



Full Length Research Article

EVALUATES THE EFFECT OF CONFLICT ON GENDER ROLES IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN POST CONFLICT PERIOD 2006-2013, IN GREATER GULU, UGANDA

^{1,*}Stella Tino, ²Prof. J. W. Wakhungu and ³Janet Kassilly

¹Center for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, Masinde Muliro, University of Science and Technology (MMUST), Kakamega- Kenya

²Center for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, Masinde Muliro, University of Science and Technology (MMUST), Kakamega- Kenya

³Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, Masinde Muliro, University of Science & Technology (MMUST), Kakamega- Kenya

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ABSTRACT

This paper evaluates the effect of conflict on gender roles in agricultural production in post conflict period 2006-2013, in Greater Gulu, Uganda. In recent years governments in many parts of the world have been attaching importance to gender issues. The Agricultural sector has been confirmed by numerous studies to be the backbone of almost all the economies in the sub-Saharan region. The study utilized the Longitudinal Survey Research Design; the target population is former Internally Displaced Persons. SPSS program was used to analyze data using percentages and presented in tables and statistical diagrams. The research findings indicated that the impact of conflict, low levels in gender participation, and lack of knowledge in sustainable agricultural production.

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INTRODUCTION

According to FAO & CGIAR (2012) Agriculture is a sector that has been confirmed, by numerous studies, to be the backbone of almost all the economies in the region but which is not performing up to its full potential. FOWODE (2012) confirms that Agriculture is also the main occupation of women. In Uganda, 80% of the population depends on agricultural production while in the rural areas more than 85% of the total population depends on agriculture as the main source of livelihood either as pure subsistence or with little commercial farming. Northern Uganda, remains significantly behind the rest of the country in terms of development indicators: according to the Government of Uganda's Peace Recovery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda (Mangano & Lambrosch, 2013). Gulu is a town in Northern Uganda Region, the commercial and administrative centre of Greater Gulu District (GDIP, 2013).

***Corresponding author: Stella Tino,**

Center for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance,
Masinde Muliro, University of Science and Technology (MMUST),
Kakamega- Kenya.

It had been the location of much of the fighting between the Ugandan army and the Lord's Resistance Army. The economic activity of 90% of the population in the district is subsistence agriculture (AOGU, 2001). The crops grown in Northern Uganda are; Cereals: (finger millet, sorghum), maize; roots and tubers; (sweet potatoes and cassava) beans, pigeon peas, soybeans, cow peas and oil crops: (ground nuts and simsim), cash crops: (cotton, sunflower and horticulture crops: fruits and vegetables) (NUARP, 2007). The Site for the study was Northern Uganda in the greater Gulu and Amuru districts. Amuru is located approximately 60 kilometers, by road, west of Gulu town, the largest town in the sub-region. Gulu is located 332 Kilometers from the capital city Kampala. Gulu district is located in Northern. The study targeted the households from the former Internally Displaced Persons. The study utilized the Longitudinal Survey Research Design and Correlational based on two goals of science that is to describe and to explain phenomenon within its domain (Bordens & Abbot 2011). A total of multistage random sample size of 200 respondents was subjected to questions, selected from the two Districts of the Greater Gulu and Amuru.

The data collected from both primary and secondary sources were analyzed to get information on the gender participation and agricultural production in Post Conflict period 2006 to 2013. SPSS program was used to analyze data using percentages and presented in tables and statistical diagrams. The researcher carried out actual counts to establish the level of gender participation in agricultural production. The data was tested at $P=0.05$ level of significance by use of Chi-square test.

The study sought to find out the Household experience in living IDP Camps and the duration in the Camps. The results from Figure 1 show that 15% lived for 1-5 years in the internally displaced persons camps, 24.5% lived for 6-10 years in the camp, 17.5% for 11-15 years and 32% lived for 16-20 years in the camps. From key informants it emerged that most of the returnees lived in the internally displaced persons camps. Information obtained from Focused Group Discussions indicated that majority of the returnees lived in the internally displaced persons camp. The findings of the study are in line with Jan Egeland, the UN's Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC), described the situation in Northern Uganda as 'the most forgotten humanitarian crisis in the world' (Brown, 2006). Figure 1: Living in Internally Displaced Persons Camps

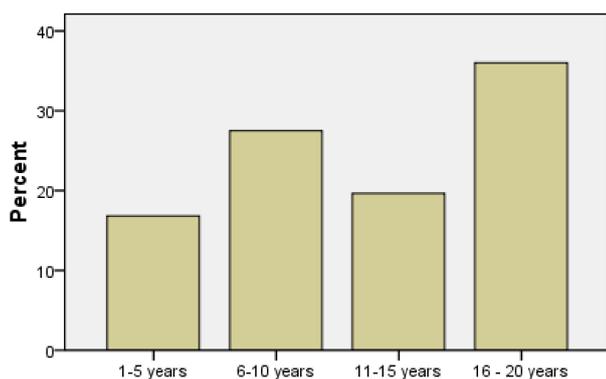


Figure 1. Duration lived in Internally Displaced Persons Camps in Greater Gulu, Uganda

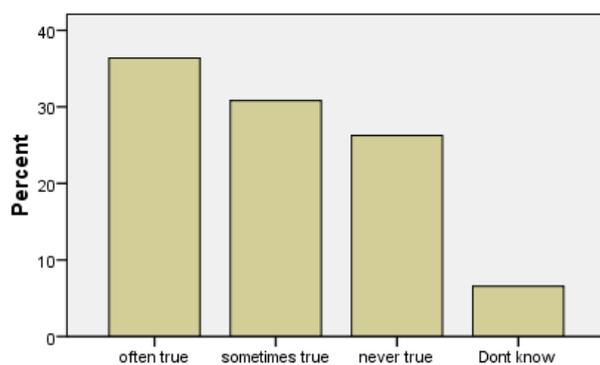


Figure 2. Men Adopt Equal Gender Roles and Behaviours in all Institutions and Households.

The study also sought to find out if men adopt roles and behaviors in all institutions and households. Results are given in Fig. 2. Pearson Chi-Square value ($\chi^2_{3,0.01} = 39.939$) showed that there was highly significant ($P < 0.01$) variation on the need that men adopt equal gender roles and behaviours in all institutions and households.

Results in Fig. 3 imply that households do not accept the view that men adopt equal roles and behaviours ... Often true 36.0% (72), sometimes true 30.5% (61), never true 26.0% (52) and don't know 6.5% (13). The findings from the study are supported by Dugbazah (2012), that in Africa another premise was the relationship between the social construction of gender, division of labour within households, the socio-economic status of households, the migration decision, that is who migrates, the determinant or motivation for rural urban migration.

The study aimed to evaluate the effect of conflict on gender roles on agricultural production in Post Conflict Greater Gulu district, Uganda. The researcher was able to identify the impact of conflict, Low levels in gender participation and lack of knowledge in sustainable agricultural production. Most of the Returnees lived in the Internally Displaced Persons Camps 88.5%. 44.5%. Level of gender participation by rank of women and men who benefited from land use policy women was fewer compared to men. Conclusions drawn from the study: Gender equality and equity in society is for sustainable agriculture and rural development. The following are recommended were made; Development strategies in Greater Gulu should include gender and agricultural production as a priority.

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