolled in the research from the district of Kamuli. These were chosen from a list that was provided by various LCs from different villages from their case files.

The information from the above was supplemented by that from lawyers, magistrates, persons attending court sessions and from focus group discussions.

All respondents chosen to participate in the study were adults (aged above 18 years).

### **3.4 DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUES**

#### **3.4.1 Data collection methods**

Interviews: the researcher posed questions to the respondents in the course of obtaining their opinion on the research topic. This was done using questionnaires that were logically developed, with mostly open ended questions.

Observational checklists: the researcher observed the way of life of different individuals from the study area, paying special attention to the quality or appearance of homesteads and the assets around, before getting their opinion on the topic. Information was caught by sight and watching, while evidence was taken using notes and pictures.

Document study: this was done by reading books, journals, web information and literature from different leaders at LC and sub county level.

Focus group discussions: this was done by way of interaction between the researcher and key informants (about 3-10), who included renown citizens in that community and community leaders. Here, there was an exhaustion of various issues of interest to the study by discussing and brainstorming.

Stories/narrations: the study gave a chance to other members (aside from the key respondents) of the households to narrate stories related to the research, in their own words.

#### **3.4.2 Data collection tools**

Below are the instruments/ tools that will be used to facilitate the research;

- a) Interview questionnaires: these contained both closed ended and open ended questions to enable the respondents give detailed responses to the questions asked, and to supplement those responses, respectively.
- b) Document review checklists: this is where the researcher recorded what had been read, and observational checklists were also used to indicate what had been observed.



- c) Interview guides: these were used to solicit information from a court magistrate, 3 lawyers and 10 randomly selected persons attending a court session, all from Kamuli district. They will be interviewed to give information related to the research topic.
- d) Pens and a notepad: these were used to document any important information obtained during the course of the research, for example from focus group discussions.

### **3.5 RESEARCH PROCEDURE**

Before going into the field, the researcher obtained a letter of introduction from the dean of faculty of law; this was used to identify the researcher as a student from Kampala international university, faculty of law, conducting an academic research. The researcher then asked consent from concerned authorities of the district judicial system in Kamuli district before beginning the process of data collection.

### **3.6 DATA ANALYSIS**

The data collected from questionnaires was coded, entered, analyzed, and tallied in excel and then presented in pie charts and bar graphs for complete descriptive analyses in the study.

Information from interviews, observations and focus group discussions was transcribed and arranged basing on emerging themes, and descriptively presented in response to the objectives of the research.

### **3.7 VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY MEASURES**

This was emphasized by wide consultation and concentration to ensure that data collection tools were comprehensive enough to effectively inform the study.

Instruments were pretested with a sample that closely resembled the study sample, to be sure that they were clear and effective for data collection, followed by final modification where necessary.

A variety of data collection methods, as shown in 3.4.1 were used to achieve rich and diverse information. This enabled identification of commonalities in data which was good for emphasis in the study.

### **3.8 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The study was approved by Kampala international university authorities and therefore it followed the specified laws and regulations. The approval letter given indicated the name of the researcher, the objective of the study, and its duration.

The respondents' consent was sought before they were involved in the research, and anonymity of the information sort was ensured. The respondents also had the liberty to either willingly participate or withdraw from the exercise. A high level of confidentiality was indeed observed, by ensuring that all information obtained from the respondents was only used for purposes of the research.

The study was also culture sensitive thus respecting various norms and tradition encountered during its course.

### **3.9 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY**

The study was generally expensive to conduct, due to high transport and communication costs.

In some places, the researcher did not find the household heads, who were the key respondents in the study, and this altered the intended sampling procedure.

In some cases, the researcher encountered refusals by respondents to give information on the study, as they considered it a very sensitive subject to be discussed with a stranger, in fear of being incriminated.

A few of the respondents also expected to be paid or materially appreciated by the researcher for having given information.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

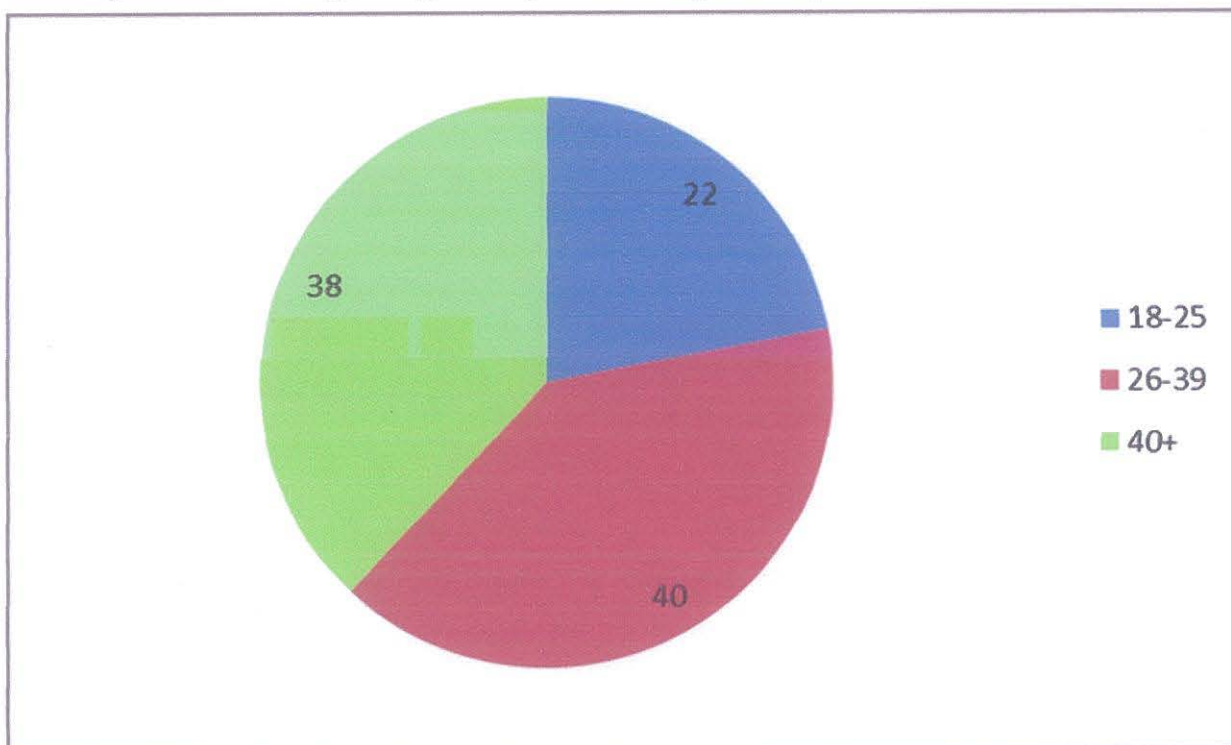
#### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

