



**BUSITEMA  
UNIVERSITY**  
*Pursuing Excellence*

**ROLES OF GENDER IN LOCAL CHICKEN PRODUCTION IN  
BUKEDEA SUB COUNTY, BUKEDEA DISTRICT**




**BY**  
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**JUNE, 2015**

**DECLARATION**

I, **OMODING JUSTINE MICHAEL**, declare that this dissertation is original and it has never been submitted to any other university or any higher institution of learning for the award of any academic paper.

Signature.......... Date.....11/08/2015.....



## APPROVAL

This dissertation has been submitted for examination with the approval of the supervisor:

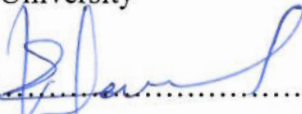
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## DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation report to my father, children and my mentors.

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## Table of Contents

DECLARATION	i
APPROVAL	ii
DEDICATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iv
LIST OF TABLES	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	viii
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	ix
ABSTRACT	x
CHAPTER ONE	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Problem statement	2
1.3 Main objective	2
1.4 Specific objectives	2
1.5 Research questions	2
1.6 Significance of the Study	2
1.7 Justification of the study	2
1.8 Scope of the study	3
CHAPTER TWO	4
LITERATURE REVIEW	4
2.1 Meaning of gender	4
2.2 Gender Division of labor in agriculture	4
2.3 Gender roles in village chicken production	4
2.4 Gender and decision making in chicken production and management	5
2.5 The level of women involvement in decision making and marketing of village chicken products	6
CHAPTER THREE	8
MATERIALS AND METHODS	8
3.1 Study Area	8

3.2. Sampling Design .....	8
3.3 Operational design .....	9
3.4 Statistical design.....	9
3. 5 Data Presentation .....	9
3.6 Ethical considerations .....	9
3.7 Environmental considerations .....	9
3,8 Anticipated problems .....	9
CHAPTER FOUR.....	10
PRESENTATION OF RESULTS.....	10
4.1 Profile of the respondents.....	10
4.2 Reasons for keeping chickens .....	10
4.3 Mode acquisition of chicken .....	10
4.4 Ownership of chicken by different gender .....	12
4.5 Roles played by different gender in management of indigenous chicken .....	13
4.6 Decision making over use of resources and sale of village chicken and its products.....	15
CHAPTER FIVE.....	17
DISCUSSION OF RESULTS.....	17
CHAPTER SIX .....	22
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	22
6.1 Conclusion.....	22
6.2 Recommendations .....	22
REFERENCES.....	24
APPENDIX ONE: QUESTIONNAIRE .....	29

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 4.1: Gender roles in management of chicken.....	24
Table 4.2: Decision making over use of resources and sale of village chicken and its products in Bukedea Sub County.....	26



## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 4.1: Chicken production objectives in Bukedea sub county.....	11
Figure 4.2: Mode of acquisition of chicken in Bukedea Sub County.....	11
Figure 4.3: Ownership patterns of chicken in Bukedea sub county.....	12
Figure 4.4: Decision making over use resources and sale of chicken and its products in Bukedea Sub County.....	15

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
NAADs	National Agricultural Advisory Services
AASP	Agricultural Advisory Service Provider
MAAIF	Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries
NCD	New Castle Disease
LSRP	Livestock Research Programme
NARO	National Agricultural Research Organization
SAARI	Serere Agricultural Animal Research Institute
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics

## ABSTRACT

The study was conducted in Bukedea Sub County in Bukedea district, and the targeted population was indigenous chicken poultry farmers. The research assessed gender division of labor and decision making in chicken production. Chicken in Bukedea generally belong to women and kept for home consumption and sale for income. Chicken was mainly acquired through purchase followed by inheritance and through gifts from relatives and friends.

Across sectional survey was carried out to collect both quantitative and qualitative data with structured questionnaires and interviews. Statistical Package for Social Scientists (SPSS) version 16 was employed for the data analysis. The results were presented in form of tables, pie charts, and graphs.

A grass-roots study involving 120 households was conducted to assess the gender roles in local chicken production in Bukedea sub county, Bukedea District. Information from questionnaires and focus group discussions showed 65% of the households were male headed while 35% were female headed. Chicken generally belonged to women and was acquired through purchase (40%). The study shows women participate in the feeding and watering of village chicken, (53%), Letting the chicken out in the morning (65%), Letting the chicken in the shelter in the evening (59%), cleaning chicken house (71%), eggs collection (65%), incubation (78%) while men did construction of chicken house (64%), Ensuring that there is a breeding cock (69%), Purchase of inputs (77%), Administration of drugs (49%), Security of the chicken (43%), seeking for treatment of chicken (38%), and taking care of chicken (35%) were responsibilities shared between men and women. In the male headed households, Decision making on the consumption of chicken (53%) Use of the earnings from chicken (59%), was mainly decided up on and controlled by men while in female headed households, Decision making on the consumption of chicken (50%) Use of the earnings from chicken (60%) was mainly decided up on and controlled by a woman. Replacement of indigenous Chickens with exotic chicken (24%), Equal distribution of resources and responsibilities between men and women (33%), are suggested for increasing chicken production. There is a need to develop a sound bottom-up planning system to enable women chicken farmers to participate in all stages of the planning cycle for chicken production.

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background

Indigenous chicken production is an important agricultural activity of almost all rural community in East Africa (Kitalyi, 1998) including Uganda (Ssewanyana *et al.*, 2003b). Estimate on livestock in Africa shows that poultry population is the highest (Sonaiya *et al.*, 1998). In East Africa over 80% of human population live in rural areas and over 75% of these households keep indigenous chicken and Uganda is not exception to this situation (Kitalyi, 1998).

The poultry industry in Uganda is composed of 37.4 million birds (UBOS, 2012) and estimated to consist mainly of chicken comprising of 10 million birds. Over 90% of Ugandan chicken are indigenous stock reared under the Backyard system (Olaboro, 1990), producing an average of 50 eggs per hen per year. Village poultry production plays a significant role in income generation and poverty alleviation in a condition where many people are landless or have no formal skills to participate in income earning activities (Aklilu *et al.*, 2008).

In a number of African countries, approximately 80% of the chicken flocks are owned and largely controlled and managed by rural women (Gueye, 1998). According to (Gueye, 2003), the management of rural chicken in Africa is a family affair. Construction of chicken house and major decisions on sale of chicken and eggs and consumption of chicken products is under the control of men, while looking after chicken, controlling and utilizing the earnings from the sale of eggs and chicken belongs to women.

Similarly, (Tadelle & Ogle, 2001) indicated that in Ethiopia, management of chicken is fully in the domain of women, while decision on control and access to resources varies considerably. (Kitalyi & Andre, 1998) also reported that there is gender plurality in decision-making in village chicken production in the Gambia. Generally speaking, societies view men and women differently (Wombeogo, 2007).

However, production levels of rural poultry in many African countries fall far below desirable levels, the production system is still very backward and suffers a serious setback such as poor management practice, malnutrition, disease and predation (Permin and Hansen, 1998).

Therefore the overall objective of this study is to identify the roles played by the different gender and/or other family members in rural poultry production with the sole aim of suggesting improvement strategies.

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