

## OWARDS THE SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF UPE: THE PIVOTAL ROLE OF STAKEHOLDER MANAGEMENT

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### ABSTRACT

This study looks at how stakeholder management can be used as a conduit for improving UPE (Universal Primary Education) in Uganda. The study adopted both qualitative and quantitative research methods in data collection, analysis and presentation. Qualitative research methods were used in reviewing literature gathered from journals, the ministry of education Uganda and other internet sources. On the other hand, quantitative research methods involved the use of survey questionnaires in collecting data. Further quantitative data analysis methods were used that included descriptive statistics such as frequencies, percentages, and correlation and regression analysis methods. The study sample included 181 UPE schools operating in Wakiso district in central Uganda. Wakiso is an urban district located in Central Uganda. The district has a total of 342 UPE schools. Out of the 342 schools, 181 were selected using simple random sampling method. The 181 were determined based on Morgan and Krejcie (1970) sampling table. Descriptive statistics, including means, percentages and frequencies were used to analyze the data. Further, inferential statistics such as correlation and regression were used to analyze the relationship between study variables. Findings revealed that there is a significant positive relationship between stakeholder management and UPE success ( $r = .267, p < .01$ ). This means that when stakeholders are well managed, UPE will succeed and also when they are poorly managed, UPE is likely to fail. The results also show that the Stakeholder management predicts UPE success (Beta = .481, Sig.  $< .01$ ). This implies that in order to ensure that the UPE is successfully implemented; there is need for better management of stakeholders and high engagement levels among stakeholders.

**Keywords:** Project management, Stakeholder management, UPE, UPE success, Uganda.