The study assessed the effect of poverty on the legal rights of the people of Kamuli district.

#### 4.2 Respondents' socio-demographic information.

This included questions about the respondents' age, sex, marital status, highest level of education attained and a rough estimate of their monthly income.

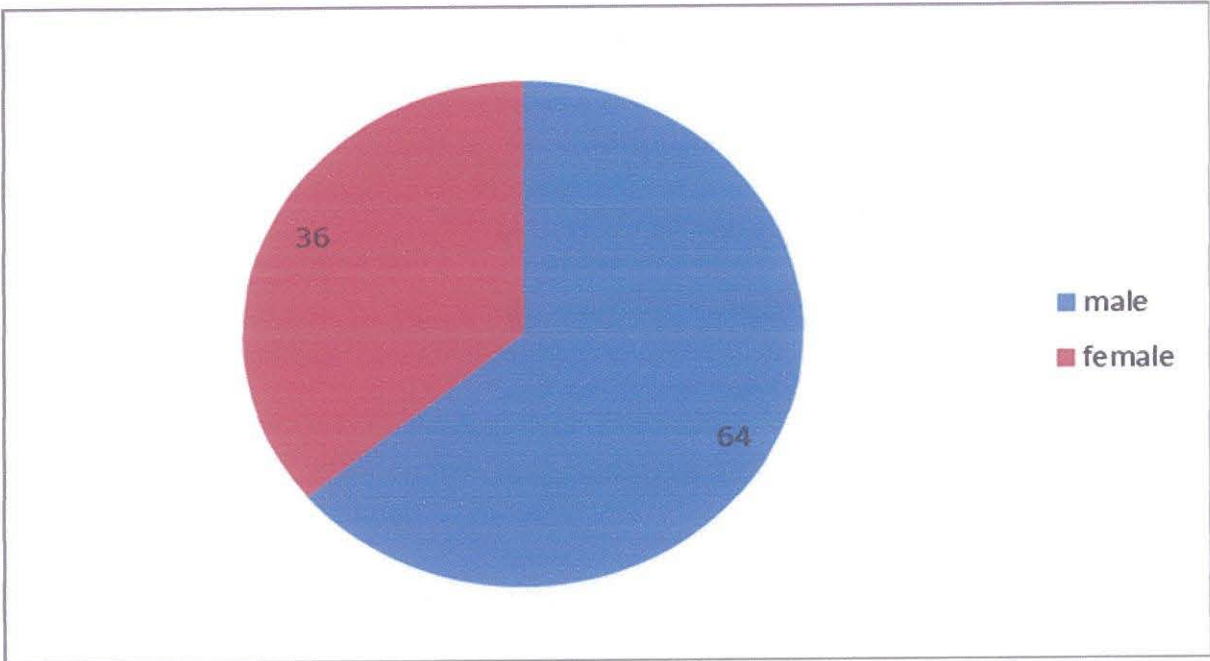
##### 4.2.1 A pie chart showing the age of respondents in percentage.



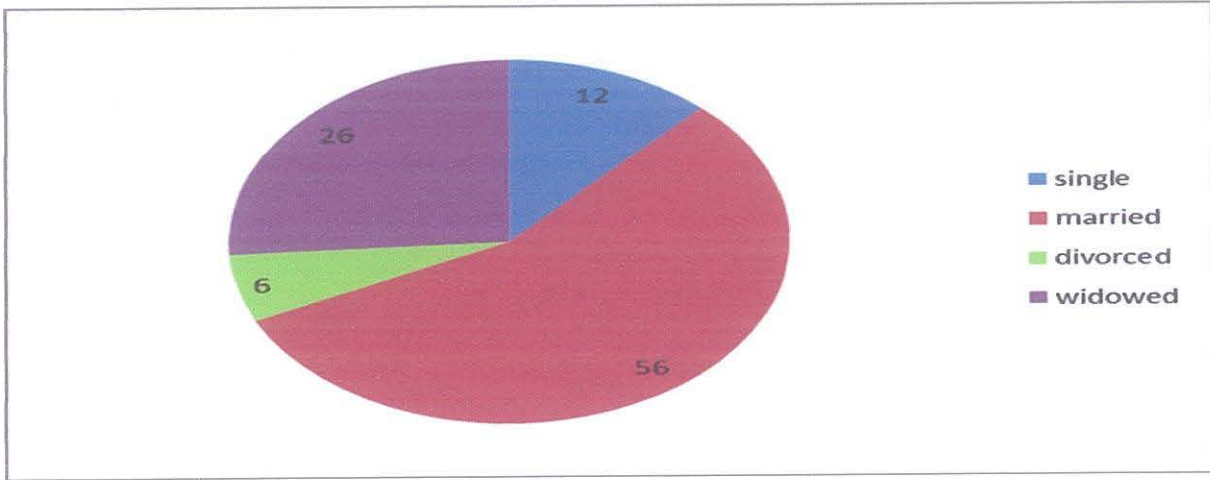
The results in the pie chart above show that 22% of the respondents were aged between 18 and 25 years, 40% were aged between 26 and 40 years, while 38% were aged above 40 years.

