

LAND CONFLICTS AND SETTLEMENT IN KADAMA SUB COUNTY, KIBUKU DISTRICT-EASTERN UGANDA

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Abstract: This study analysed the phenomenon of land conflicts and settlement in Kadama sub county, Kibuku District – Eastern Uganda. The main focus was on the persistence of the land conflicts amongst the Bagwere of Kadama sub county, Kibuku District. A total number of 137 respondents were interviewed, 112 (81.8%) were from Bugwere region, 14 (10.2%) were from outside Bugwere region and only 11 (08.0%) were from outside Uganda. Research findings revealed that 93.4% of the respondents were formally educated ranging from elementary to post-secondary education. The findings further revealed that the sex, age, marital status of the respondents, number of dependants, formal education background, place of origin of the respondents, occupation of the respondents and their duration in Kadama sub county significantly contributed to the land conflicts amongst the Bagwere of Kadama sub county. This was a case study research design involving descriptive method of research. The research findings were analysed using SPSS. Factors such as population pressure 133 (97.08%) deficit in dispute resolution 134 (97.08%), commercialized agriculture 136 (97.27%), Land tenure (82.48%), urbanization 113 (82.48%), corruption and ignorance of the law 129 (94.16%), Deficit in land administration 128 (93.43%) were deemed the major causes of land conflicts. However, deficit in dispute resolutions (97.81%), commercialized agriculture (97.27%) and population pressure on land 97.08% were seen as the primary causes of land conflict in Kadama sub county. These had effect on land conflict whereby land wrangles 49 (35.8%), High crime rate 70 (51%), Internal migration 58 (42%) and witch craft 80 (58%) were the side effects. From the preceding discussion it can be concluded that land conflicts could be settled through government intervention 58% dispute the earlier perception on corruption in all government departments which was a contrast. This could go hand in hand with the judiciary and reconciliation 51.1% much as this had a negative impact of mistrust on the local councils over corruption and unprecedented compromises where imprisonment of some chairpersons to the councils at least to this. There is need to develop clear policies and by- laws to guide and induce the masses to settle their land wrangles amicably.

Keywords: Land Conflicts, Kibuku District, Eastern Uganda.

1. INTRODUCTION

There are as many definitions of conflict as there are writers. However, (Hocker & Wilmot 1985), defines conflict as “the interaction of independent people who perceive incompatible goals and interference from each other in achieving those goals”

According to Macmillan English dictionary (2002) defines a conflict as a situation in which it is difficult for two things to exist together or be true at the same time. For purposes of this study, the researcher defines land conflict as a dispute over land related matters involving two or more people.

According to Kubonaku 2008, the Gwere live in the eastern Uganda, mostly in Budaka District, Pallisa District and Kibuku District, where they make up over 80% of the population. They have the Bagisu, the Basoga, the Balamogi and the Iteso, the Banyole and the Jopadhola (Badama) tribes as their neighbors. The city of Mbale, one time reputed to be the cleanest city in Uganda is home to some Bagwere. Bagwere are also found in the following towns in Eastern Uganda: Pallisa, Budaka, Kibuku, Kagumu, Kamonkoli, Kadama, Kabweri, Iki-Iki, Bulangira, Kaderuna, Tirinyi, Butebo, Kakoro and kanginima, [Kadama], [Mugiti], [Naboa]. The Bagwere are said to have emigrated to their present area from Bunyoro and Toro, and travelled along Lake Kyoga, crossing River Mpologoma. For this reason all the tribes that settled along the shores of lake Kyoga like; Baluli, Bakenye, Basiki and Balamogi have a similar language to Lugwere. Their initial area of settlement has shrunk considerably as the Iteso and the Bagisu have pushed the Bagwere's frontiers inwards (Namuyangu 2011). The Bagwere are said to have emigrated to their present area from Bunyoro and Toro, and travelled along Lake Kyoga, crossing River Mpologoma. For this reason, all the tribes that settled along the shores of lake Kyoga like; Baluli, Bakenye, Balamogi have a similar language to Lugwere. Their initial area of settlement has shrunk considerably as the Iteso and the Bagisu have pushed the Bagwere's frontiers inwards.

