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Women empowerment for gender equality: an exploration of the contribution of empowerment initiatives in Kole District, Northern Uganda

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Abstract:

This paper explores the contributions of women empowerment initiatives to gender equality in Northern Uganda, with a specific focus on Kole District. Using a mixed-method approach, data were collected through key informant interviews, focus group discussions, and questionnaires. The study's objectives were to assess political, economic, legal, and socio-cultural empowerment initiatives and their impact on women's roles in the community. Findings indicate that while progress has been made in gender equality, significant barriers remain, particularly in access to resources, political representation, and the distribution of opportunities. Respondents highlighted that current empowerment efforts benefit elite and urban women more than rural and marginalized groups. Challenges related to cultural norms, legal enforcement, and economic disparities were prominent, with suggestions for inclusive policies that prioritize grassroots women's empowerment. The study concludes by recommending enhanced enforcement of legal frameworks, increased financial literacy programs, and more equitable access to resources as essential for achieving true gender equality in the region.

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