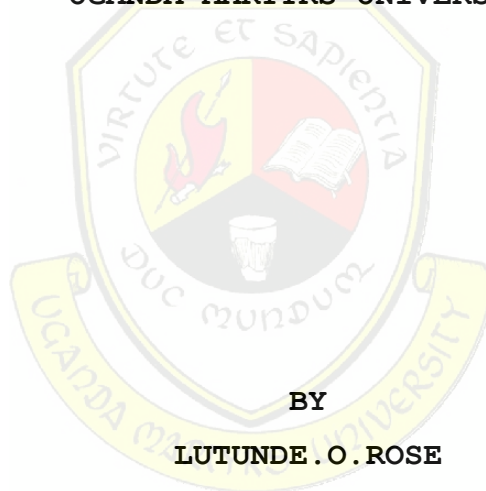


**THE EFFECT OF GENDER EQUALITY ON HOUSEHOLD  
STANDARDS OF LIVING IN MBALE DISTRICT.  
A CASE STUDY OF BUNGOKHO SUB-COUNTY**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE  
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES IN PARTIAL  
FULFILLEMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE  
OF BACHELORS OF ARTS (ETHICS AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES) OF  
UGANDA MARTYRS UNIVERSITY**



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## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to my beloved parents: Joseph Juma  
Nalwa and Grace Sambula and my Beloved Husband Mweru Cyrus

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May the almighty God reward and bless them abundantly.

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## **ABSTRACT**

The general objective of the study was "to establish the effect of gender Equality on household's standards of living in Mbale District." The specific objectives included; the standards of living in households, the level of gender equality in households, the relationship between equality and households' standards of living and the challenges faced in integrating gender equality among the households in Bungokho Sub County.

A total of 80 respondents were sampled. These included local leaders, women and households heads. Methods of data collection include; interviews, surveys, focus group discussion, observation and documentary review whereas the instruments included; interview guide, questionnaires, focus group discussions guide and observation check list.

On examining the standards of living in households, it was found out that many of the households do not feed on a balanced diet at all, their children are studying in government aided schools and majority seek treatment in drug shops. However on referral, they seek treatment in government hospitals and clinics. Findings on the relationship between gender equality and household standards of living in Bungokho Sub County, the study noted from the findings that sharing of information between a husband and wife in a mutual understanding brings respect and integrity in homes. There are innovative ad creative women who wish to see that their families are prospering. Regarding the challenges faced in integrating gender equality in households in Bungokho Sub County, it was found out that men believe that women can't make strong decisions, they can't stand alone in family matters and men prefer to make better choices for their families under estimating their wives.

It is concluded that gender equality among households in Bungokho Sub County is exercised, however not to the fullest, to attain the required standards of living.

It is recommended that there is need to advocate for women's voices in matters concerning social, economic and political affairs, to give them chance to express their opinions, views and ideas freely in their families, government support inform of extending grants to women groups and SACCOS is a priority to improving the welfare and standards of living of women in their households.

## **CHAPTER ONE: GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Introduction**

The study focused on assessment of the effect of gender equality on improvement of household standards of living in Mbale District: A case study of Bungokho Sub County. In this chapter, the researcher explained the background of the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, research questions, scope of the study, significance of the study, justification of the study, conceptual frame work and definition of key terms.

### **1.2 Background of the Study**

On the global scene, women and gender relations continue to be neglected nationally and internationally. Entities of the United Nations systems are taking steps to integrate the goals of macro - economies with those of social development and also to integral gender equality dimensions in times of normative, policy and operational work so as to ensure the continuing leadership of the system in promoting gender equality, development and peace within the context of globalization (Tsikata, 2009).

According to EC (2012), in the past few years, United States of America, Germany, Vietnam and other countries have continued to strengthen their achievement in gender equality. Gender inequality in access to primary education has been fundamentally eliminated and gender equality in employment has been a major progress. In 2012, female labour in Vietnam accounted for 48.7 percentage of the national labour force; women also took up 48% of the newly created jobs, with respect to leadership and management roles, the percentage of women in government agencies is

maintained at relatively high level despite a recent slight decline in the rate of women respectively. Vietnam has of the highest rate of women in national parliament in Asia (Bremer 2009).

In South Africa, out of 79% of men, only 46% of the women were found to be employed, it also appears that these women earned on average less than half of that of their male counterparts (Van der Walt, 2007). The 2008 results of the annual South African Women in Corporate Leadership Census, released in May 2008 proved an eye opener with the introduction of the public sector into the comparative analysis of women's upward mobility in the South African workplace. The percentage of women in government across all salary levels totals to 54.76%, indicating a clear majority. The Current situation in South Africa shows that legally binding commitment to promote gender equality is very high on the agenda. South Africa was ranked 18th out of 115 countries in terms of narrowing the inequality gap between men and women. In terms of political empowerment, South Africa was ranked number one in Africa, with 42% of its cabinet ministers and 33% of its members of parliament being women. In terms of the corporate environment, the picture seems less impressive.

In developing countries such as Ghana, Nigeria among other African Countries, the role of women and men in the economy is necessary. This according to Cole and Mehran (2009), is determined by indicators for monitoring progress towards gender equality and its economic impacts. These include; poverty reduction, access to resources, entrepreneurship, access to the labour market, education, reconciliation of work, family responsibilities, social protection, economic

decision making and public life. These indicators are very key to household standards of living provided equal opportunities are prioritized in a family.

In Uganda, the government approved the national strategy and national program on gender equality law in 2006 in order to raise national awareness on the importance of gender equality and to promote the role of women in social, economic and political arena. Greater gender equality in economic opportunities has contributed to stronger and more sustainable economic growth, it has encouraged investment in formal education and training which increases the skill - set of individuals throughout their lives and has increased employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for both men and women (Council of Europe, 2005). This has given a step to labour productivity which provides businesses with greater opportunities to expand , innovate and compete which in turn provides government with additional tax revenue and social security which has helped to improve the household standards of living of most people in their localities.

Bungokho Sub County is one of the 14 sub counties in Mbale District located in the Eastern part of Uganda about 3km on Mbale Tororo High way. The sub county comprises of 4 parishes which include; Bubirabi, Bumbobi, Bukhumwa and Bumageni. Most of the households in this area mainly depend on agriculture; growing food crops and cash crops, small scale business such as kiosks, merchandized shops and trading are part of the businesses activities carried out. Amidst these activities, the percentage of women involved is thrice the percentage of men implying that much as the men are involved in these activities, there are more women

than the men (Kanbur Ravi, 2004). This triggered the researcher to carry out a study on the effect of gender equality on improvement of household standards of living in Mbale District. A case study of Bungokho Sub County.

### **1.3 Problem Statement**

There is growing concern about gender equality and household standards of living in many households in Bungokho Sub County, many families strive to achieve an equivalence in their welfare and standards of living through a wide range of activities which include farming, small scale business enterprises such as merchandize shops among other activities.

According to the recent survey by Bungokho Rural Development Agency, it was found out that there seems to be no positive indicators such as; changes in time-use in selected activities, particularly greater role-sharing by household members, changes in percentage of property owned and controlled by women (land, houses, livestock), across socio-economic, average household expenditure of women headed households on education/health, ability to make small or large purchases independently and available credit, financial and technical support services going to women/men from government/non-government sources. Such a situation requires serious investigation in the complexities and the gaps therein that have rendered government efforts to mainstream gender issues almost a waste of time. It is upon this background that the researcher carried out this study to establish the effect of gender equality on improving household standards of living in Bungokho Sub County in Mbale District.

## **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

### **1.4.1 General Objective**

To establish the effect of gender equality on household standards of living in Mbale District.

### **1.4.2 Specific Objectives**

- i. To Examine the standards of living in Households in Bungokho Sub County
- ii. To determine the level of Gender equality in Households in Bungokho Sub County.
- iii. To establish the relationship between gender equality and household standards of living in Bungokho Sub County.
- iv. To identify the challenges faced in integrating gender equality among the households in Bungokho Sub County.

### **1.5 Research Questions**

- i. What is the standard of living in Households in Bungokho Sub County?
- ii. What is the level of Gender equality in Households in Bungokho Sub County?
- iii. What is the relationship between gender equality and household standards of living in Bungokho Sub County?
- iv. What challenges are faced in integrating gender equality among the households to the improvement of standards of living in Bungokho Sub County?

### **1.6 Scope of the Study**

This was limited to the content scope of the study, time scope and geographical scope of the study as detailed below.

### **1.6.1 Content Scope**

The study was limited to establishing the understanding of equality among households, looking at the relationship between gender equality and household standards of living and identifying the challenges faced in integrating gender equality among the households to the improvement of standards of living.

### **1.6.2 Time Scope**

The study was conducted in Mbale District in Bungokho Mutoto Sub County. It focused on the time period between 2014 - 2017. This was the time when government intensified efforts to improve gender equality to economically empower communities and households in the country, Mbale District and Bungokho Mutoto Sub County in particular. Hence this timeline was enough to ascertain whether there has been a measurable impact for the last 3 years.

### **1.6.3 Geographical Scope**

Geographically, the study was carried out in Bungokho Sub County. Bungokho Sub County is one of the 14 sub counties in Mbale District located in the Eastern part of Uganda about 3 km on Mbale Tororo High way. The sub county comprises of 4 parishes which include Bubirabi, Bumbobi, Bukhumwa and Bumageni. This area was chosen for the study to find out how spouses / married partners in households exercise equality.

The researcher chose Bungokho Mutoto Sub County, Mbale District because there seems to be no positive indicators regarding greater role-sharing by household members.