This is also comprehended by (Karugire 1980 and Atuhair 2010: 57-58) who asserts that according to their traditions, they moved from Bunyoro following the disintegration that accompanied the arrival of the Luo and the collapse of the Bachwezi dynasty. Their language and their supposed connection with Bunyoro presuppose that the Bagwere are a Bantu group. Their area of origin may thus be Katanga region of Central Africa like other Bantu.

The Bagwere have many clans including the following: Bagema Clan, Bakaduka clan, Baloki Clan, Balalaka Clan, Baikomba Clan, Bakomolo Clan, Balangira Clan, Baganza Clan, Badaka Clan, Baumo Clan, Banaminto Clan, Bapalama Clan, Banyekero Clan, Batoloyi Clan, Bambirwe Clan (Namuyangu 2018)

According to Kubonaku and Namuyangu (2008) the main economic activity of the Bagwere is subsistence crop agriculture and animal husbandry. To a lesser extent, fishing, fish farming and bee keeping are increasingly practiced in Pallisa District. The major crops include: Cassava, Millet, Sorghum, Maize, Groundnuts, Beans, Peas, Sweet potatoes, Rice, Cotton, Sunflower, Soybeans, Bananas, Matooke. Cattle, goats, sheep, poultry, pigs, are some of the animals raised in the district. The district is further blessed with nine (9) minor lakes that comprise part of the Lake Kyoga system. The following are the nine lakes: Lake Lemwa, Lake Kawi, Lake Nakwa, Lake Meito, Lake Geme, Lake Omunuo, Lake Nyanzala, Lake Nyaguo. Even though all this carried out in Pallisa district and in most parts where Bagwere live, bee keeping is almost negligible in Kadama sub county, Kibuku district.

There are nine (9) stocked fish farms in the district. Fish farming offers a big potential to increase the supply of fish for the population and hence improve on the nutrition of the population. Whenever a woman was pregnant, she was not supposed to look at the nest of a bird called Nansungi. It was believed that if the woman looked at the nest she would miscarry. After giving birth, the woman was not supposed to leave the home. She was given banana leaves to sleep on. Custom demanded that she could not eat from her husband's clans until her days of confinement were over. During this time, she could eat from neighbors or in her parents' home. She was required to eat bananas that were cooked unpeeled and if the piece of banana broke in the process of peeling or eating, she was not supposed to eat it. Besides the woman was not supposed to look at the sky before the umbilical cord broke off (Kubonaku 2008)

If one died, people would weep and wail loudly. If someone did not cry or cried lightly, he could be easily suspected of having had a hand in the death. If the deceased man was an old man, the people could move singing and mourning and tour the immediate neighbors and on to the well, to take away the spirit of the dead. Normally, the body could not spend two days in the house before being buried. Corpses used to be buried with a needle or mweroko, a small stone used for grinding, to fortify the corpse against body hunters. It was believed that if the body hunter called upon the corpse to come out of the grave it would reply that it was busy either sewing or grinding, whatever the case may be.

Intermarriage among members of the same clan is prohibited, as is the custom in most Bantu cultures. In the very early times, parents arranged marriages for their children. However, later, it became customary for a boy to look for a girl. Upon consent, the girl would introduce the boy to her parents. On being introduced, the boy would pay something to the girl's parents not as part of bride wealth, but as a gift. This practice was known as okutona. The process that followed involved the boy inviting the girl's parents to come to his family to assess the bride wealth. They would normally go and assess his wealthy but they could not leave with the cows. This occasion involved a lot of feasting and dancing. The boy's parents would arrange to deliver the bride wealth to the girl's family. The occasion of delivering the bride wealth was another joyous one accompanied, as it was, with feasting, dancing and merry making. (Kubonaku 2008)

After this was completed, the boy's mother often accompanied by another person would go to fetch the girl from her parents. She would go singing all the way and reach the girl's family round about 8.00pm. She would accordingly be given the girl and she would return home singing all the way. On reaching the groom's home, the girl was not supposed to sleep with the husband before being washed in the ritual ceremony of 'okunabbya omugole'. The girl and the boy being married would stand under a tree and bathe in the same water furnished with appropriate herbs. Then singing, they would prepare to come to the courtyard. The girl was made to stand before the mother-in-law's door. The mother-in-law would bring a basin of water and pour on the girl's back. The girl would spread her fingernails out as custom demanded and older men would inspect her for any signs of pregnancy. Thereafter, the girl's brother would officially hand over the girl to her husband and the girl and her husband would move to their house. The woman could not eat from her husband's family until she had first eaten food sent from her parents.

