

**THE CONTRIBUTION OF UBUDEHE CATEGORIZATION TO  
SUSTAINING SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RWANDA**

**A CASE STUDY OF GASABO DISTRICT**

**2017-2023**

**BY**

**HIRWA Ephrem**

Thesis Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Academic Requirements for the  
Award of Master's Degree in Development Studies

**KIGALI INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY ULK**

OCTOBER 2023

**DECLARATION**

This research study is a result of my original work and has not been presented to any other Institution. No part of this research should be reproduced without the authors' consent or that of Kigali Independent University ULK.

Student's Name: Ephrem HIRWA

Sign..... Date.....

## APPROVAL

I confirm that the work reported in this thesis “**Contribution of Ubudehe categorization in sustaining socio-economic development of Rwanda, a case study of Gasabo District, (2019-2023)**” has been carried out by Ephrem HIRWA under my supervision.

Supervisor: Dr. Marcel BAHIZI

Date .....

Sign: .....

## **DEDICATION**

To

My wife,

My children,

My parents,

My brothers and sisters

My dear friends.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My sincere gratitude goes out to the Almighty God, who created everything and inspired wisdom and intelligence. I want to convey my deep gratitude to ULK and its team for providing me with all the necessary and pertinent information.

My special gratitude goes to the founder and President of ULK Prof. Dr. Rugamba Balinda.

I want to sincerely thank Dr. BAHIZI Marcel, who is my supervisor, for his unfailing support, counsel, and patience. I want to express my gratitude for the data in particular to the Gasabo District management, who agreed to accommodate me there during my research period.

I am incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported me throughout, especially the group at ULK with whom I struggled. Your intellectual support and the joint learning experiences you and I had were crucial to my academic success.

My sincere thanks go to all those people whose names are not listed, but who have contributed and encouraged me with their moral and material support.

May God bless all of you abundantly!!!

HIRWA Ephrem

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION .....	i
DEDICATION .....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	v
LIST OF TABLES .....	xi
LIST OF FIGURES .....	xii
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS .....	xiii
ABSTRACT .....	xv
CHAPTER 1: GENERAL INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.0. Introduction .....	1
1.1 Background to the study .....	1
1.2 Problem statement .....	5
1.3 Objectives of the study .....	6
1.3.1 General objective .....	6
1.3.2 Specific objectives .....	6
1.4 Research questions .....	6
1.5 Scope of the study .....	7
1.5.1. Geographical scope .....	7
1.5.2. Scope in domain .....	7

1.5.3. Time scope .....	8
1.6. Significance of the study.....	8
1.7. Organization of the Study .....	8
CHAPTER 2:LITEARTURE REVIEW .....	9
2.0. Introduction.....	9
2.1 Conceptual review .....	9
2.1.1. Ubudehe categorization approach.....	9
2.1.1.1. Practice of Ubudehe.....	11
2.1.1.2. Ubudehe categories and determining inequality.....	11
2.1.1.3. Ubudehe: The Community Plays an Active Role in Solving Problems at Cell Level.....	12
2.1.1.4. Umudugudu, Ubudehe and Social Policy Making In Rwanda .....	13
2.1.1.5. Ubudehe Categories from 2020 Onwards.....	16
2.1.2.Socio-economic innovative neo-traditional cultural programs for inclusion of vulnerable people and sustainable development of Gasabo District .....	17
2.1.2.1. Umuganda .....	17
2.1.2.2. Vision Umurenge Programme – VUP .....	18
2.1.2.3. Abunzi (Community mediators) .....	19
2.1.2.4. Imihigo (performance contract) .....	20
2.1.2.5. Girinka (‘One cow per poor family’ programme) .....	21
2.1.2.5. Traditional medicine .....	21

2.1.2.6. Itorero (civic education).....	22
2.1.2.7. Umushyikirano(National dialogue council).....	23
2.1.2.8. Umwisherero (National leadership retreat) .....	23
2.1.3. The extent to which Ubudehe program contribute socio-economic impact of vulnerable people and development .....	24
2.1.3.1. Socio-Economic impact of the Ubudehe Programme.....	25
2.1.3.2. Contribution of Ubudehe to Poverty Reduction: Perspectives from the Grassroots .....	26
2.1.4. Challenges of the Ubudehe Approach .....	26
2.2 Theoretical review .....	28
2.2.1 Social Well-being Theory .....	29
2.2.2 Quality of Life Theory .....	29
2.2.3. Inclusive Development Theory.....	31
2.2.4. Citizen Participation Theory .....	31
2.3 Empirical Review.....	33
2.4. Critical review and research gap.....	33
2.5 Conceptual Framework.....	35
CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY .....	36
3.0 Introduction.....	36
3.1 Research approach .....	36
3.3 Target population .....	36