## **1.7 Significance of the Study**

### **The Community**

The study will create awareness and sensitization about gender equality in communities, advocating and encouraging men and women to exercise the values of equality since it is the basis upon which household standards of living can be achieved.

The study will empower the community especially at household level to exercise gender equality and combined efforts in activities such as trading and farming as an alternative for improving their standards of living.

### **Government**

The study will call upon government to intervene at community level with programs aimed at improving the standards of people in the community.

The study may further advocate for government to encourage women to engage in productive activities such as agriculture as a mechanism to sustain their live with support from their spouses.

### **Researcher**

Furthermore, the study will inform other researchers and the future readers about the effect of gender equality on improvement of household standards of living in Bungokho Sub County.

## **1.8 Justification of the Study**

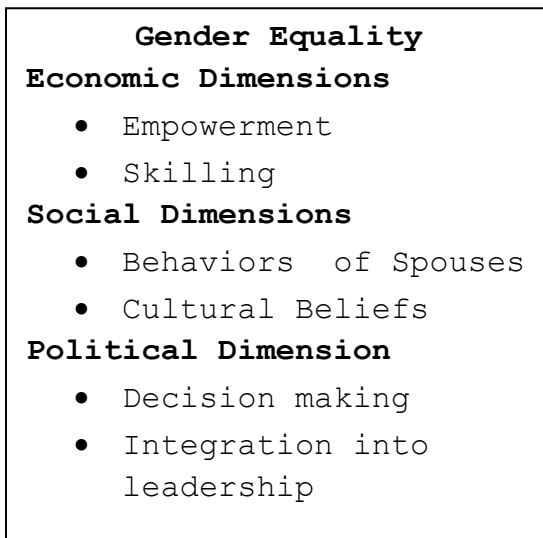
Many households in Bungokho Sub County live, share and work together as husband, wife and children, their efforts are built to strive a minimum standard of living. The researcher based on this state of affairs to establish how

their mutual relation has contributed to an improvement in their standards of living hence the justification of the study.

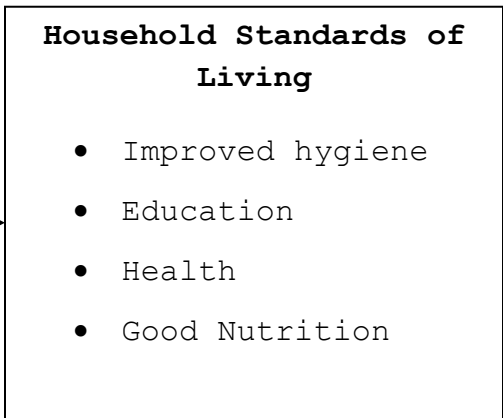
In addition, as a requirement for the attainment of a Bachelors Degree in Ethics and Development Studies, the study will be justifiable.

### 1.9 Conceptual Framework

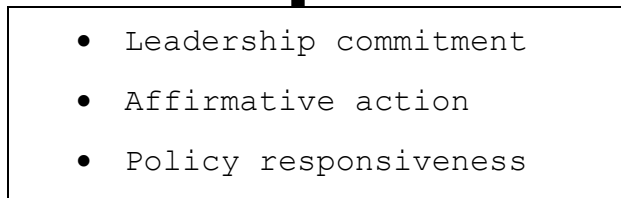
#### Independent Variable



#### Dependent Variable



#### Intervening Variable



**Source: Researcher's Model 2017**

The conceptual frame work above shows the relationship between the independent variable (**Gender Equality**), dependent variable (**household standards of living**) and extraneous variables. The indicators of gender equality are sub divided into economic dimension such as empowerment, skilling, social dimension for example behaviors of spouses, cultural beliefs and political dimension such as decision making and integration into leadership. These

dimensions affect household's standards of living as follows; improved hygiene in households, education, health and good nutrition.

The intervening variable links the two variables through available factors that can enable gender equality to improve standards of living for example leadership commitment, affirmative action and policy responsiveness.

#### **1.10 Definition of Key Terms and Concepts**

**Genders Equality:** Refers to expressions in attitudes, beliefs, behaviors and policies that reflect an equal valuing and provision of opportunities for both genders

**Household :** Refers to a unit of family members living in a designated area sharing the same tradition and custom

**Standard of Living:** Refers to the quality of life of individuals in a household setting.

**Researcher** is a person carrying out research in order to come up with the actual findings or outcome

**Respondents:** These are individuals who answers the questions being asked by the researcher within the area of study and they provide the required information to questions they are asked.

#### **1.11 Conclusion**

This chapter presented the background of the study, statement of the problem, research objectives, research

questions, scope of the study, significance of the study, justification of the study, conceptual frame work and definition of key terms.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

This chapter reviewed the different sources of information related to the study. The researcher used textbooks, internet, journals among others sources to solicit the needed information. This chapter helped in identifying the existing gaps in regard to the study.

#### **2.2 The Standards of Living in Households**

##### **2.2.1 Household Utilities**

According to Ministry of Works, Housing and Communications (2010), increasing access to safe water and insufficient quantities and quality together with improved public health (2002) Census findings showed that, progress had been made in the provision of safe water and sanitation services. However, more efforts should be invested in developing the sector further to ensure universal provision of these basic services to all people in Uganda. In Bungokho Sub County, access to safe water is through bore holes, tap water and well water, on observation in most households, it was found out that there are some households who leave far away from safe water; this implied that, there is need to find alternatives of extending water sources closer to people for better living and sustainability.

##### **2.2.2 Fuel**

According to UNDP (2005), the use of alternative but cleaner sources of fuel for cooking is still out of reach of many households in many African Countries. The extensive use of firewood and charcoal promotes depletion of forests. It also increases the risks to natural hazards like drought

due to deforestation. However, the rural poor depend on the environment for their livelihood. UNDP (2005) added that this coupled with deforestation further compounds the environment problem. Although there are attempts to promote alternative source of energy. As a result of this, it has exposed them to depletion of resources which has affected much of the eco system in the area particularly the swamps and forests.

This was in line to Cullens and Luna (1993), who said that as a coping mechanism, qualitative research has shown that households can modify their eating habits in response to food shortages, staple diets eaten when foods was plenty are replaced by less preferred diets. Others reduce feeding frequency and some households reduce food quantity in order to enable food suppliers to last longer.

### **2.2.3 Households Welfare**

According to the statistics department MFPED (2002), household welfare particularly in the areas where income, poverty is pervasive for instance the North and Eastern parts of Uganda. More than two-thirds (68 percent) of the household are dependent on subsistence farming for a livelihood, less than half of Uganda's households had members with at least a pair of shoes each. Twenty percent of households had only one set of clothing for each member; three quarters of the households were using "Tadoobas" (open paraffin lamp) for lighting. In Bungokho sub county, there appears similar households welfare, majority of the households rely on farming which is basically subsistence and the social wellbeing of children is worrying as majority are not in school, have no clothing and entire

households are subjected to poverty. This situation affects the way of living of most households.

#### **2.2.4 Education**

According to Department for International Development (2009), Uganda's education system is both formal and informal. Under the formal system, the four - tier education model is followed i.e seven years of primary education, two years of advanced level secondary education and the tertiary level of education. Each level is nationally examined and certificates are awarded. University education is offered by both public and private. In Bungokho Sub County, some households have endeavored to enroll their children however some have not hence affecting the living conditions.

#### **2.2.5 Household Sanitation**

World Bank (2004) pointed out that improved sanitation in households is a key element of environmental health and availability of latrines among other issues is of utmost importance to basic health standards in a home. In addition, clean and hygienic bathrooms are equally very important in maintaining health standards in homes. However in Bungokho Sub County, the sanitation is still wanting because some households still lack latrines. This was found to be affecting the living condition of households.

World Bank (2004) added that poor sanitation coupled with unsafe water sources poses a serious threat to health service delivery and increases the risk to water-borne diseases and illnesses due to poor hygiene. Poor sanitation has contributed immensely to the disease burden in Uganda. The existence of widespread poor sanitation facilities or

lack of it is an indication of a society whose health is at stake. Every households should have safe toilets facilities and those where these are lacking are surly poor households. Improved sanitation is viewed in terms of accessibility by households to latrines and other forms of waste disposal. Safe disposal of human waste reduces disease transmission.

Government has formulated the National Water Policy with the objective of: improving sustainable water resources management, in order to ensure conservation of water sources and the provision of water for all social and economic activities; ensuring that by 2030, 65 percent of the rural population and 80 percent of the urban population have sustainable safe water supply and sanitation facilities within easy reach (statistics department MFPED, (2002).

### **2.3. Level of Gender Equality in Households**

#### **2.3.1 Gender Responsiveness and Development**

Dolan and Sorby (2003) said that Uganda has a Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MGLSD) which was established in 1989 to promoted gender equality. A national Gender Policy 2007 is also in place to provide guidance for nationwide gender mainstreaming across key sectors. This notwithstanding, the capacity of the National Gender Machinery is not yet optimal: at the National Level, the MGLSD is mandated to spearhead and coordinate gender responsive development and provide support to other sectors to mainstream gender.



Bremer J (2009), who said that in Nigeria, Like in most developing countries, there is regional differential in poverty and financial access to healthcare with the North East and North West being worst hit. This has made some governments to these regions to come up with a free maternal and child health care package to solve the problem of financial access to health care services.

### **2.3.2 Community Based Service / Gender Departments**

At the local government level, the Ministry has community Based Services / Gender Departments whose role is to spearhead gender mainstreaming in districts development plans and budgets. However, both the national and decentralized structures have limited staffing and funding. According to NPA (2013), the number of technical staff working on gender at the MGLSD for instance reduced from 33 in 1995 to 10 in 2014 as a result of civil service reforms and turn over. In addition, the MGLSD has consistently been allocated less than 1% of the National budget to cover the entire social development portfolio. As a result, there has been limited focus on addressing practical gender needs especially for rural women in households and girls.