The Bagwere acknowledge the same historical decent ancestral background, same language, same culture, customs, beliefs, values and norms; naming is also the same for example Kirya, Nakirya, Kiranda, Dong, Nadongo among others. Of recent they have been granted self-autonomy of four separate districts of Pallisa, Butebo, Kibuku and Budaka. In spite of all this the Bagwere have serious land conflicts as reflected in the pending land disputes involving senior citizens that is to say "civil suit 04-CV-CA-007-2005 at Mbale high court (from Pallisa Land Tribunal NO 50/2003). It has increasingly become a source of disagreement amongst the Bagwere as cited by the District Councilor of Kadama subcounty Mr Bulende Dauson when he declared in one of the village elders meetings noting with dismay that as "Land becomes dear it has resulted into murder, witchcraft, threatening violence amongst the Bagwere communities involving relatives, neighbours, Landlords and Local Governments". This has resulted into escalated conflicts and migration. Therefore, the problem to be investigated in this study is the persistent land conflict amongst the Bagwere of Eastern Uganda taking Kadama sub county in Kibuku District as a case study

Land conflicts is still persistent in Kadama sub county, Kibuku district despite the prevalence of the local and traditional institutions like village councils, religious and traditional leaders, and other local bodies often resolve local land conflicts. When land disputes escalate to a higher level. They normally result into displacement of people or even migration to distant places. Land is the object of competition in a number of potentially overlapping ways: as an economic asset, as a connection with identity and social legitimacy, and as political territory. Competition over land and its resources other factors, such as ethnic or religious tensions or political marginalization contribute to conflict (Baranyi and Weitzner, 2001).

As earlier stated, the Bagwere actually have persistent land conflicts in Kadama sub county, Kibuku District in Eastern Uganda. Research findings shows that out of 137 respondents who were interviewed, 102 were males (74.1%) and only 35 (25.9%) were female. Their age structure ranged from 0 to less than 18 and 18-74 giving us 0.07 and 0.29 respectively, an indication that most of the land issues in Kadama sub county are masculine in nature.

Research findings also indicate that the majority of the youth are between 18-30 years with a number of 67 (48.9%) which actually pose a threat to the few available resources resulting into land conflict this is in line with NEMA (2005). This population structure indicates that the dependent ratio is also high from 0 to less than 18 years as indicated on the table of household characteristics.

This however contradicts with the active age group who are engaged in commercial farming between the age of 18-52. It could be for this reason that the land wrangles are common due to the need for commercialized farming as evidenced by 97.27% on the factors causing land conflicts in Kadama sub county. This is centrally to the effects of land conflicts in Kadama sub county, Kibuku District which indicates that it has resulted into internal migrations, witchcraft, wrangles and high crime rate. Research findings indicate that other reasons such as security, accessibility, urbanization, influence and prestige plus population pressure on land seemingly outweighed land conflicts resulting into internal migrations; according to the interviewed respondents.

The issue of population pressure was cited by the respondents as one of the major causes of land conflicts. This issue seems to weigh much according to the research findings. This is in line with Mugisha 1998 in his report, "Status urbanization in Uganda" where he notes that Uganda's population is expected to reach 120 million threefold the current population which is approximately 40 million. Uganda's population is growing at a high rate of 3.2%. This high rate of growth seems to have led to increased land scarcity and it is also characterized by considerable regional diversity. This seems to rhyme with what is happening in Kadama sub county, Kibuku District.

This is also cited by Rugadya and Kamusimme (2009) in ACODE (2007) which states that the land conflicts will escalate in at least 30 districts unless urgent measures are taken to resolve them, experts have warned..... “a time bomb in waiting” is how the NGO advocates coalition for development and environment calls the looming land crisis as a result of population pressure and lack of proper land policies.