4.2.2 A pie chart showing the gender off respondents in percentage

The pie chart below shows that 64% of the respondents were male, while 36% were female.

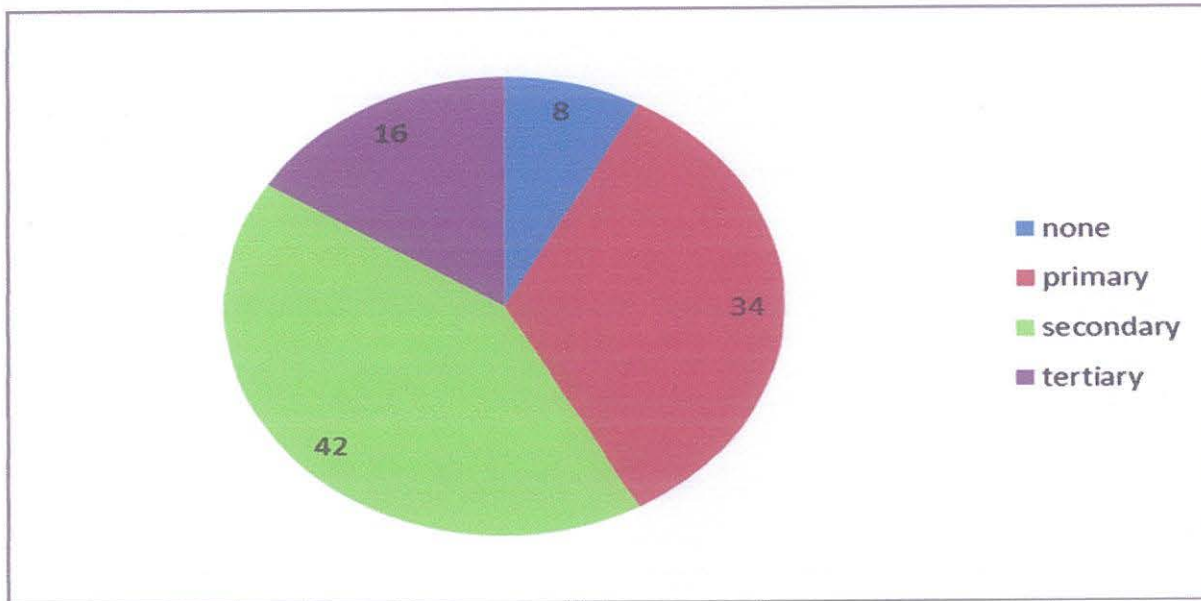


4.2.3 A pie chart showing the marital status of respondents, in percentage



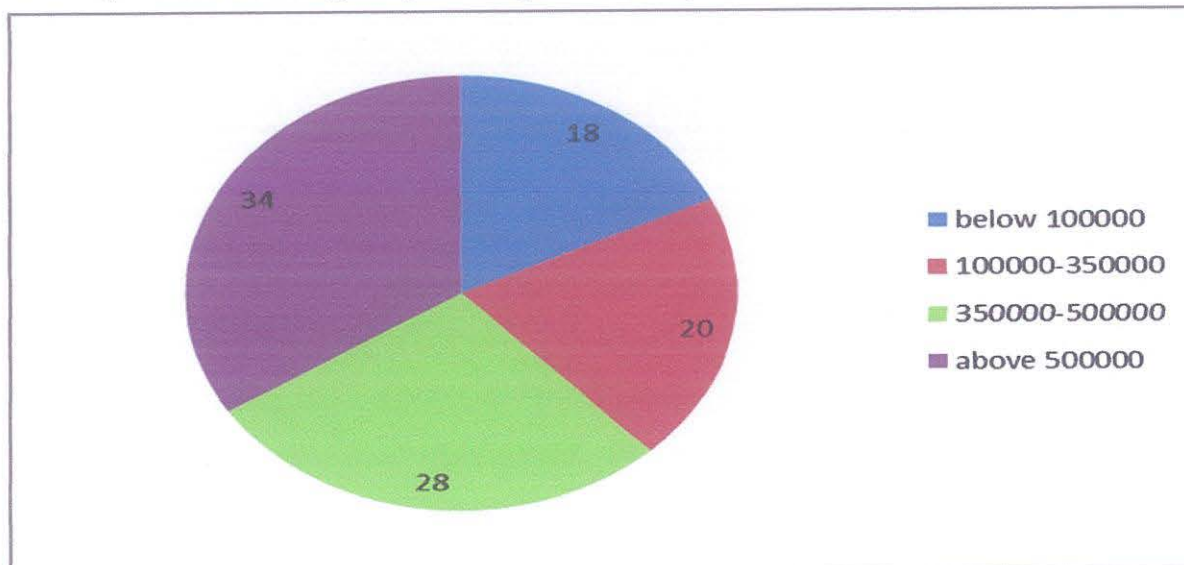
The pie chart above shows that 12% of the respondents were single, 6% were divorced, 26% were widowed, while 56% were married.

**4.2.4 A pie chart showing the highest level of education attained by respondents, in percentage**



According to the above pie chart, 8% of the respondents never attended any level of formal education, , 34% went as far as primary school, 42% went as far as secondary school while 16% attained tertiary education.