### **2.3.3 Attitudes, Beliefs and Practices**

According to Uganda Bureau of statistics (2012) attitudes, beliefs and practices that service to exclude women are still deeply entrenched through the country. This means that unbalanced power relations between men and women continue to have a negative impact on women's agency, their human capital development, and their ability to contribute equitably to Uganda's growth and prosperity.

## **2.4 Relationships between Gender Equality and Households Standards of Living.**

### **2.4.1 Promoting Inclusive and Gender Equitable Participation**

According to Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (2014), Promoting inclusive and gender equitable participation and productivity in energy and agricultural value chains will be critical for UNDP, since it has a direct impact on improved quality of life of the rural communities and increased sustainability of livelihoods. Amongst the different value chains, agriculture and energy are the most attractive for both women and youth in Uganda because of their capacity to balance individual Job access within the in-formal sector with household income and food security demands.

### **2.4.2 Sustainable Development**

According to Euro found (2010), we recognize that gender equality and women's empowerment are important for the sustainable development and our common future. We reaffirm our commitments to ensure women's equal rights, access and opportunities for participation and leadership in the economy, society and political decision - making. We underscore that women have a vital role to play in achieving sustainable development. We recognize the leadership role of women, and we resolve to promote gender equality and women's empowerment and to ensure their full and effective participation in sustainable development policies, programmes and decision making at the levels.

### **2.4.3 Economic Development**

Economic development contributes to gender equality in itself as the household have more resources available.

There is less economic pressure to discriminate against women or girls who tend to do worse in the resource allocation under conditions of poverty (Council of Europe, 2005). Empirical evidence indicates that if women, instead of men in the same household, gain more economic resources, there will be movement towards women's empowerment and equality. Increase economic resources of women within the family have been shown to lead to children's particularly girl children's better education. This evidence has accumulated partly in response to the implications of the so-called unitary model of family economics as initiated by Gary Becker (2000).

#### **2.4.4 Agricultural Productivity**

Bernstein et al (2000), affirmed that about 45% of the world's population makes their living through agriculture which is considerably done by both women and men. The proportion of the population involved in agriculture ranges from about 2% in the United states to about 80% in some parts of Asia and Africa. There are two types of agriculture, subsistence and commercial which millions of farmers in the world are involved in, those who produce only enough for their families and those who produce for commercial. This reflects the importance of agriculture in improving household standards of living as sources of income.

#### **2.4.5 Market**

According to Cole and Mehran (2009), the extension of the market can have both positive and negative effects for women's situation and gender relations. Positive effects may include increased employment opportunities for women in

nontraditional sectors, thus enabling them to earn and control income. This is potentially empowering and may contribute to enhancing women's capacity to negotiate their roles and status within the household and society.

Women's allegiance to the family or tribe creates a barrier to dissent which is very difficult to prevail. The family unit, as the strongest socializing factor has created homogenous belief, which in turn leads to homogeneity in political views. The data collected from the interviews made as the primary study sample shows that women could not theorize about the possibility of dissenting against their families. It was revealed that Jordanian women had no economic and educational barriers as a justification of their political backwardness. They were mobilized and organized themselves in various social organizations. Women have also equal access in terms of education and other social services provided by the state.

#### **2.4.6 Women Involvement and Participation in Income Generating Activities**

Cullen and Luna (2005), contended that more women in households will yearn to have stronger voices for gender equality. Women involvement and participation in income generating activities will ensure equality in households and also give women a chance for their voices to be heard and in response to this, more focused intervention to translate what the researcher terms as "gender presence to gender gains". This argument presents opportunity to the Ugandan's state of affairs with regard to women voices administrative and political decision-making at household levels.

The South African government adopted a policy framework which outlines South Africa's vision for gender equality and how it intends to realize this ideal. The office on the status of women developed the policy framework, namely South Africa's National Policy Framework for women's Empowerment and Gender Equality (Agarwal, 2007). The Gender Policy Framework attempts to achieve the integration of gender consideration into the transformation process, which is currently occurring in South Africa. The following principles and guidelines are stipulated in the Gender Policy Framework:

Dipboye (2007), maintained that at the bottom of the restrictions that women face is the patriarchal system where decision-making powers are in the hands of males. In this context, traditional beliefs and cultural attitudes concerning the role and status of women in society are still common and many women are finding it difficult to diverge from this culture and tradition they be ostracized. Regardless of women's education and access to the job market, the woman's role is considered to be the typical one of homemaker. The researcher notes that the man on the other hand is the bread-winner, head of household, and has the right to public life. Confining women's identity to the domestic sphere is one of the effects to women's entry into the job markets which has affected the level of most household's state of living.

When the need arises, additional legislation is to be developed to attain women empowerment and gender equality (Dipboye, 2007). The Constitution of South Africa is to enshrine the equality of all people, through a non-sexism and non-racism approach. Women are not a homogenous group.

This principle must guide policies and programmes to will result in the implementation of gender equality. Women's rights are to be seen as human rights. All customary, cultural and religious practices and procedures are to be aligned with the right to equality. Affirmative action programme with regards to women empowerment are to be developed and implemented. Policies and procedures that hinder women's access to basic needs, the economy and decision making are to be reviewed and change in terms of gender equality. Economic empowerment of women is to be promoted. Efficient machinery is to be put in place to effect and implement this policy on national and provincial levels, as well as in the private sector and in the long run, there will be hope for women to involve themselves in the job market for an improvement in their standards of living in their households.

## **2.5 Challenges Faced in Integrating Gender Equality among the Households.**

### **2.5.1 Women have Few Resources or Rights and Little Opportunities**

In many parts of the world, women have few resources or rights and little opportunities to improve their lives. They are restricted in terms of education, ownership of property, monetary return for their work, financial opportunities, and opportunities to influence decision - making at the level of the family and society, country by country, the lack of resources and opportunities open to women is strongly associated with society wide, poverty or lack of development. Kucera, David and William (2000), for example, report that almost all of the countries ranked in the top quintile of wealth provide social and economic

equality to women, none of these in the poorest quintile do.

Research based on gender - differentiated data shows that there is a strong gender dimension to entrepreneurship. According to the global entrepreneurship monitor, men are about twice as likely as women to be involved in early stage entrepreneurship activity in high income countries. For example in Eastern Europe and central Asia, the gender gap is even larger. Moreover, men are more likely than women to be an entrepreneur by opportunity rather than necessity.

### **2.5.2 Capital Constraints**

According to Nilufer (2001), with respect to the types of enterprises, evidence suggests that women tend to run smaller businesses than men. This seems at least partly due to the fact that women are more capital constrained, i.e. that they have more difficulties to obtain financing and if they do, they are often charged higher interest rates than men, similar patterns are observed in rural areas where women are under represented as farm holders and tend to run smaller farms than men. Being an owner or manager of a rural or urban business implies not only economic independence but also certain social status associated with decision making power and being an employer. As a consequence, female entrepreneurship can contribute to strengthening the role of women in local communities.

In many empirical and theoretical studies, female to male ratio of education is used as the measure of gender equality that is hypothesized to have an impact on economic

growth and development. This is probably partly due to the fact that comparable data on education is one of the only measures available across countries. Education of girls is an important factor in understanding the connections between the status of women, welfare of the family, the human capital available in a society and future development. Many empirical studies conclude that increased schooling of the mother is associated with larger effects on child health, schooling and adult productivity than increased schooling of the father (see Seguino and Stephanie, 2000). Even in the developed world, there is some evidence that mother's education has a greater impact on children's performance later in life than the father's.

### **2.5.3 Allocation of Resources**

Other studies using developing country data indicate that the allocation of resources between spouses in productive activities are not efficient. Udry (1996) estimates that about six percent of the output treatise on the family (Gary.1991). Agricultural production in Bukinafaso is lost because of inefficient factor allocation within the household; plots controlled by women are farmed much less intensively than similar plots controlled by men. Duflo and Undry (2003), using data from Cot D'Ivoire, found out that rain shocks on different categories of crops (male controlled, female controlled, or those whose returns are customarily used for joint family consumption indeed are associated with expenditures shifts within the family. Family members are apparently not insuring each other even against short term variations in individual income.



#### **2.5.4 Equality and Growth is the Lack of Theory**

Perhaps the greatest obstacle to understanding the relationship between women's work, gender equality and growth is the lack of theory. Standard economies models assuming separate, self - interested, autonomous and genderless agents are inadequate in modeling women's economic environment (restrictions, preferences, norms) and therefore their choices, especially in the less developed countries. Women face different incentives than do men, and may have little freedom to express them. In Poor, traditional societies, women's participation in traditional female work may not be freely chosen.

#### **2.5.5 Market Discrimination**

Esteve - Volart (2000) models labor market discrimination in the form of barriers to entry as a cause of both educational inequalities and reduced growth. Gender inequality impacts growth by reducing the pool of talents of men and women are assumed to be evenly and identically distributed. Discrimination is modeled by excluding women from the managerial positions allowing them to be only workers. As workers they may choose more primary education to increase their productivity. Any further education does not benefit them because of the exclusion from managerial positions. This form of gender bias leads to a fall in the average talent of managers who are assumed to be ones coming up with good or bad ideas. The average quality of ideas in turn determines growth through technological improvements. In comparison to the version of the model without discrimination, discrimination implies lower female to male schooling ratios, lower wages for both men and

women, lower investment in human capital by both men and women and reduced growth. Obviously in a world of this kind, increasing educational equality along will not solve the problem.