According to Rugadya 2008, this fact seems to contradict with what the president of Uganda H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni echoed out in his speech on 9th October 2007 where he stated that “there are three problems; the ignorance of the tenants of their rights under the law; a heavy financial burden involved in court litigations; and corrupt elements in the judiciary”

However, this seems to be in line with the findings of this research study which indicates that the judiciary and reconciliation bodies are corrupt and were accorded 51.1% and yet the cultural leaders were given dismal credit of 22.6%. therefore, the issue of corruption is among the serious factors that have accelerated land conflicts in Kadama sub county, Kibuku district. This view of H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni is in line with (Kazooru 2005), who also notes that corruption is at its increase bedeviling society.

This is in line with the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) as noted by Rugadya 2008. A survey for the ministry of Justice found out that 88% of the respondents were asked to make un receipted payments in dispute resolution institutions. 52.3% of the respondents in the survey reported that they had made payment to district land tribunals (official and unofficial payments for the services they received). Bribery was the highest 33.0% in the central police, 16% in the high court, 16% in the magistrate court, 11% in the District Land Tribunals, 7.3% in the LC1 courts. Bribery was least common in the customary courts where only 2.7% of the households paid bribe.

This means that the LC1 courts and the customary courts could handle land conflicts much better than the high courts and magistrate court or the police because their corruption nature is so high. However, according to research findings, this is contrary to what was revealed in the field because 80% of the respondents had confidence in government intervention, 70% in both the Judiciary and Reconciliation bodies respectively.

Other feature like witch craft, internal migration and wrangles were insignificant as effects of conflicts on settlement stability in Kadama sub county, Kibuku District (Researchers primary data 2014).

The specific objectives of the study were majorly three which included; Factors that cause land conflicts in Kadama sub county Kibuku District Eastern Uganda, Effects of conflicts on settlement stability in Kadama sub county Kibuku District and coping strategies adopted by the community to ascertain normalacy in Kadama sub county Kibuku District.

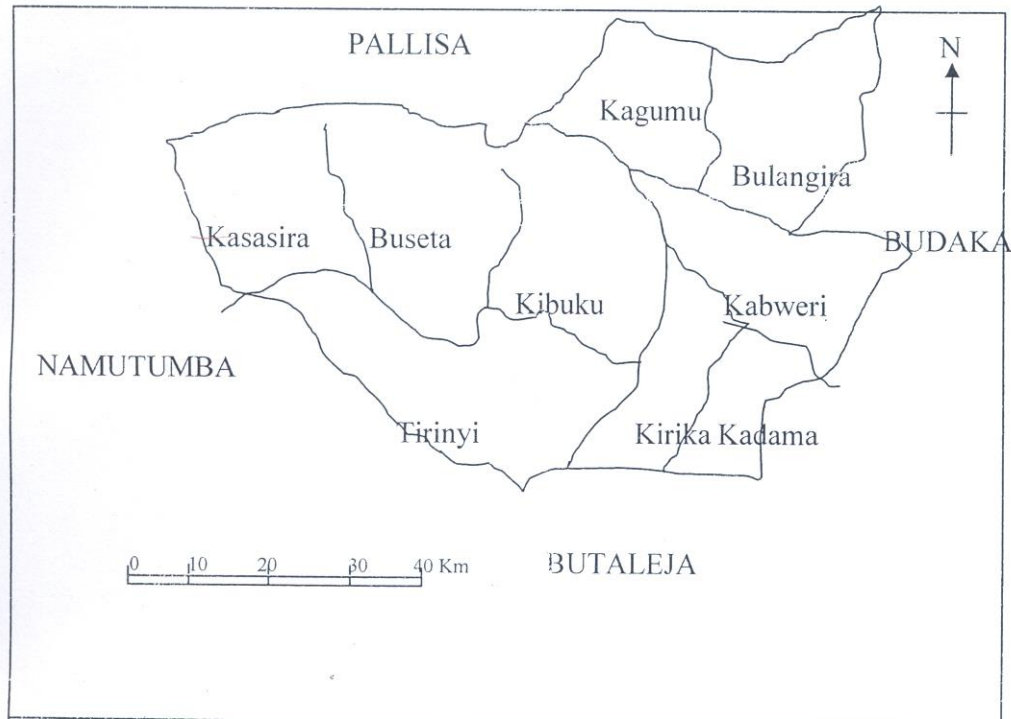
The area of study was Kadama sub county Kibuku District. It is bordered by Pallisa District to the North, Butebu District to the North East, Namutumba to the West, Budaka to the East and Butaleja to the South. Kadama sub county is crossed by latitude 1°13' N and 33°51'45" E (Source Kibuku District Survey Report). A large area of Kadama sub county is covered by swamps. The presence of these many swamps has attracted human activities. The spark off in wetlands reclamation was in 1976 when government embarked on the construction of Doho rice scheme in Bunyole County Butaleja district, at the borders with Kibuku District. With its completion in 1986, people from neighbouring counties and districts saw the value of growing rice in the wetlands as the climate and soils were favourable. Before this period, human activities especially agriculture was done on a very small scale majority for home consumption and these wetlands were looked at as wastelands.