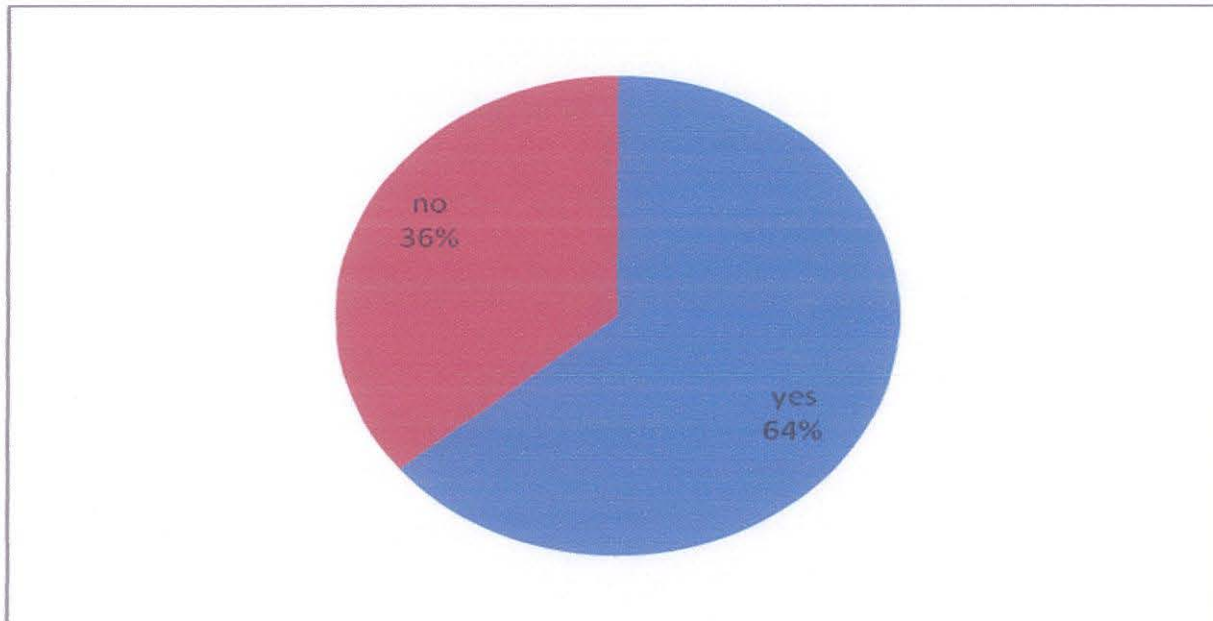
**4.2.5 A pie chart showing the percentage of monthly income earned by respondents**





18% of the respondents earned below 100,000 shillings a month, 20% earned between 100,000 and 350,000 shillings, 28% earned between 350,000 and 500,000 while 34% of the respondents earned above 500,000 shillings a month, as shown in the pie chart above.

**4.2.6 A pie chart showing whether or not the respondent was pursuing a case at the time of the study**

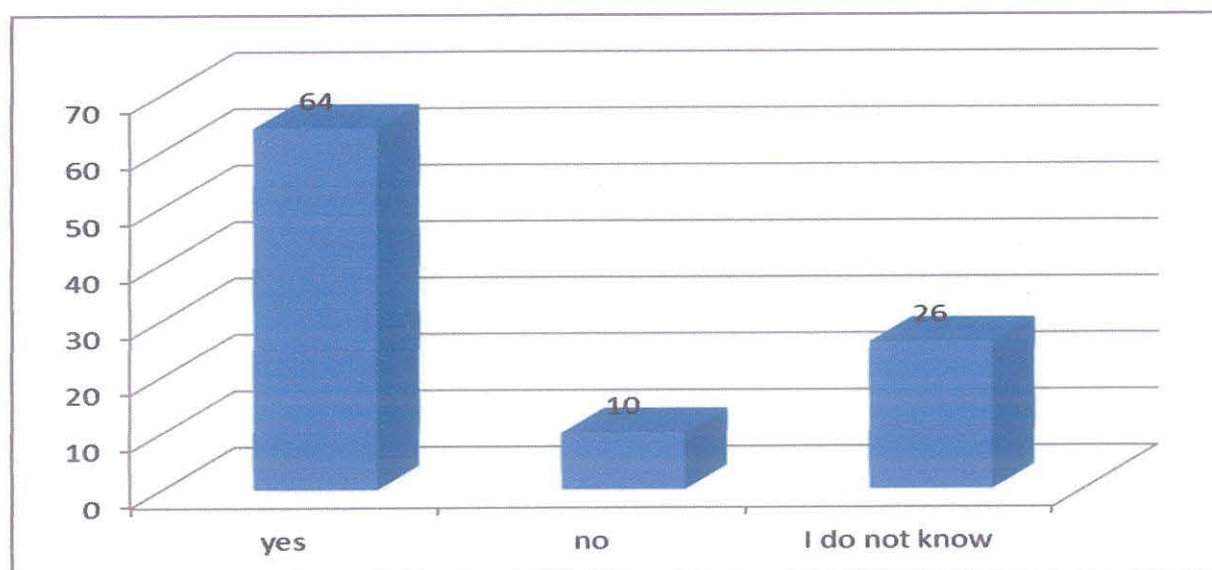


According to the pie chart above, 64% of the respondents were pursuing a case at an unspecified level of the judiciary system at the time of the study, while 36% of the respondents were not involved in a case of any kind.