#### **2.5.6 Gender Inequality**

Gender equality is a controversial phenomenon that occurs in the society, in communities, places of work and among households, it emphasizes equality between men and women in homes, in places of work and in leadership positions. Studies have been carried out, however much focus has been put on Gender inequality leaving a gap on gender equality herein hence an investigation into the effect of gender equality on household standards of living in Bungokho Sub County in Mbale District.

#### **2.6 Conclusion**

This chapter presented related literature in accordance to the research objective, it contained the following: The Standards of Living in Households, Level of Gender Equality in Households, Relationships between Gender Equality and Households Standards of Living, Challenges faced into Integrating Gender Equality among the Households to the Improvement of Standards of Living.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the methods that were used to enable the researcher to gather data for the study. It comprised of the research design, area of Study, study population, sample size, sampling techniques, data collection techniques, reliability and validity of the instruments.

#### **3.2 Research Design**

The study used a descriptive design with both qualitative and quantitative approaches. Qualitative approach was used to seek, derive and describe the findings that promote greater understanding of how people behave the way they do. It explains and gains insights and understanding of the phenomenon through intensive collection of narrative data. Quantitative approach refers to the type of research approach that is based on methodological principles of positivism and neo positivism and adheres to the standards of strict research design developed before research begins. It was used because it involves the collection of numerous data in order to explain and predict the phenomena of interest. Data analysis being mainly statistical, it was also applied in order to describe the current conditions and investigate relationships including cause and effect relationship.

#### **3.3 Area of Study**

The study was carried out in Bungokho Sub County, Mbale District, Bungokho sub county is one of the 14 sub counties in Mbale District located in the Eastern part of Uganda about 3 km on Mbale Tororo High way. The sub county

comprises of 4 parishes which include Bubirabi, Bumbobi, Bukhumwa and Bumageni. This area was chosen for the study because there was need to find out how spouses / married partners in households exercise equality.

### **3.4 Study Population**

The total population of people in Bungokho Sub County according to the 2012 Population Census was 40,683 people and 743 households in Bungokho sub county Mbale District.

Economically the people of Bungokho Mutoto Sub County are farmers growing mainly food crops such as maize, beans, matooke, cabbages, G. Nuts among other foods. They are also involved in animal rearing with much emphasis on goats, cattle, pigs and poultry

### **3.5 Sampling Procedures**

#### **3.5.1 Sample Size**

A sample is part of the target population that has been procedurally selected as a representative of the whole population of the study. In this case, the study considered a study sample of 80 respondents who included local leaders, women, men and opinion leaders as categorized in table 3.1 below.

**Table 3.1: Sample Breakdown**

<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>
Local leaders	10	08
Women	25	20
Men	65	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>80</b>

### **3.5.2 Sampling Technique**

Sampling technique is simply the process of learning about the population on the basis of a sample drawn from it. Under this method, a small group of the universe is taken as a representative of the whole mass and the results are drawn (Kakinda 1990). The study therefore used simple random sampling to select men and women, the process involved writing all names of men and women in each household on pieces of paper that were folded, put in a container and mixed up together. One paper was picked at random without replacement, the name of man and woman on the picked paper was the one to be included in the study.

Simple Random Sampling assisted the researcher to avoid bias in selecting the samples. The justification for a random sample is that it is more suitable for comparatively larger groups (Gupta, 2001). This method was used to ensure that every man and woman in each category had an equal chance of being selected. This reduced biasness in choosing participants Kothari (2001).

Purposive sampling was applied on the local leaders since they were more informed about the study. Purposive sampling was considered because it involved interviews with local leaders. It is a face to face discussion between the researcher and the interviewee (local leader) on a set of questions derived from the study.

Purposive sampling is important because; it articulates first hand information / opinion based on the point of discussion. This enabled the researcher to lobby the required information about the study.

### **3.6 Data Collection Methods and Instruments**

#### **3.6.1 Methods**

The researcher used interview, survey, focused group discussions and observation to collect primary data from respondents while Documentary review such as written journals, records manuals and internet) were used to collect secondary data.

##### **3.6.1.1 Interview**

Kakinda(1990) argues that an interview is a conversation in which the researcher tries to get information from the interviewee and records it by herself. Face to face interview sessions were conducted using an interview guide designed to elicit data, where respondents were asked questions orally relevant to the area of study. The interview guide had brief questions designed to elicit information from the respondents especially the local leaders. This method provided the research with vital and viable information concerning the phenomena under study.

##### **3.6.1.2 Survey**

Leedy, P.D and Ormorod, J.E (2001) refers to a list / set of predetermined questions designed to collect information from the respondents. Self-administered questionnaires (open ended questions) were sent to men and women with a request to answer the questions and return the questionnaires. Therefore, well prepared questionnaires were administered to the women and household heads. These were carefully designed and they were simple and clear. This category availed information from a professional point of view according to the work they are involved in from time to time.

Self-administered questionnaires (open ended questions) were used due to the following reasons.

- (i) They are convenient to be administered by both the researcher and the intended respondents since they are all educated and therefore able to write and read.
- (ii) Self-administered questionnaires provided time; room and chance for respondents to read the questionnaire critically, comprehend them and there after respond freely and willingly without fear or favor of the researcher.
- (iii) The anonymity that was guaranteed by the questionnaire given that respondents had the opportunity to give original and authentic response.

#### **3.6.1.3 Focused Group Discussion**

Focus group discussions as a data gathering tool was used to obtain perceptions on a defined area of interest in a non-threatening environment since a focus group is a form of qualitative research where people are asked about their attitude towards a product, service, concept, advertisement, idea, or packaging (Amin 2005). The main purpose of focus group discussion was to draw upon respondents assessment attitudes, opinions, feelings, experiences and behavioral reactions in a way which would be feasible. The researcher made appointments with the men and women to meet and discuss on the effect of gender equality on the improvement of household standards of living in Mbale District. The discussion were held in one respondent's home whom the researcher requested consent to hold a meeting at her home. This helped the researcher to attain opinions from women in Bungokho Sub County.

#### **3.6.1.4 Observation**

The researcher observed what exactly takes place in communities on the effect of gender equality on improvement of household standards of living in Bungokho Sub County Mbale District. The researcher concentrated on non-participant form of observation and participant observation in the households in order to get the required information.

#### **3.6.1.5 Documentary Review**

Creswell, J.W. (2004), defines a documentary review as a critical examination of both public and private records related to issue being investigated. This was a silent way of getting information by basically studying the written and compiled information, filed records, internet surfing, newspapers, reports and publications on gender equality. Documentary review supplemented on the information that was obtained using the other methods and this enabled the researcher to obtain secondary data on the effect of gender equality on improvement of household standards of living in Bungokho Sub County Mbale District.

### **3.6.2 Instruments**

#### **3.6.2.1 Interview Guide**

According to Creswell (2005), it is stated that interview guide is a method of data collection where the investigator comes into contact with the respondent and ask him/her questions about the subject under study. This greatly helped the researcher in obtaining data during the study using the interview guide. A face to face interview was conducted with the participants and these were mainly men and women. The interviews had structured and were applied on 72 respondents.



#### **3.6.2.2 Questionnaire**

Questionnaires were the main instruments that were used to collect data from the respondents. Self-administered questionnaires in form of open-ended items were used to collect primary data from men and women. Questionnaires were given to men and women because they were literate enough to respond to the questions since they were able to read and write. This instrument was used because it helped in generating quick information within a short time and on a wide range of opinions. 80 structured questionnaires were sent out in the field and 80 of them were received back.

#### **3.6.2.3 Focused Group Discussion**

The main purpose of focus group discussion was to draw upon respondents' assessment attitudes, opinions, feelings, experiences and behavioral reactions in a way which would be feasible. The researcher made appointments with the women to meet and discuss on the effect of gender equality on the improvement of household standards of living in Mbale District. The discussions were held in one respondent's home whom the researcher requested consent to hold a meeting at her home. This helped the researcher to attain opinions from women in Bungokho Sub County.

#### **3.6.2.4 Observation Checklist**

The researcher carried out participant observation using a checklist. Here there were no incidences of talking only, use of the eyes to see what was going on. A checklist was used and the rationale was to help identify benefits and the deficits (challenges encountered in addressing gender equality). Emphasis was put on the impact of the activities geared towards reducing gender gaps and to ascertain the

state of life of women. The checklist entailed the activities carried out by household, the level of participation and indicators of Unity such as team work.

This technique enabled the researcher to gather information through seeing activities related to the study.

The researcher observed the activities women carry out, the relationship between husband and wife through interactions and in their way of analyzing issues related to the study.

During interviews, the researcher by use of her naked eyes observed physically that there was a level of equality in some households and in some totally note.

### **3.7 Quality Control Methods**

#### **3.7.1 Validity of the Instruments**

Validity is the accuracy and meaningfulness of inferences which are based on the research results.

##### **3.7.1.1 Questionnaires**

To test the validity of the instruments, the researcher designed questionnaires and discussed them with the supervisor and colleagues. Content validity of the instrument was ensured by including all the key concepts to the research topic. A pilot study or pretesting was done on 80 respondents to identify any short coming in regard to the tools. Questions were pretested to find out whether they are ambiguous or not and also to establish whether they generated the same response from the respondents.

##### **3.7.1.2 Interview Guide**

The researcher subjected the interview guides to experts in the research field i.e. supervisors for corrections and additional inputs were implemented.