With the beginning of rice growing in Doho rice scheme, which crop had ready market and fetched higher prices, wetlands in Kadama sub county and Kibuku district in general assumed commercial value too. People rushed to clear wetlands in order to grow rice. In this way, wetlands in Kadama sub county and Kibuku district generally lost their freedom and started earning rapid degradation. Some minor wetlands have dried and disappeared from the list of wetlands. Source NEMA 2005.

Area of study:

The research was carried out in Kibuku district in Eastern Uganda. It is bordered by Pallisa to the North, Butebo to the North, Namutumba to the West and Butaleja to the South. For easy management the researcher covered four sub counties in the District namely Kagweri, Kadama, Kajoko and Kirika. Kadama Sub County is located along 1°13' N and 33°51'45" E

MAP OF KIBUKU DISTRICT



2. MATERIALS AND METHODOLOGY

The study was conducted in Kadama sub county, Kibuku District in Eastern Uganda located on 1°13'N and 33°51'45" E.

The area has a bimodal rainfall season with clearly marked wet and dry season. The soils are generally sandy to loam with high erosive potential. About 80% of the total population derive their livelihood from subsistence farming (source primary data).

Data on the land conflicts concerning the causes, effects of conflicts on settlement stability in Kadama sub county and coping strategies adopted by the community to ascertain normalcy in Kadama sub county were gathered through a semi-structured questionnaire survey and using the Likert scale rating of Agree, undecided and Disagree. Two research assistants were recruited to help the researcher administer the questionnaires in a face to face approach. These were preferably graduates who were trained by the researcher to administer the questionnaires properly.

Questions were written in English language, but were sometimes asked in the local language (Lugwere) for clarity and easy understanding depending on the education background of the respondents being interviewed. Prior to the survey, a pilot study was conducted with the two research assistants in one of the sub parishes to test the validity and reliability of the questionnaire. After this survey, some questions were modified to improve on their clarity.

In total, 137 respondents were interviewed in Kadama sub county, Kibuku District. The sub county was stratified into 4(four) administrative units/parishes namely Dodoi, Kadama, Molokocho and Nabiswa. A minimum of 10 respondents were selected from each administrative unit. Respondents were then selected randomly by lottery from each parish and then interviewed. The questionnaires included both fixed response and open ended questions. The latter were included in order to facilitate open discussion with the respondents. The opinions of the respondents on land conflicts were assessed basing on a three- point Likert scale with the possible answers ranging from Agreed, Undecided and Disagree (Likert, 1974).

Statistical package for the social sciences (SPSS) version 12.0 (Norusis, 2004) was used to analyse the responses. Logistic regression (Green, 1995) was used to determine whether socio-demographic characteristics of household respondents explained the causes of the land conflicts. The factors examined as independent variables were sex, Age, Marital status, Dependents, Formal Educational background, place of Origin, occupation and Duration in Kadama sub county. The dependent variable included High crime rate, witchcraft, internal migration and wrangles. These were determined by household observations on effects of conflicts on settlement stability.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results of the field work were presented in tables determined by the specific objectives of the study. They were topically arranged as follows beginning with socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents.