**4.3 Respondents' responses in relation to costs related with acquiring legal services**

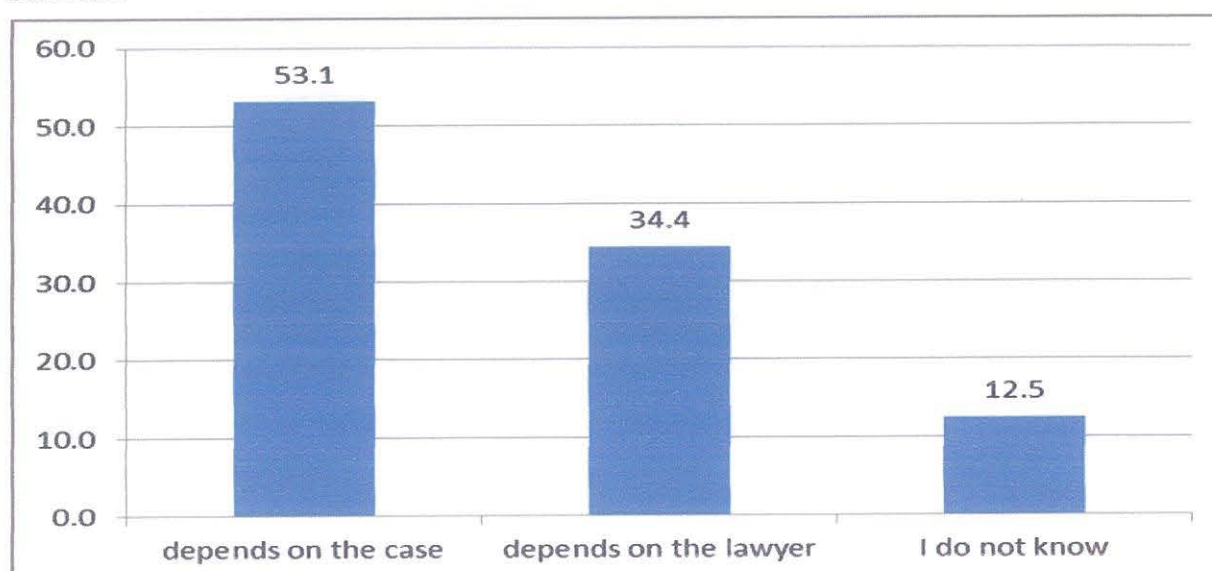
The questions asked in this section gave the researcher a clear insight on the access, availability and costs of gaining judicial services in Kamuli district.

#### 4.3.1 A graph showing responses as to whether people in Kamuli district get charged to get legal help



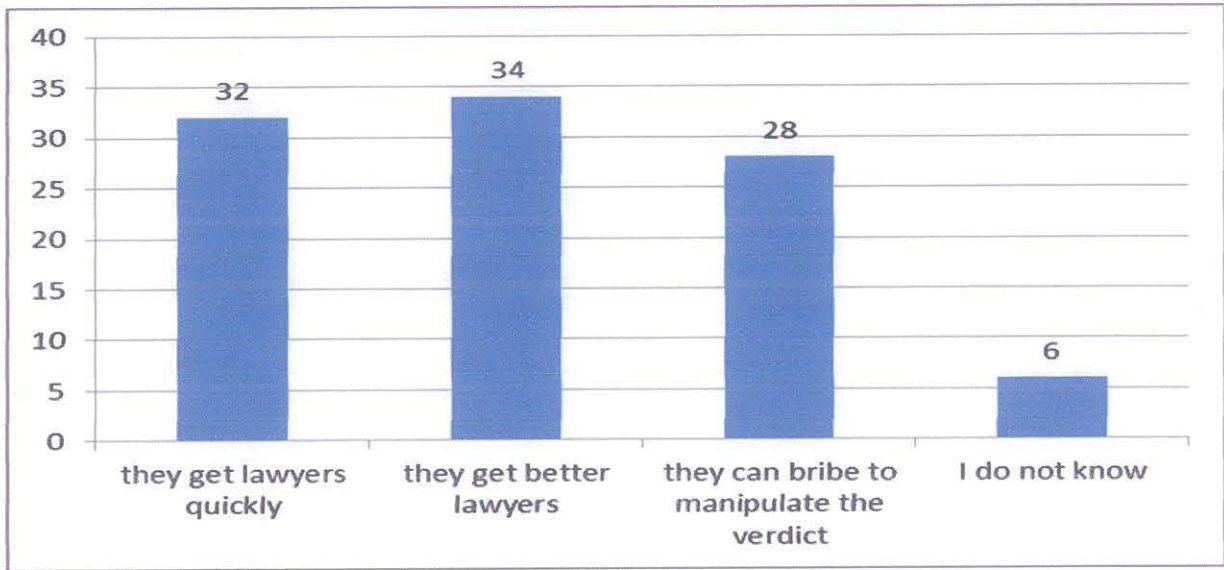
According to the above graph, 64% of the respondents said that they got charged to get legal help, 10% said they did not get charged any amount of money for legal services, while 26% said they did not know whether people get charged money to get legal help.

#### 4.3.2 A graph showing responses as to what determines the costs of acquiring legal services?



The above graph shows that 53.1% of the respondents thought that the costs of acquiring legal help depended on the case being heard, 34.4% of them thought that it depended on the legal representatives hired, while 12.5% of them did not know what it depended on.

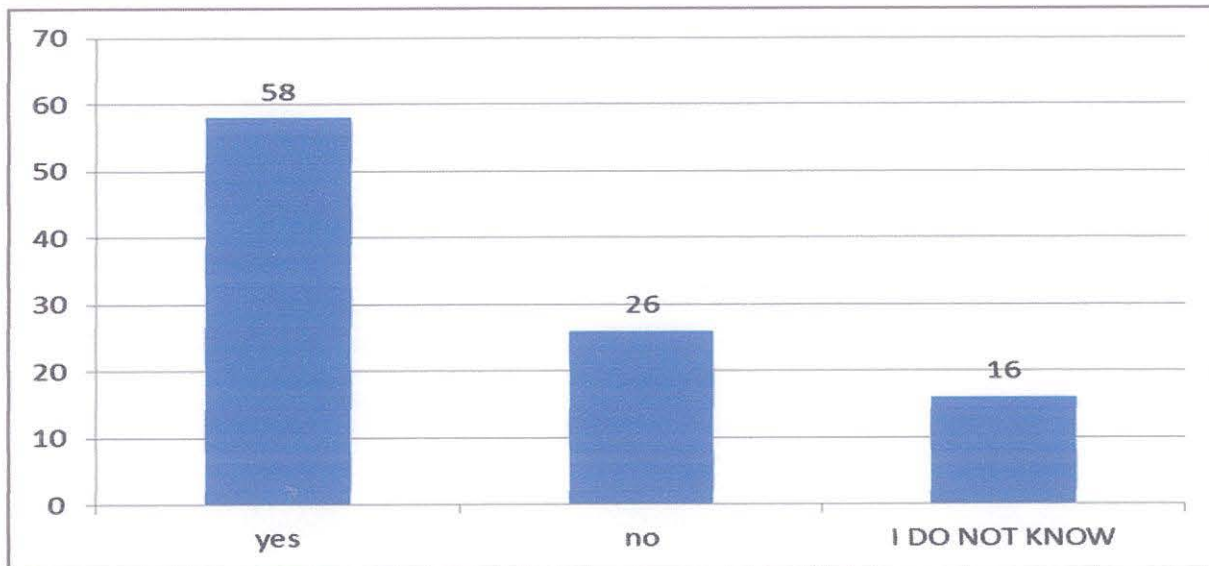
**4.3.3 A graph showing responses as to how better economic status affects quality and access to legal services**



32% of the respondents thought that plaintiffs or defendants with a sound economic status had an ability to hire lawyers faster, 34% of the respondents thought that it helped in hiring better lawyers, 28% thought that this could enable the richer party bribe legal personnel to manipulate the verdict, while 6% did not know.