### **Peer Reviewing**

Peer reviewing by the researcher's course mates and colleagues was done on the data collection tools before they were administered to the respondents.

### **3.7.2 Reliability of the Instruments**

#### **3.7.2.1 Questionnaires**

Reliability refers to a measure of degree which a research instrument yields the same data after repeating under similar conditions.

Test - pre test technique was used to determine the reliability of instruments whereby the questionnaires was administered to the respondents before the data collection. The researcher went through the questionnaires formulated and the difficult terms were removed. During the data collection, questions that were not understood by respondents, were further clarified or restated especially during question answering.

#### **3.7.2.2 Interview Guide**

To test the reliability of the interview questions, the researcher carried out a pilot test on the instruments employed by testing the results. This was done two times and their results were compared, whenever the relationship was close, the instrument was assumed to be reliable.

#### **3.7.2.3 Focus Group Discussion Guide**

Focus group discussion guide was tested by taking a sample of men and women to determine their opinion, perception and their views on effect of gender equality on household standards of living and the results were tabulated in table form.

#### **3.7.2.4 Observation Checklist**

Observation check list was done to confirm the existence of participation of women in improving household standards of living through active involvement in activities. This was done by mere view of the naked eyes of the researcher.

#### **3.8 Data Analysis Procedure**

At the end of data collection, all the completed questionnaires were thoroughly edited, organized and processed by the researcher. All research questions required presentation, analysis and interpretation. Data collected was categorized according to each research question. Data underwent coding, editing, classification and tabulation. Information was cross examined and several categories were formed to analyze the data such as tallying, computation of frequencies and percentages.

Data was analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively. The information obtained was analyzed and described in relation to the research objectives. The researcher used frequencies and percentages to analyze the data.

#### **3.9 Ethical Considerations**

The researcher ensured voluntary participation of respondents. Respondents were allowed to respond to questions and interviews at their own will and interest without force to avoid misleading information. Permission was sought from the respondents to record their voices during interviews; and before approaching their homes and working premises at their convenient time only. The researcher ensured respect towards the academic and intellectual principles of research during data collection

putting in consideration non-fabrication of information and avoiding of plagiarism. The researcher endeavoured to follow the principle of confidentiality of information given by respondents and further ensured dignity and respect. Anonymity was censured by not revealing information given by respondents

### **3.10 Limitations to the Study**

The researcher faced a challenge of low turn up of respondents during data collection while in the field. However to address this challenge, the researcher made prior appointments with the respondents to suit their programs to enable the process of data collection go smoothly.

The researcher faced a challenge of respondents not answering all the questions designed in the questionnaire. However to address this challenge, the researcher met the respondents in person to explain to them on how to answer questions in the questionnaire.

### **3.11 Conclusion**

This chapter analyzed the methods that were used to enable the researcher to gather and analyze data for the study. It consisted of the research design, research study area, study population, research sampling procedures, data collection instruments, validity and reliability of data, data analysis, ethical consideration and limitations of the study.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DATA PRESENTATION ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter includes the presentation, analysis and discussion of the study findings regarding the effect of gender equality on improving household standards of living in Mbale District. It contained the demographic characteristics of the respondents and more information on gender equality and standards of living. The findings were presented according to specific objectives and research questions and this was as follows:-

#### **4.2 Socio-Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents**

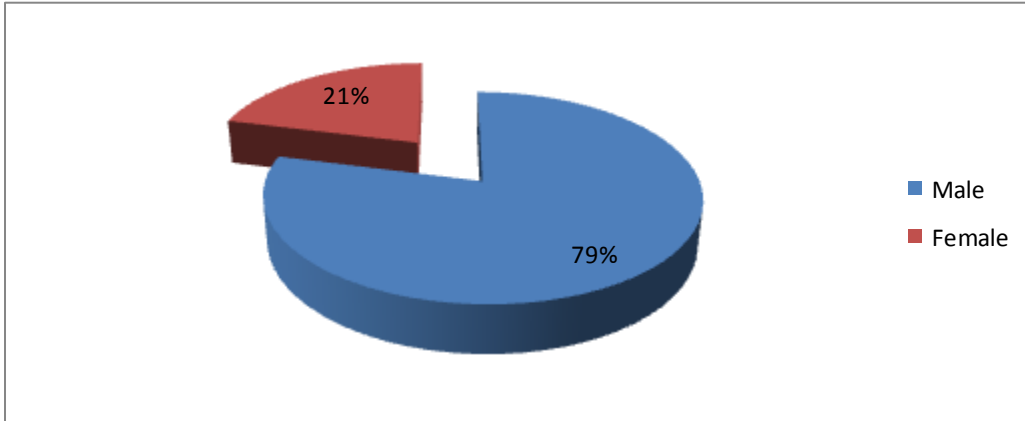
The research put into consideration the following demographic characteristics of the respondents and these were considered relevant during data collection:-

The researcher identified the respondents 'socio-demographic characteristics in respect of sex, age, marital status, level of education and occupation. This was done so as to appreciate the reliability and the accuracy of the research findings.

##### **4.2.1 Sex**

Distribution of respondents by sex is where the researcher was established, the number of male and female participants in the study. The respondents were asked about sex and their responses were as in figure 4.1 below.

**Figure 4.1: Sex**



**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

Majority of the respondents were male (79%) and this meant that men were not free and open to express their opinions and views as compared to female. However since the study was focusing on both parties (male and female), the female views were significant for the study.

#### **4.2.2 Age**

Distribution of respondents by age is where the researcher was interested in finding out the age bracket of participants in the study. The respondents were asked about the age and their responses were as in table 4.2 below.

**Table 4.2: Age**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
26-34	12	15
35-44	40	50
45-54	15	19
55+	13	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

Majority of the respondents were between the age of 35-44 by (50%). This presentation indicated that most respondents who took part in the study were adults.

#### **4.2.3 Marital Status**

Distribution of respondents by marital status is finding out the status of marriage of the respondents. This is important in that it helps in identifying the varying views of respondent's in regard to marital status. The respondents were asked about their marital status and the responses were as in table 4.3 below:-

**Table 4.3: Marital Status**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Married	60	75
Divorced	05	06
Widowed	10	13
Single	05	06
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

Almost all the respondents had a marriage experience. This indicated that most of the respondents were married, which also indicates responsibility and this became a catalyst of gauging their gender roles. The responses given were based on experiences.

#### **4.2.4 Level of Education**

Distribution of respondents by education level is where the researcher was interested in finding out the education level of participants in the study. This is important in that it helps in identifying the existing varying levels of education of respondents for better analysis. The respondents were asked about their education and their responses were as in table 4.4 below.



**Table 4.4: Level of Education**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Graduate	05	06
Diploma	20	25
Certificate	30	38
Secondary level	10	13
Primary level	15	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

Study findings indicated that majority of the respondents were certificate holders. Though they are literate as per the Uganda level of education, 82% had at least secondary education which meant that they easily understood the issues at hand.

#### **4.2.5 Occupation**

Distribution of respondents by occupation is where the researcher was interested in finding out the occupation of participants in the study. This is important in that it helps in identifying the various occupations of respondents for better analysis. The respondents were asked about their occupations and their responses were as in table 4.5 below.

**Table 4.5: Occupation**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Farmers	55	69
Self employed	10	12
Salaried Job	15	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

The study indicated that 81% were engaged in their own activities. These were mainly in agriculture and those who were self employed. However agriculture being the dominant

occupation shows that households and families collectively carry out farming for both income and food, such as; maize, beans, matooke, cassava, green vegetables among other food crops. In this respect therefore, gender roles come into play, where men have a role to play while women play theirs, however, traditionally, women do too much, but earn little, as men have to take charge of the harvest

### **4.3 Objective One: The Standard of Living of Households in Bungokho Sub County**

This objective dealt with the living standards of households in Bungokho Sub-County. The results have been analyzed according to the score, and order of responses. In order to analyze the data easily, the findings were summarized in percentages.

#### **4.3.1 Diet**

The response on the frequency of balanced diet in households was based on three levels, such as; daily, once in a while and during festive season. This was meant to ascertain the feeding regimes in homesteads for purposes of a well-balanced analysis. The findings are contained in table 4.5 below;

**Table 4.6: Frequency of Balanced Diets in Families**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Daily	02	03
Once in a while	53	74
During festive seasons	17	23
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

Most families in Bungokho Sub County do not have a balanced diet at all. They had this to say during interviews, balanced diets in their homes comes once in a while and this was blamed

on high food prices, others said that they have less food coupled with limited or no income at all. This indicates that households are susceptible to high food prices and limited food storage, coupled with limited incomes to sustain their livelihood. However irrespective of this, it is normal food as usual. This is similarly in line to the findings of the statistics department MFPEd (2002), pointing out that household welfare particularly in the areas where income, poverty is pervasive for instance the North and Eastern parts of Uganda. More than two-thirds (68 percent) of the household are dependent on subsistence farming for a livelihood, less than half of Uganda's households had members with at least a pair of shoes each. Twenty percent of households had only one set of clothing for each member; three quarters of the households were using "Tadoobas" (open paraffin lamp) for lighting.

