Open Data Initiatives and Governance Transparency in Uganda: A Policy Perspective

Orika Lutwami[1], Kizza Mukiibi[2,3], Nakigugha Kirya[4], Muhimuza Kasozi[4]

[1] Department of Artificial Intelligence, Kyambogo University, Kampala

[2] Mbarara University of Science and Technology

[3] National Agricultural Research Organisation (NARO)

[4] Kyambogo University, Kampala

Author notes

Orika Lutwami is affiliated with Department of Artificial Intelligence, Kyambogo University, Kampala and focuses on Computer Science research in Africa.

Kizza Mukiibi is affiliated with Mbarara University of Science and Technology and focuses on Computer Science research in Africa.

Nakigugha Kirya is affiliated with Kyambogo University, Kampala and focuses on Computer Science research in Africa.

Muhimuza Kasozi is affiliated with Kyambogo University, Kampala and focuses on Computer Science research in Africa.

Abstract

Open data initiatives have become increasingly important for fostering transparency in government operations and enhancing public trust. Qualitative analysis of existing literature and semi-structured interviews were conducted to understand the role of open data initiatives in promoting accountability and participation among Ugandan citizens. Findings suggest that while open data policies have led to increased government transparency, there remains a significant gap in public awareness and engagement with these initiatives. The study concludes that enhancing public understanding and encouraging active participation are key to maximising the benefits of open data initiatives for governance transparency. Recommendations include strengthening educational programmes on open data and fostering collaborative platforms between government agencies and civil society organizations. Open Data, Governance Transparency, Uganda, Public Engagement Model estimation used $\hat{\theta} = argmin\{\theta\} \, sumiell(\, yi, f\theta(\xi)) + \lambda lVert\theta rVert 2^2$, with performance evaluated using out-of-sample error.

Keywords: *African Development, Governance Studies, Open Data, Transparency, Policy Analysis, Qualitative Research, Public Administration*

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