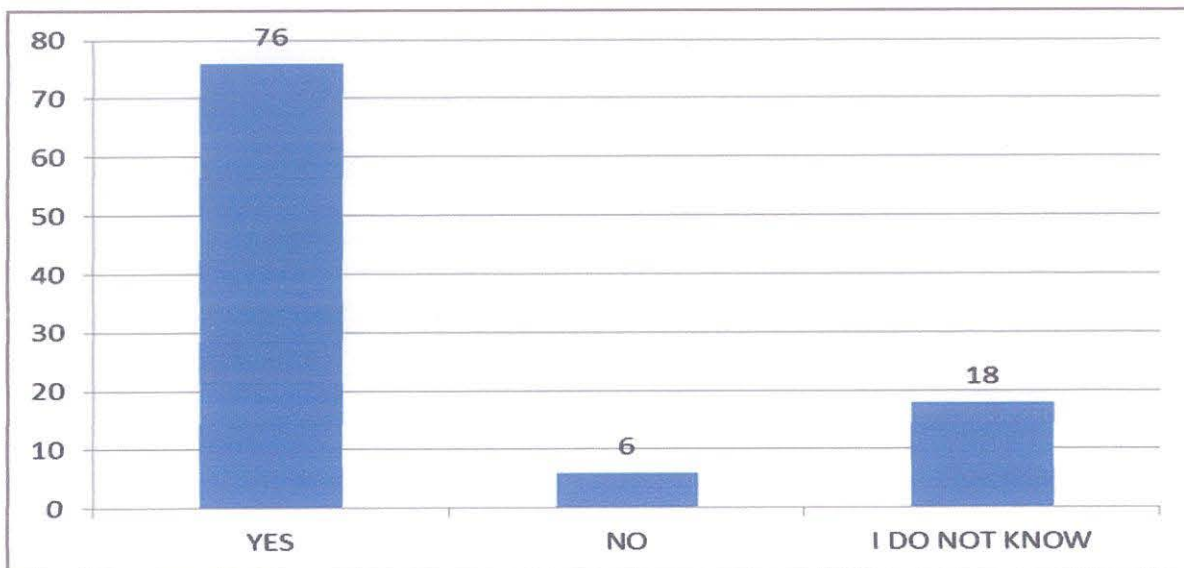


#### 4.3.4 A graph showing if the amount of money invested in a case determined the verdict.



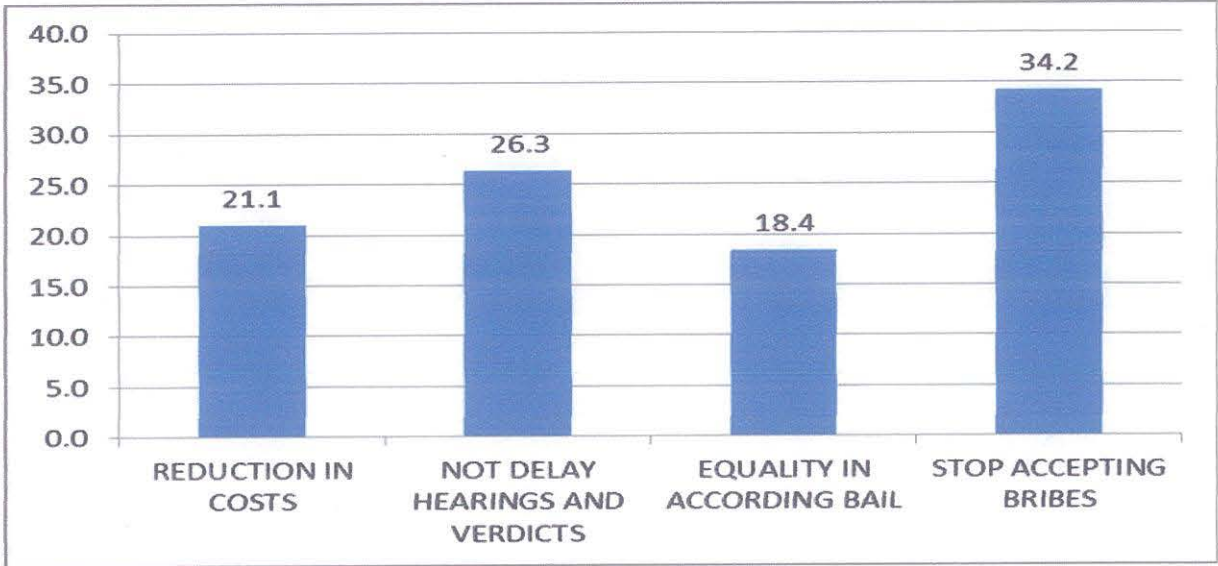
The graph above shows that 58% of the respondents thought that the amount of money invested in a case could determine the verdict or outcome, 26% of them disagreed, while the remaining 18% did not know.

#### 4.3.5 A graph showing responses as to whether respondents would like some changes to be made in their legal system



The above graph shows that 76% of the respondents wanted some changes made in their legal system, 6% want it to stay the same while 18% of them did not know whether it was important or not, to change the system.