#### **4.3.2 Meals per Day in Families**

The responses on the number of meals families have per day was based on four levels, such as; 1 meal, 2 meals, 3 meals and 4 meals. This was meant to ascertain the feeding habits of households for a well-balanced analysis. The findings are contained in table 4.6 below;

**Table 4.7: Number of Meals per day a Family has**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1 Meal	06	08
2 Meals	54	75
3 Meals	08	11
4 Meals	04	05
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

The study found out that majority of the respondents were (75%). This was followed with 11% who always have 3 meals per

day, whereas 08% always have one meal per day and the least 05% always have four meals per day. Similarly in interviews, the same was echoed, where one woman, said that, "Sometimes because of the number of children in our home, there are likely chances that in some days, even one meal is hard however this is experienced once in a while". This therefore indicates that most families are struggling, emanating from limited resources owned by the families. This was in line to Cullens and Luna (1993), who said that as a coping mechanism, qualitative research has shown that households can modify their eating habits in response to food shortages, staple diets eaten when foods was plenty are replaced by less preferred diets. Others reduce feeding frequency and some households reduce food quantity in order to enable food suppliers to last longer.

**Table 4.3.3: Showing the Number of Members in a Family**

The responses on the number of members in families was based on four levels, such as; 1-3, 4-6, 7-10 and 11+. This was meant to ascertain the dependency ratio and family size in homesteads. The findings are contained in table 4.8 below;

**Table 4.8: Number of Members in a Family**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
1-3	10	14
4-6	20	28
7-10	30	42
11+	12	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

The study found out that most families have got 7-10 members 42%. This was followed with 28% with 4-6 members, then 16% with 11+ members and the least 14% with 1-3 members. Similarly, in

interviews, it was confirmed that most families have got over 7 members and more. These households according to the findings were 08 in number who had this range of members in their families, however those the researcher had the chance to share with had this to say, "because we are many in number, it has helped us to simplify labour on farms, at home and in activities which require team work hence enhanced division of labour. In addition, it has enabled the families to have food in their households since there is enough support on farms. This is similar to Euro found (2010) who recognizes that gender equality and women's empowerment are important for the sustainable development and our common future. Euro (2010), added that our commitments are to ensure women's equal rights, access and opportunities for participation and leadership in the economy, society and political decision - making.

#### **4.3.4 Children in Families at School**

The response on whether children are in school was based on two levels, such as; yes or no. This was meant to ascertain the dependency ratio and family size in homesteads. The findings are contained in figure 4.2 below.

**Figure 4.2: Whether Children in the Family are at School**

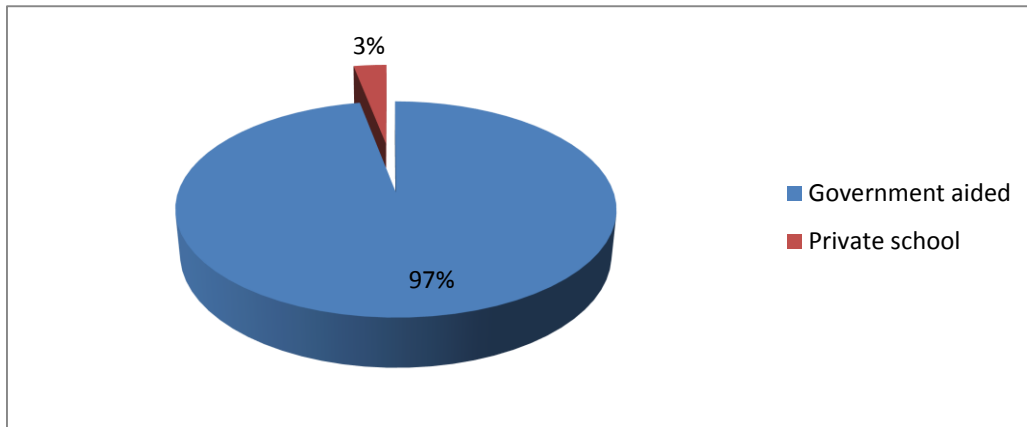
**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

The study found out that children of most families (90%) are in school, while 10% are not. This was also confirmed in interviews, as one said that; "educating a child is more of an investment which requires sacrifice, it comes with a lot of benefits especially when the child is graduating, a child who is not at school in this current generation is one who is likely to become a gambler, a thief and a beggar. In this family particularly, all children are at school studying and as parents, we believe that their lives in future if they put in much efforts will be successful. No parents would wish his or her children not be happy. This explains why most of the parents who know the fruits of education have endeavored to take their children to school. However much as our children are in school, some children in some families are not. These are the unfortunate children who could have lost both their parents and have no hand of support to see them through their education here in Bungokho sub county". This therefore shows that families value education, regardless of the sex of the child. This is in relation to the Council of Europe (2005), that indicates that if women, in steady of men in the same house, gain more economic resources; there will be movement towards women's empowerment and equality. The council added that increase economic resources of women within the family have been shown to lead to children's particularly girl children's better education.

#### **4.3.5 Where the Children are being educated from**

The response on where the children are being educated from was based on two levels, such as; government aided schools or Private schools. This was meant to ascertain the standards of living of families. The findings are contained in figure 4.3 below;

**Figure 4.3: Where they are being educated from**



**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

The study found out that most children are being educated from government aided schools 97% and only 03% were being educated from private schools. Similarly, in interviews, it was found out that most children from these selected households are being educated from Government schools. In response to this, they had this to say, they said "government has played a tremendous role to educate the sons and daughters of most parents in Uganda in particularly Bungokho sub county. The money government contributes has not only helped to keep children in school but also has encouraged parents to send their children to attain education". However not all parents have their children in government school. It was found out that parents who are well off and capable of sending their children to private school have done so and their children are also attaining education. This is in line to the Department for International Development (2009), Uganda's education system is both formal and informal. Under the formal system, the four - tier education model is followed i.e seven years of primary education, two years of advanced level secondary education and the tertiary level of education. Each level is nationally examined and certificates

are warded. University education is offered by both public and private.

#### **4.3.6 Where Members in the Family seek Treatment when they fall Sick**

The responses on where the members in the family seek treatment from when they falls sick was based on four levels, such as; seek treatment in clinics, seek treatment from traditional healers, seek treatment in hospital and buy drugs from drug-shop. This was meant to ascertain the standards of living of families. The findings are contained in table 4.9 below;

**Table 4.9: Where Members in the Family seek Treatment when they fall sick**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Seek treatment in Clinics	11	15
Seek treatment from Traditional healers	04	05
Seek treatment in Hospital	22	30
Buy Drugs from drug shops	36	50
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

The study found out that (50%) people prefer buying drugs from drug shops then they do self-medication. This was followed with 30% who seek treatment in the hospital, then (15%) who visit clinics whenever they fall sick and the least (05%) prefer visiting traditional healers. It was envisaged that most people prefer self-medication until they feel that the situation is out of hand. In this respect, they had this to says; “drug shops are near their homes, and they operate till late hours a day which is easier for them to access drugs at any time. In addition, they said that much as, they seek treatment in the

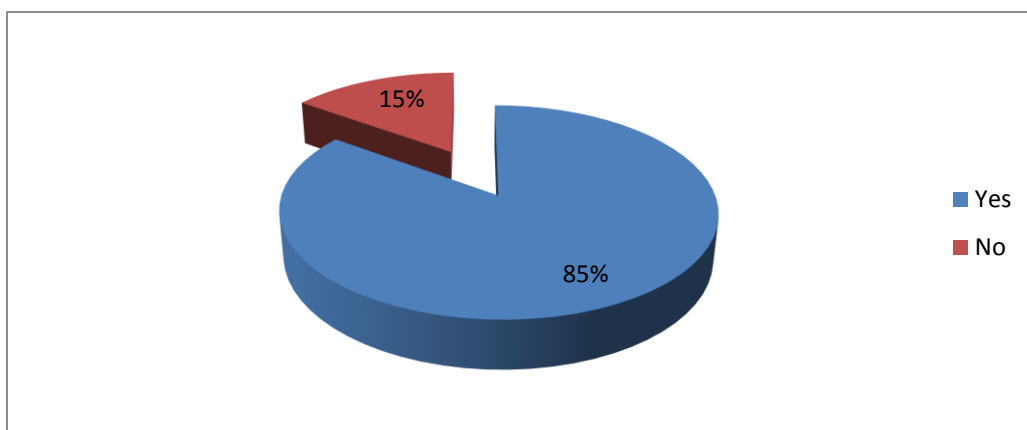


nearby drug shops, in case of an emergency situation, they seek attention from the referral hospital for better examination and treatment.

#### 4.3.7 Whether Members are satisfied with the Treatment

The response on whether members are satisfied with the treatment was based on two levels, such as; yes or no. This was meant to ascertain the standards of living of families. The findings are contained in figure 4.4 below;

**Figure 4.4: Whether Members are Satisfied with the Treatment**



**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

The study found out that most (85%) of the household members are satisfied with the treatment, 85%, while 15% expressed dissatisfaction by saying no. This was also confirmed in interviews, where it was stated that, the people in drug shops always prescribe rightly the drugs to them, unless the situation is beyond their control, then it may necessitate going to the hospital. This clearly shows that drug shops are playing vital roles in ensuring that people's health is normalized. This is contrary to Bremer J (2009), who said that in Nigeria, Like in most developing countries, there is regional differential in poverty and financial access to healthcare with the North East and North West being worst hit. This has made some governments to these regions to come up with

a free maternal and child health care package to solve the problem of financial access to health care services.