Socio-Demographic Characteristics of The Household Respondents In Kadama Sub County, Kibuku District

This was presented and discussed as in Table: 1 below

Table: 1: Socio-demographic characteristics of household respondents in Kadama sub county, Kibuku District(n=137)

Household Characteristics	n	%	Household Characteristics	n	%
Sex			Formal educational Background		
Male	102	(74.1%)	Uneducated	12	(08.8%)
Female	35	(25.9%)	Elementary	06	(04.4%)
Age			Primary	35	(25.5%)
<18	01	(00.7%)	Secondary	65	(47.4%)
18-30	67	(48.9%)	Post-secondary	19	(13.9%)
31-41	35	(25.5%)	Place of origin		
42-52	19	(13.9%)	Bugwere region	112	(81.8%)
53-63	08	(05.8%)	Outside Bugwere region	14	(10.2%)
64-74	03	(02.2%)	Outside Uganda	11	(08.0%)
>74	04	(02.9%)	Occupation		
Marital Status			Peasants	35	(25.5%)
Married	82	(59.9%)	Casual	06	(04.1%)
Single	41	(29.9%)	Idle	08	(06.1%)
Divorced	06	(04.1%)	NGO	06	(04.1%)
Separated	08	(06.1%)	Politicians	30	(21.9%)
Dependents			Self-employed	23	(16.8%)
0	23	(16.8%)	Civil servants	29	(21.2%)
1-5	65	(47.4%)	Duration in Kadama Sub-county		
6-10	26	(19.0%)	1-5 years	13	(09.5%)
>10	23	(16.8%)	6-10 years	29	(21.2%)
			>10 years	95	(69.3%)

Source: Researchers' field data

Table 1 show that most respondents were male (74.1%). From observation land issues in rural Uganda and by extension Africa are masculine in nature thus could not take many of the female folk. The few females who participated could have due to their occupation or ownership of the parcels of land they settled in. Worststill the Bagwere, the indigenous of the area of study are culturally patrilineal, hence the dismal response from the women. The same could be envisaged in the ages of 18-52 years dominance amongst the respondents (Table.1.). This is a very active age group as a work force especially in commercial farming.

About six out of ten respondents were married thus given the domestic responsibilities associated with the marriage institution were obliged to work (Table. 1).This could also be manifested in the dependency rate where only about two out of ten households had no dependents. It also portrayed the African dependency syndrome exemplified by the tallying failure of the data on unmarried (29.9%) and no dependents (17.3%). This justified the fact that in Uganda for every adult, there is a dependent child despite marriage (Ministry of Finance, Planning and Economic Development-MFPED, 2001 cited in NEMA, 2005). This was therefore a driving force to conflicts over land ownership given the emotive nature in which land is possessed.

Table 1 show that most of the respondents were formally educated (93.4%), thus had attended within the range of elementary and post-secondary education. Formal education makes sensitization easier, the reading and understanding of both land policy and the constitution possible and generally enlightens the masses. This was portrayed by the fact that the rural area was becoming cosmopolitan in allowing non-Bagwere to settle in the area (18.2%). About seven out of ten of the house hold respondent were indigenous who had lived in the area for more than 10 years hence bonifide residents (The Republic of Uganda-----). Thus a strong edge on which to create tranquility Kadama sub-county, Kibuku district.

Factors that cause land conflicts in Kadama sub-county, Kibuku district- Eastern Uganda

The factors that cause conflicts in Kadama sub-county are portrayed in the table below:-

Table 2: Perceptions of the households on factors causing land conflicts in Kadama sub-county, Kibuku district (n=137)

Factors	Perceptions		
	Agreed	undecided	Disagreed
Population pressure	133 (97.08%)	00 (0)	04 (02.92%)
Urbanization	113 (82.48%)	06 (04.38%)	18 (13.14%)
Land tenure	113 (82.48%)	05 (03.65%)	19 (13.87%)
Commercialized agriculture	136 (97.27%)	01 (00.73%)	01 (00.73%)
Deficit in land administration	128 (93.43%)	06 (04.38%)	03 (02.19%)
Deficit in dispute resolution	134 (97.81%)	02 (01.46%)	01 (0.73%)
Corruption and ignorance of the law	129 (94.16%)	04 (02.92%)	04 (02.92%)

Source: Researchers' primary data (2014)

The table 2 shows that almost ten out of ten people (97.81%) perceived the fact that a deficit in land dispute resolution was a major factor leading to land conflicts in Kadama sub-county, Kibuku district –Eastern Uganda. This was further marred by the fact that corruption and ignorance of the law took a significant role (94.16%). From the interviews it was clear that the local community had nowhere to turn to given the fact that corruption was strong. It was in concomitant with the already known corruption monster bedevilling all the departments in the country (Kazoorra et al 2005).

