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ABSTRACT

The study sought to investigate the contribution of women empowerment on the economic development in Kebisoni sub-county –Rukungiri district. It was guided by the following specific objectives: to find the contribution of women property rights on economic development in Kebisoni sub-county –Rukungiri District, to explore the contribution of women financial decisions to economic development in Kebisoni sub-county –Rukungiri District and to investigate the contribution of women involvement in development activities to the economic development in Kebisoni sub-county –Rukungiri District. The study used a case study design with qualitative and quantitative approaches. Data were obtained from 4 districts community development officials, 14 sub-county administrative leadership and 70 members of the local councils. Data were collected using structured questionnaires and interview guide. They were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Data from interviews were analyzed using a master sheet and content analysis. The study concludes that women empowerment towards property ownership spurs economic development. This is attributed to uplifted production capacity leading improvement of financial assets. It was also found that women empowerment in financial decisions is a corner stone to economic development. When women begin earning some income it increases their autonomy and family relations increasing opportunities to reduce poverty and that involvement of women in development activities increases output and productivity because of commitment to services and increases purchasing power of the family and community at large leading to economic development due to increased shared knowledge. This study recommends to the Ministry of Gender, Community and Labor affairs to enact and disseminate laws that empower women to own property. This can be attained by incorporating some aspects of such circulars and laws in the school curriculum to the children grow up in the know of gender equality as regards property ownership that community stakeholders like civil servants, political leaders and religious leaders should sensitize communities in various places on need to empower women in financial decisions and that communities should adopt the culture of involving women on various development schemes. This can be attained by coming up with a policy that spells that from community project, there should be positions for women. Women on these positions should be empowered to take and make decisions.