#### **4.3.8 Water Sources**

The response on the sources of water used by families was based on three sources, such as; tap water, bore hole and community well. This was meant to ascertain whether families have got access to clean and safe water. The findings are contained in figure 4.10 below;

**Table 4.10: Household Water Sources in Bungokho Sub County**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Tap water	25	35
Well water	07	10
Bore hall	40	55
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

The study found out that the largest proportion of water used by households is drawn from boreholes by (55%). This was followed with (35%) who use tap water and the least were those who draw water from wells by (10%). Similarly, in interviews, it was confirmed that boreholes have been significant in providing water to the poor households, who cannot afford tap water. This therefore indicates that households have access to clean and safe water, because Uganda government through the ministry of health and the one of water, lands and environment through the directorate of water development, encourage people to use borehole water which has been proven to be clean and safe. This was in relation to Ministry of works, Housing and communication (2010), which indicated that findings in regard to 2002 census which showed that progress had been made in the provision of safe water and sanitation services. However, more

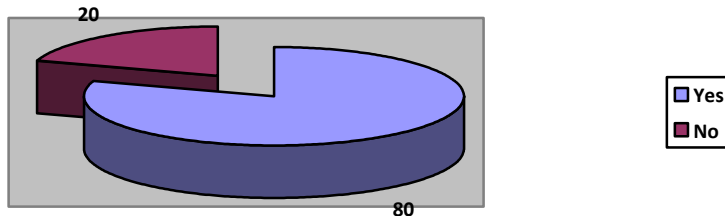
efforts should be invested in developing the sector further to ensure universal provision of these basic services to all people in Uganda.

**Research Objective Two: 4.4: The level of Gender Equality in Bungokho Sub County**

**4.4.1: Whether Life would be better if husband allowed you to handle things freely.**

The responses on views on whether life would be better if husband's allowed you to handle thing freely. The respondents were asked whether life would be better if husband's allowed you to handle things freely and there responses were as follows.

**Figure 4.5: Whether Life would be better if husband allowed you to handle things freely.**



**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

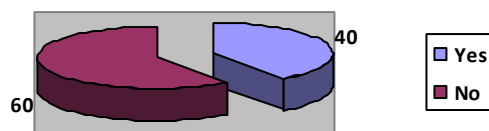
The study noted that 80% said yes, 20% said no. the study noted from the respondents that majority of the respondents said yes. They noted in an interview with women that their life would be better because they are self motivated women and wish and year to have that chance to disprove their husbands of what they think of them. This is because according to their views, men think the women cannot manage certain things. However women argued that in this current error, there is no description of what can be done by a woman and what can be done by a man.

Every thing is a try and error to live sustainably. This is in line to Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (2014) who affirmed that promoting inclusive and gender equitable participation and productivity in energy and agricultural value chains will be critical for UNDP, since it has a direct impact on improved quality of life of the rural communities and increased sustainability of livelihoods.

#### **4.4.2: Whether Wives have a say on family matters**

The responses whether wives have a say on family matters, the respondents were asked whether wives had a say on family matters and this was as follows.

**Figure 4.6: Whether Wives have a say on family matters**



#### **Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

The study noted from the respondents that 60% of the respondents said yes, 40% said no, majority said yes, they do have a say on family matters. On hearing their views, they said that as housewives, they have a right to intervene in the affairs that matter to their children and their entire family. This implied that their views are considered as vital and critical and are keenly observed to ensure that their opinion and decisions are taken since their voices matter for the welfare and wellbeing in their families. This is in relation to Dipboye (2007) who maintained that at the bottom of the restrictions that women face is the patriarchal system where

decision-making powers are in the hands of males. In this context, traditional beliefs and cultural attitudes concerning the role and status of women in society are still common and many women are finding it difficult to diverge from this culture and tradition they be ostracized.

**4.2.3 Whether Husbands allow their wives to concentrate on Family Needs**

This refers to whether or not women are given the opportunity to concentrate of family needs

**Table 1: Whether Husbands allow their wives to concentrate on Family Needs**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	07	70
No	03	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>

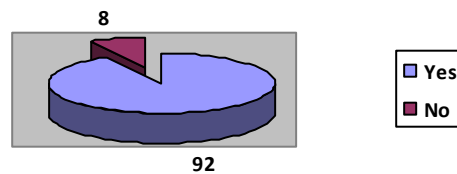
**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

During a focus group discussion with women, they had this to say, women who are involved in income generating activities surely said, they are given that opportunity at their own will , they wish to be part of a contributory factor on their family needs, these they mentioned were basic needs, household needs and any other that they wish they would have as Business housewives. However those who were housewives pointed out that their concern is limited to the family to the affairs of managing their homes as far as child care is concerned and meal preparation. This was statistically represented in the table above.

#### 4.4.4: Wives Seeking Permission from their husbands to use family land.

The responses on whether you would seek permission from your husband to use family land to carry out farming. This was done as follows;

**Figure 4.7: Wives Seeking Permission from their husbands to use family land.**



#### **Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

According to the findings, 08% of the respondents said yes while 92% of the respondents said no, Majority of the respondents said no. They mentioned that there is no need since it is family land where food crops are cultivated and where sustainability of the fairly zeroed on. They added that it would be more of a supportive measure towards food security. This was in relation to Bernstein et al (2000) who affirmed that about 45% of the world's population makes their living through agriculture which is considerably done by both women and men. The proportion of the population involved in agriculture ranges from about 2% in the united states to about 80% in some parts of Asia and Africa. There are two types of agriculture, subsistence and commercial which millions of farmers in the world are involved in. Those who produce only enough for their families and those who produce for commercial. This reflects the importance of agriculture in improving household standards of living as sources of income.

**4.4.5: Wives Seeking Permission from their husbands to use family land.**

The responses on the views on whether you contribute towards the needs of the family. The responses were based on yes and no as indicated in the table below.

**Table 4.12: Whether wives contribute towards the needs of the family.**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Yes	15	75
No	05	25
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>

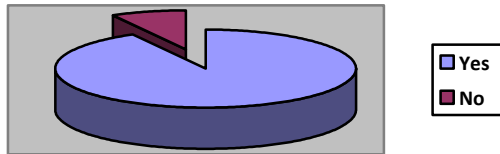
**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

The study noted that 75% of the respondents said yes, whereas 25% said no, findings indicated that majority said yes, in their opinion, they said it would be a supportive approach towards increasing family income, in most cases where a husband and a wife are working, there is division of responsibility of needs where each party can mean to support in uplifting the standards of living. This is important because it sustains families and children's lives in a happy and joyful environment where anything they wish for, is in their proximity.

**4.4.6: Whether husbands give their wives the freedom to plan for their children.**

Responses on whether wives are given the freedom to plan for their children. Responses were bases on a yes or no as indicated below. The respondents were asked whether husbands give their wives the freedom to plan for their children.

**Figure 4.8: Whether husbands give their wives the freedom to plan for their children.**



**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

During the focus group discussions with women, it was revealed that 92% of the respondents said yes whereas 08% said no. study findings indicated that planning for children is done. However it is involved in by both husband and wife. This is because there is likeliness of one party coming out with decisions which may affect the family. Therefore this means that, it is normally a combination of two heads that are brought together for better decisions for the good of the family.

**Objective Three: 4.5: The Relationship between Gender Equality and Household Standards of Living**

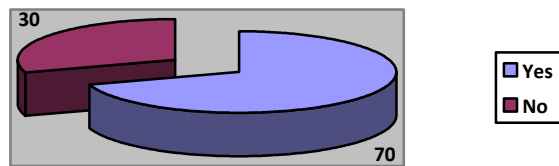
This objective dealt on the relationship between equality and household standards of living in Bungokho Sub-County. The results have been analyzed according to the key respondents who were local leader with the score of 08 respondents, and order of responses. In order to analyze the data easily, the findings were summarized in percentages.



#### 4.5.1 Women as Partners in Running Families and living standards

The response on the views about close running of the affairs of families' was based on yes or no response. This was meant to ascertain the gender roles among couples in homesteads. The findings are contained in table 4.13 below;

**Figure 4.9: Women as Partners in Running Families and living standards**



**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

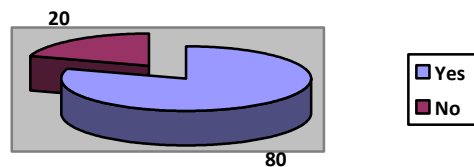
On establishing people's responses through questionnaire approach, 70% said yes, whereas 30% said No. According to the findings, majority of the respondents said yes. They had this to say. There are innovative and creative women who wish to see that their families are prospering, once given the responsibility of taking care of the home, they endeavor to ensure order and many in their capacity do all it takes to show that irrespective of the presence of their husbands in the home, everything can be done. In addition, they added that women who show these kinds of skills in their homes are never doubted by their husbands and in the long run, the continuity of this spirit of hard work empower women to be resourceful and in the end this helps to improve their welfare and way of living in their homes. This is in relation to Cullen and Luna (2005) who contended that more women in households will yearn

to have stronger voices for gender equality. Women involvement and participation in income generating activities will ensure equality in households and also give women a chance for their voices to be heard and in response to this, more focused intervention to translate what the researcher terms as "gender presence to gender gains".

#### **4.5.2: Whether Freedom given to women to participate in income generating activities**

The responses on the views of women's participation in income generating activities, the responses were based on yes and no as indicated in the table below. The respondents were asked about freedom given to women to participate in income generating activities.

**Figure 4.10: Freedom given to women to participate in income generating activities**



**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

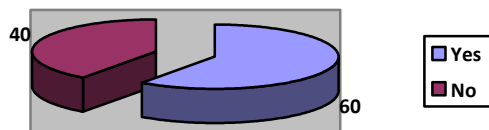
In response to this, 80% said yes, 20% said no. According to the findings, majority said yes, in finding out why they said yes, they said that there are women who are enterprising, those who yearn to see that their families are well off, women who sacrifice their own to educate, provide needs to their families, their efforts are not only directed to seeing an improvement in their families but also to ensure that they successfully achieve their targets. However much as those kinds

of women are there, there are those on the other hand who wish for themselves, they never mind of their own children, care for their homes but only for themselves, these only contribute to the down fall of the families. This is related to Cullen and Luna (2005) who said that women involvement and participation in income generating activities will ensure equality in households and also give women a chance for their voices to be heard and in response to this, more focused intervention to translate what the researcher terms as "gender presence to gender gains.