There was no effective and efficient land administration exercised in the area (93.43%) (Table 2). The District Land Boards mandated to administer land disputes had nothing to show manifested by majority of households lacking land title deeds in the area. The land boards cascade from the district level down to the sub-county. Interviews had it that these were a bee hive of corruption especially on urban lots whose values continuously appreciated and mingled with mischief amongst the land sellers. This to the researchers was a point of conflict.

Population pressure rated at (97.08%) was a push to land conflicts in the area. The Uganda demographic survey list the Bagwere, the ancestral inhabitants of this area amongst some of the communities with a high birth rate attributed to both the culture and levels of education (UBSO-----). The proximity to Kadama, Kibuku and Mbale towns made urbanisation an important factor in land conflicts in the area (82.48%). The main challenge with Kadama was the urban sprawl making the cost of land relatively high. The other two major towns provide market for agricultural produce where land forms a key factor thus the rating of (97.27%) of commercial agriculture.

Table 3: Effects of conflicts on settlement stability in Kadama sub-county, Kibuku district(n=137)

Effect	Household observations on effects			
	Observed	Expected	X ² -calculated	X ² -tabulated
High crime rate	70	137	32.77	9.21
Witchcraft	80	137	23.72	9.21
Internal migration	58	137	45.55	9.21
Wrangles	49	137	56.53	9.27

df=2 at 0.01=9.210

Source: Researchers' primary data (2014)

There were pockets of wrangles amongst the households in Kadama sub-county attributed to land conflicts. These could be seen by constant quarrels, jealousy, verbal abuses with intent to intimidate, and scolds. Interviews had that they resulted from land grabbing, extension of boundaries loosely demarcated by “janthropus species”, an ancestral land demarcating plant, and other forms of encroachments into neighbours land parcel. The observations and interviews upheld Otieno et al 2012’s view on encroachments in South Busoga Forest reserve research. Contradictorily wrangles was the least important at (56.53>9.21 at df=2) (Table 3). Thus could not tamper with the tranquillity of settlement in the area of study.

Table 3 shows that internal migrations were loosely associated to land conflicts expressed at (45.55>9.21 at df=2). Other reasons such as security, accessibility, urbanization, affluence, prestige and population pressure on ancestral land seemingly outweighed land conflicts as per the interviews. Fairly strong reason to tamper with the rural area settlement stability was witchcraft. Many writers, the local communities including the researchers had it that witchcraft would psychologically change the bewitched’s consciousness and migrate, cause calamities, disorient, and at worse kill (Russell,1987; Middletone, 1987; Bowker 2002). This was equally less significant at (23.72>9.21 at df=2). With slowness and failures of witchcraft besides expenses adduced some resorted to physical injuries to opponents. This could be through bodily harms associated to fights and beatings. However these did not entice the shifting of settlement interests manifested in the ratings as (32.77>9.21 at df=2) hence insignificant.

Coping strategies adopted by the community to ascertain normalcy in Kadama Sub-County, Kibuku district.

The measures under taken to reduce on the conflicts among the Bagwere are presented in the figure below:

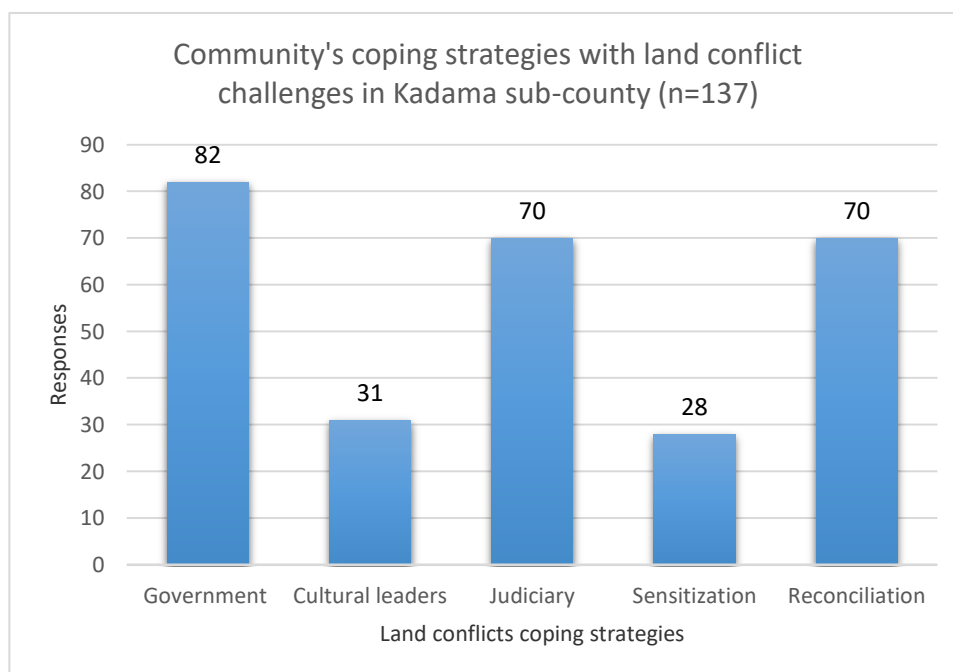


Figure 1: Community’s coping strategies with land conflict challenges in Kadama sub-county

Source: researchers’ primary data (2014)

Figure 1 shows the level of confidence the community has on government intervention in their land conflicts. Despite being statistically minimum about six out of ten household trusted on government intervention (58%). This contradicted the earlier perception on corruption in all government departments. Interviews could not distinct the president from the government thus most of the locals synonymous used the two concepts referring to sitting president of the republic of Uganda. This was in line with the Ugandan constitution which vested many powers to the president not the system of the government (The Republic of Uganda)

Judiciary and reconciliation were accorded the same footing (51.1%) (Figure 1). The statistics gives doubt on who chairs reconciliations when the cultural leaders were given dismal credit (22.6%). This then left the village local councils with the autonomy of reconciling land wrangling members. However, some of the interviews results indicated mistrust on the

local councils over corruptions and unprecedented compromises where imprisonment of some chairpersons to these councils attest to this. This also negatively impact on sensitization basically carried out by the local council members (20.44%). Thus the very reason for high rating on judiciary.

4. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion:

From the research findings, it was observed that it is mostly the male folk (74%) that are usually involved in land conflicts and that most of the respondents were formally educated (93.4%) within the range of elementary and post- secondary education. It was observed that 97.81% agreed that a deficit in land dispute resolution was a major factor leading to land conflict. This was followed by corruption and ignorance of the law (94.16%). Hence corruption monster bedeviling all departments in the country was paramount in causing land conflicts as noted by (Kazoora eta'l 2005). It can also be concluded that internal migration was also loosely associated to land conflicts hence other factors such as security, accessibility, urbanization, affluence, prestige and population pressure on ancestral land seemingly outweighed land conflicts as per the interviews with the household respondents. It was also noted that coping strategies adopted by community to ascertain normalcy in Kadama sub county were Government, Judiciary and Reconciliation taking the lead with 80%, 70% and 70% respectively. Cultural leaders intervention and sensitization were almost negligible 30% and 20% respectively.

Recommendations:

It can be recommended that in order to avert land wrangles in Kadama sub county, Kibuku district and generally in Uganda as a whole, the following recommendation can be adopted.

Government, Judiciary and reconciliation bodies should be vigilant in handling land conflicts and settlements.

Corruption and bribery in all government dependents should be stamped out by dealing directly with the corrupt officials if proved guilty by giving them harsh punishments like demotion, imprisonment or fines.

Mapping of land conflict areas and noting unique drivers of conflicts in each area to avert war conflicts.

Establishing procedures to identify, manage and resolve conflict- of interest situations should be done to ensure that public officials know what is required of them in identifying and declaring conflict of interest situations.

The local governments should work hand in hand in conflict migration, particularly because of their greater ability to interact with local communities and traditional authorities.

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