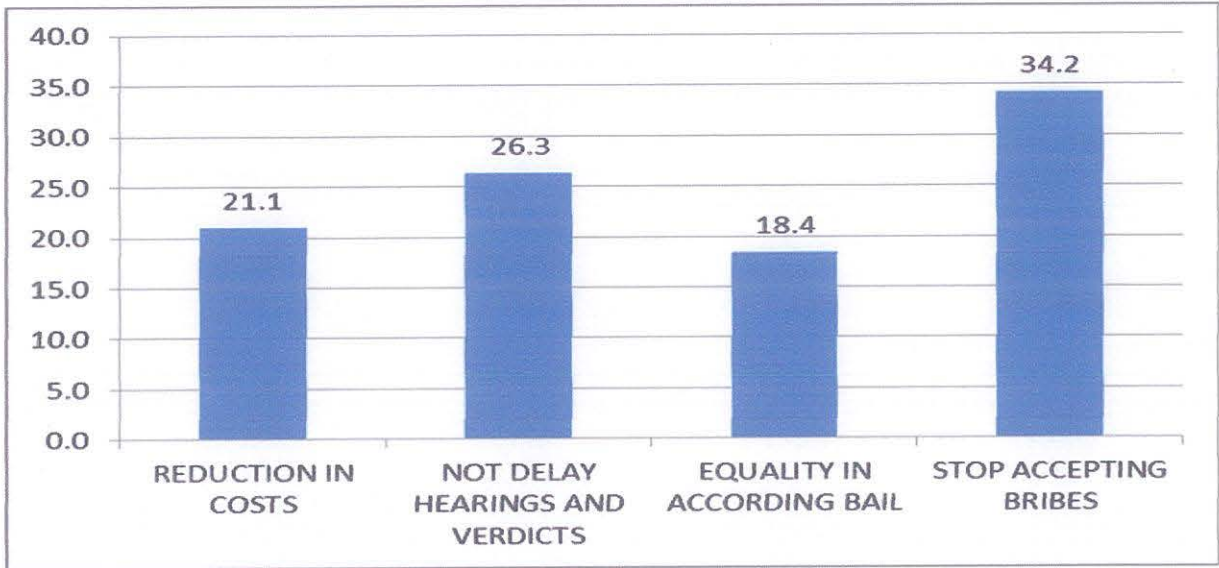
**4.3.6 A graph showing the changes that some of the respondents want made in their legal system**



According to the above graph, 21.1% of the respondents wanted there to be a reduction in the costs they are charged whenever they seek legal services, 26.3% of them wanted a reduction in the amount of time spent before a hearing or verdict could be given, 18.4% of them wanted equality in according bail to suspects, while 34.2% wanted the legal practitioners to stop accepting bribes.

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## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **DISCUSSION OF RESULTS**

#### ***5.1 Age of the respondents***

It was necessary for the age of the respondents to be noted because it helped to ensure that the respondent was above 18 years of age, and also to see if there was a similarity in responses from respondents in the same age group.

Overall, 11 of the respondents were aged between 18 and 25 years, 20 were aged between 26 and 40 years, while 19 were aged above 40 years.

The study therefore reduced bias in that its respondents were from a wide range of age groups, all above 18 years old.

#### **5.2 Gender of the respondents**

The main reasons as to why respondents were asked to give their sex were:

- To ensure gender balance in selecting respondents.
- To know what ratio of male to female headed households in the study area, considering the fact that key respondents were household heads.

It was found that 32 of the respondents were male while 18 of them were female. In the households where the males were found, it was because most of the wives asked the researcher to wait and get the information from husbands, but they also contributed to the discussion. Then in other households, husbands were either not present at that time so wives acted as key respondents, or the families were female headed.

#### **5.3 Marital status of the respondents**

This was asked to know if most families were being headed by married couples or not. It was presumed that families headed by a couple have a stronger support system for each other in times when they are faced with a challenge in terms of a legal case; whereas families headed by a single person would not get as much support if in the same situation.

Out of the 50 respondents who informed this study, 28 were married, 6 were widowed, 13 were single and 3 were separated or divorced. Although it seemed like the larger proportion of the respondents were married, summing up all the single, widowed and separated respondents would add up to 22 single respondents, which is a large figure. This therefore meant that a large percentage of the population lacked a firm support system and this puts them in a vulnerable position in case they are in a legal case.

#### **5.4 Highest level of education attained by respondents**

Out of all 50 respondents, 4 had not attended any level of formal education, 17 had gone as far as primary school, and 21 had reached secondary school, while only 8 had obtained tertiary education.

This showed that many of the respondents had not been educated enough to get sound jobs that could at least sustain them well above the poverty line. This also meant that many of them could not ably provide themselves with certain necessities, basic or not, for a comfortable life, including the ability to afford credible legal representation when the need arose.

#### **5.5 Monthly income earned by the respondents**

It was found that 9 out of 50 respondents earned below 100,000 shs, 10 earned between 100,000 and 350,000 shs, 14 earned between 350,000 and 500,000 shs, while the remaining 17 earned above 500,000 shs a month.

What this showed was that on average, all the respondents earned an amount that could provide the basic needs for a human being, and so this was presumed to mean that they were living a comfortable life. However, most of these respondents headed large families and this ended up leading them back into a life of deficit, and they could therefore be categorized among those living in poverty.

#### **5.6 Proportion of respondents charged to get legal services.**

32 out of the 50 research respondents said they got charged to get professional legal services, only 5 said they had never been charged to get legal services, while the other 13 reported not knowing whether a fee is charged for one to get legal services.

This directly meant that in most cases, people have to pay for the legal services they receive and therefore, without money, one's chances of getting the verdict they duly deserved.

### **5.7 The factors that determined the cost of getting legal help.**

53.1% of the respondents said that the cost charged depended on the case, 34.4% of them said that the amount of money charged depended on the lawyer representing a client, while 12.4% did not know what the cost depended on.