#### **4.5.3: Participation of wives in sharing of information is important**

The responses on views on the participation of wives in sharing of information, this was based on yes and no responses. The respondents were asked about participation of wives in sharing of information is important and this was as below.

**Figure 4.11: Participation of wives in sharing of information is important**



**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

Study responses clearly indicated that 60% of the respondents said yes, whereas 40% said no however results clearly showed that majority said yes, in their own opinion, they said. Women's opinions are very important during discussions and

sharing of ideas, in many scenarios, there have been cases where the ideas or suggestions made by women towards certain things have worked. However sometimes, men do not want to believe that women can mean to make informed decision. This sometimes affects their progress.

In addition, it was also quoted by a respondent that "behind any successful man, there is woman".

**4.4.4: Importance of Women's Views on Improving the Standards of living**

The responses on the importance of women's views on improving the standards of living, the responses were based on women who have innovative ideas, creative, their opinion are doubted but can mean to transform. The respondents were asked about the importance of women's views on improving the standards of living.

**Table 4.13: Importance of Women's Views on Improving the Standards of living**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Women have innovative ideas	05	50
Creative	03	30
Their opinion are doubted but can mean to transform	02	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

The study findings notified the respondents about how important women's views are on improving the standards of living. 50% said women have innovative ideas, 30% said women are creative, 20% said their opinion are doubted but can mean to transform.

In finding out why half of the leaders said women have innovative ideas, they said, women especially those who are learnt share ideas which are only aimed at developing their families, most of them look at status and therefore live in a creative environment which only focuses on development.

**Research Objective Four 4.6: The Challenges Faced in Integrating Gender Equality among the Households to the living in Bungokho Sub County.**

**4.5.5: Difficulties men face taking their wives as close Partners in Family Affairs**

The responses were as based on the following; women can't make strong decisions, women can't stand alone in matter of family and men prefer to make better choices for their families.

**Table 4.14: Difficulties men face taking their wives as close Partners in Family Affairs**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Women can't make strong decisions	26	50
Women can't stand alone in matters of family	18	35
Men prefer to make better choices for their families	08	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

Study findings indicated that 50% of the respondents said women can't make strong decisions, 35% said women can't stand alone in matters of family, whereas 15% said men prefer to make better choices for their families. According to the findings, it was found out that majority of the men who were interviewed

said women cannot make strong decisions. In finding out why, they said, in most cases, women doubt themselves. They cannot stand alone in times of making choices especially those that concern their family. In an interview, one respondent was quoted saying "women are our companions but there are things that they cannot just take care of such as family matters. It requires the presence of the husband for things to move the right ways. In addition, there have been tendencies where wives have made decisions which have affected their families to the extent of failing their own marriage. This clearly shows that they cannot stand on their own. This is in relation to the findings of Kucera, David and William (2000) who pointed out that women have few resources or rights and little opportunities to improve their lives. They are restricted in terms of education, ownership of property, monetary return for their work, financial opportunities, and opportunities to influence decision - making at the level of the family and society, country by country, the lack of resources and opportunities open to women is strongly associated with society wide, poverty or lack of development.

#### **4.5.6: Difficulties women face taking men as close Partners in Family Affairs**

The response were based on the following; isolation, they are subjected to abuses and depression and helplessness.

**Table 4.15: Difficulties women face taking men as close Partners in Family Affairs**

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Isolation	10	50
They are subjected to abuses	07	35
Depression and helplessness	03	15
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>100</b>

**Sources: Primary Data (2017)**

Study findings showed that 50% of the respondents said isolation, 35% said they are subjected to abuses and 15% said depression and helplessness. This meant that as they strive to bring about equality, majority are isolated, this implies that in most cases, their opinions and views on matters regarding family affairs are disregarded by their husbands. This is in line with the findings of Uganda Bureau of statistics (2012), who pointed out that the attitudes, beliefs and practices that serve to exclude women are still deeply entrenched throughout the country. This means that unbalanced power relations between men and women continue to have a negative impact on women's agency, their human capital development and their ability to contribute equitably to Uganda's growth and prosperity.

#### **4.7 Conclusion**

This chapter dealt with the presentation, analysis and discussion of the study regarding the effect of gender equality on improving household's standards of living in Mbale District

**CHAPTER FIVE**  
**SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATION**

**5.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents summary of the findings, conclusions, recommendations and suggested areas of further research. The conclusions were drawn in alignment with the objectives and research questions under study.

**5.1 Summary of the Findings**

**Objective one: The standards of living of households in Bungokho Sub County**

According to the findings on examining the standards of living of households in Bungokho sub county, it was found out that: many of the households feed on a balanced diet at least once a while, their children are studying in government aided schools, majority seek treatment in drugs shops however on referral, they seek treatment in hospitals and clinics. Their main source of water is bore hall much as there is tap water in some households. The response rate of these findings was 75%. This implied that the standards of living of most households in Bungokho Sub County are improving as discussed.

**Objective Two: The level of Gender Equality in Households.**

Study findings indicated that life is better because husbands allow their wives to handle things concerning family freely, wives have a say on family matters, husbands allow their wives to concentrate on family needs, wives do not seek permission from their husbands to use family land since it is family property and wives contribute to the needs of the family. This implied that there is equality in most households in Bungokho Sub County.



**Objective Three: The relationship between gender equality and household standards of living in Bungokho Sub County.**

The study noted from the findings that sharing of information between a husband and wife in a mutual understand brings respect and integrity in homes, and women. There are innovative and creative women who wish to see that their families are prospering, once given the responsibility of taking care of the home, they endeavor to ensure order and many in their capacity do all it takes to show that irrespective of the presence or absence of their husbands in the home, everything can be done.

**Objective Four: The challenges faced in integrating gender equality in households in Bungokho Sub County.**

According to the findings, the challenges faced in integrating gender equality in households in Bungokho Sub County include, men believe that women can't make strong decisions, they can't stand alone in family matters and men prefer to make better choices for their families under estimating their wives in households.

**5.2 Conclusions**

It can be concluded that many of the households in Bungokho Mutoto Sub County feed on a balanced diet at least once a while, their children are studying in government aided schools, majority seek treatment in drugs shops however on referral, they seek treatment in hospitals and clinics.

After discussion and presentation of Data, It can be concluded that sharing of information between a husband and wife in a mutual understanding brings respect and integrity in homes, and to the women. There are innovative and creative women who wish to see that their families are

prospering, once given the responsibility of taking care of the home, they endeavor to ensure order and many in their capacity do all it takes to show that irrespective of the presence of their husbands in the home, everything can be done

It can be concluded that the challenges faced in integrating gender equality in households in Bungokho Sub County are, men believe that women can't make strong decisions, they can't stand alone in family matters and men prefer to make better choices for their families under estimating their wives in households.

### **5.3 Recommendations of the Study**

The study recommends that there is need to advocate for women's voices in matters concerning social, economic and political affairs, to give them chance to express their opinions, views and ideas freely in their families.

Equal opportunities to both men and women should be encouraged to eradicate inequalities in families since some women are innovative and creative and wish to see that their families are prospering.

There is need for awareness creation on women empowerment and livelihood programs aimed at engaging women in income generating activities to improve their standards of living in households

Government support in form of extending grants to women groups and SACCOS is a priority to improving the welfare and standard of living of women in their households.

#### **5.4 Area of Further Studies**

1. To examine the effect of Domestic Violation on the Sustainability of Marriages.
2. To establish the Impact of Roads on agricultural development
3. To examine the effect of rural electrification on the lives of the people

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## **Appendix I**

### **Interview Guide for Local leaders**

**To examine the standards of living of Households in Bungokho Sub County.**

Provide your opinion concerning the standards of living of Households in Bungokho Sub County. Please be honest and truthful.

1. How often does your family feed on a balanced diet]
2. How many meals per day does your family have?
3. How many members does your family have?
4. Are your children in School?
5. Where are they being educated from?
6. In times when a member in the family is sick, where do you seek for treatment
7. Are you satisfied with the treatment
8. What is the source of your water?



**To determine the level of gender Equality in Bungokho Sub  
County**

1. Do you think life would be better if husbands allowed you to hand things freely?
2. Do you think wives have a say on family matters
3. In your view, do you think Husband's allow their wives to concentrate on family needs?
4. Do you think women seek permission from their husbands to use family?
5. Do wives contribute any thing towards the needs of the family?
6. Do you your husband give your wives the freedom to plan for the children?

## APPENDIX II

### Questionnaires for men and women

The relationship between Gender equality and household standards of living.

1. If women were to be given freedom to participate in income generating activities. Do you think, their status of living would improve?
  - b. If yes how?
2. If you opinion, do you think that the participation of your wives in sharing of information is important
  - b. If yes, of what importance does it have on improving your standards of living
3. Do you think that the life would be better in your family if your husband allowed you in your family to handle things freely as you belief.

## **Appendix III**

### **FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION**

1. Do you have a say on family matters.
2. Does your husband allow you husband allowed young to use family land to carry to carry out family.
3. Do you seek permission from your husbands to use family land to carry outs farming?
4. Incase, you are given a chance to seek for employment, would you contribute any thing towards the need of the people?
5. Do Husbands give your feed you the freedom to the plan for children?

**To identify the challenges faced in integrating Gender Equality among the Households to the living in Bungokho Su County.**

6. What do you think, are the difficulties men face while taking their wives as close partners in family assistance