This showed that the cost associated with getting legal help varied depending on the gravity of the case, for example a murder case would cost much more than a land case. Also, law service providers charged differently depending on the firm from which they had been contracted, or depending on their standard charges.

### **5.8 How one's economic status affects their access to legal services**

Out of 50 respondents, 16 thought that people of a sound economic status are able to get lawyers faster than their poorer counterparts, 17 respondents argued that the party with more money has the ability to hire better lawyer, who can present helpful arguments and thus standing a higher chance of winning cases. 14 respondents thought that in a case, the richer party has the power to bribe and manipulate the verdict while 3 respondents did not know how exactly having a better economic status affects access to legal services.

In a nutshell, most respondents thought that having a good economic status could help one get better quality legal representation, and faster, as opposed to those of a poor economic status.

### **5.9 Relationship between the amount of money invested in a case and the verdict/outcome**

58% of the respondents thought that the amount of money invested in a case could determine the verdict or outcome, where the party spending more money stood a higher chance of winning, 26% of them disagreed, while the remaining 18% did not know.

The higher percentage of respondents believing that investing a lot of money in a case could make one win a case, means that there is a high possibility that this is what's indeed happening on the ground.

### **5.10 Whether or not respondents wanted changes made in their legal system**

It was found that 76% of the respondents wanted some changes made in their legal system, 6% want it to stay the same while 18% of them did not know whether it was important or not, to change the system.

The higher percentage of respondents wanting a change made in their legal system meant that the higher proportion of the population were dissatisfied with the current system at the time of the study and hoped for changes.

### **5.11 Specific changes wished for by respondents, in their legal system**

According to the findings of the study, 21.1% of the respondents wanted there to be a reduction in the costs they are charged whenever they seek legal services, 26.3% of them wanted a reduction in the amount of time spent before a hearing or verdict could be given, 18.4% of them wanted equality in according bail to suspects, while 34.2% wanted the legal practitioners to stop accepting bribes.

All the above are therefore change which if implemented in the jurisdiction, would bring a lot of satisfaction to the people, and increase their trust in heir own legal system.

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION**

The families in Kamuli district are mostly large in terms of number of family members, and this puts a strain on the incomes earned by breadwinners, and could in the long run drag such families to or even below the poverty line.

Most of the legal assistance provided in this region comes at a cost and therefore one needs to be financially stable to sustain themselves in a legal proceeding, otherwise, they just might lose a case, even when they do not deserve to.

#### **6.1 CONCLUSION**

The researcher was interested in assessing the effect of poverty on the legal rights of people living in Kamuli district.

The objectives of the study were to assess how the economic status of an individual may affect their access to legal services, discover the costs, if any, associated with accessing legal services in kamuli district, find out if an individual's economic status really has a bearing on the kind of verdict they will get from the judicial system in Kamuli district and to clarify on the expectations of how every citizen, regardless of their financial standing should be served by the judicial system.

The researcher discovered that one needed to be able to afford good lawyers who would do a worthwhile job, pay fees for setting a hearing (particularly at the LC levels), to be able to hire lawyers fast enough and also to be able to hold out of court settlements. Respondents in the area also believed that legal authorities had a tendency to be biased, in favor of richer justice seekers, than the poor ones. Also, it was discovered that the rate of corruption in the judiciary is still very high and this puts those who cannot keep up with the trend at a disadvantage.

From the focus group discussions, the researcher noted that when people realize they will not be able to afford the legal service, they tend to take matters into their own hands and this leads into more crimes such as mob justice, murder, and destruction of property among others.



The researcher also discovered that the community was unsatisfied with certain areas in the judicial system, and they recommended changes in areas such as reducing costs charged, reducing the time spent before giving a verdict, being impartial when giving bail, and also a stop in corruption. They also suggested being allowed to have the government provide legal representatives for those who can not afford private ones, as should ideally be the case.

## **6.2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The researcher recommends that the people in the study area form support groups which can be aided with income generating projects, in a bid to reduce poverty. They could also increase their incomes by getting vocational training to increase their chances of getting employment in various areas.

The government must undertake steps to improve access to justice by people living in poverty, such as to ensure that free legal aid is provided in both civil and criminal cases where the rights and interests of persons living in poverty are at stake.

Government also has to put in place strict realistic laws to fight corruption so that the gap between the rich and poor is bridged in service delivery and access.

The researcher also appealed to the respondents to try and not take the law in their own hands, but rather report every case to higher authority for justice to be served.

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## APPENDIX A: INTERVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondent, I am a student pursuing a bachelor's degree in laws at Kampala international university. Following the requirements for finalizing my study, I am required to conduct this comprehensive research, and for its successful completion, you are requested to complete this questionnaire, all responses will be held with utmost confidentiality, and you are at liberty to withdraw from the study if you feel uncomfortable in any way.

### 1. Age

18-25 ☐

26-39 ☐

40+ ☐

### 2. Gender

Male ☐

Female ☐

### 3. Marital status

Single ☐

Married ☐

Divorced ☐

Widowed ☐

### 4. Highest level of education attained

None ☐

Primary ☐

Secondary ☐

☐

Tertiary

**5. What is your average monthly income?**

Below 100000 ushs ☐

100000-3500000 ushs ☐

350000-500000 ushs ☐

Above 500000 ushs ☐

**6. Are you currently pursuing a court case at any level of the judiciary?**

Yes ☐

No ☐

**7. Are people charged a fee to get legal help in your district?**

.....

**8. If so, what determines these costs?**

.....

.....

**9. How do you think the economic status of an individual affects in the quality access of legal services in your district?**

.....

.....

**10. In your opinion, does the verdict given to a person have a direct correlation to the amount of money they devote to the case?**

.....

**11. Would you like to see the judicial system in your district change in certain ways?**

.....

**12. If so, which are these ways?**

.....

.....

Thank you very much for your participation.

**APPENDIX B: MAP OF UGANDA SHOWING KAMULI DISTRICT**