3.4.1. Sample size .....	38
3.4.1. Sampling techniques .....	39
3.5. Data collection instruments.....	40
3.5.1. Documentation technique .....	40
3.5.2. Questionnaire technique.....	40
3.5.3. Interview technique.....	41
3.6. Reliability.....	42
3.7. Validity .....	43
3.8 Data Analysis .....	43
3.9. Limitations of the study .....	43
3.10. Ethical consideration.....	44
<b>CHAPTER 4: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS.....</b>	<b>45</b>
4.0 Introduction.....	45
4.1. Demographic characteristics of respondents .....	45
4.2.1. Reasons why Ubudehe categorization programs was implemented in Gasabo District.....	48
4.2.2. Ubudehe socio-economic programs for sustainable development of Gasabo District .....	50
4.2.3. The extent to which Ubudehe categorization program contribute to socio-economic of vulnerable people and development of Gasabo District .....	52
4.2.3.1. Social contribution of Ubudehe categorization program .....	52

4.2.3.1.2. Ubudehe categorization and availability of living place (accommodation) and animals husbandry .....	54
4.2.3.1.3. Ubudehe categorization and education .....	57
4.2.3.1.4. Ubudehe categorization and health .....	60
4.2.3.2. Economic contribution of Ubudehe categorization program .....	61
4.2.3.2.1. Employment creation among poor people in Gasabo District .....	62
4.2.3.2.2. Ubudehe category and financial services .....	64
4.2.3.2.3. Ubudehe category and income generating activities .....	65
4.2.4. The challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District. ....	70
4.2.5. Strategies to overcome challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District..	72
<b>CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>75</b>
5.0 Introduction .....	75
5.1. Summary of findings .....	75
5.1.1. Reasons Ubudehe categorization programs was implemented in Gasabo District .....	75
5.1.2. Ubudehe socio-economic programs in Gasabo District .....	76
5.1.3. The extent to which Ubudehe categorization program contribute to socio-economic of vulnerable people and development of Gasabo District, .....	77
5.1.4. The challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District .....	81
5.1.5. The strategies to overcome the challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District .....	82

5.2. Conclusion ..... 83

5.3. Recommendations..... 86

5.4. For Further Studies ..... 87

REFERENCES ..... 88

APPENDICES ..... 92

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1. Ubudehe: poverty characteristics of households in Rwanda .....	12
Table 3.2. Sampling and sample size.....	39
Table 4.3. Gender of respondents by ubudehe category.....	45
Table 4.4. Age of respondents .....	46
Table 4.5. Education background of respondents by Ubudehe category.....	47
Table 4.6. Reason why Ubudehe categorization programs was implemented in Gasabo District	48
Table 4.7. Ubudehe socio-economic programs in Gasabo District. ....	50
Table 4.8. Ubudehe categorization and food security among marginalized people .....	53
Table 4. 9. Ubudehe categorization and availability of living place and animals husbandry.....	55
Table 4.10. Ubudehe categorization and education .....	58
Table 4.11. Ubudehe categorization and health.....	60
Table 4.12. Employment creation among poor people of Gasabo District.....	62
Table 4.13. Ubudehe category and financial services.....	64
Table 4.14. Ubudehe category and income generating activities .....	66
Table 4. 15. Correlation matrix between ubudehe categorization and socio-economic development.....	67
Table 4.16. Regression model Summary .....	68
Table 4.17. ANOVA Table .....	69
Table 4.18. Coefficients of regression model on economic development of rural areas .....	69
Table 4.19. The challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District. ....	70
Table 4.20. Strategies to overcome challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District.....	73

**LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework ..... 35

## ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CBOs	: Community Based Organisations
ADB	: Asian Development Bank
ANOVA	: Analysis of Variance
CHPs	: Health Planning and Services
FAO	: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FGDs	: Focus Group Discussions
GoR	: Government of Rwanda
HIV/AIDS	: Human Immunodeficiency Virus / Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
MIGEPROF	: Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion
MINALOC	: Ministry of Local Governance
MINECOFIN	: Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
NGOs	: Non-Government Organisations
OSSREA	: Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa
PROSOWO	: Professional Social Work in East Africa
PRSP	: Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
Rfw	: Rwandan Francs
RGB	: Rwanda Governance Board
RLDSF	: Rwanda Local Development Support Fund
SACCO	: Saving and Credit Cooperatives
SPSS	: Statistical Package for Social Sciences
STEM	: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

UNDP : United Nations Development Programme  
UR : University OF Rwanda  
VUP : Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme  
WHO : World Health Organization

## ABSTRACT

The main purpose for this study was to assess the contribution of Ubudehe categorization on the socio-economic development of Rwanda, case study of Gasabo District. In particular, it sought To examine the reason Ubudehe categorization programs was implemented in Gasabo District, to assess Ubudehe socio-economic programs in Gasabo District, to determine the extent to which Ubudehe categorization programs contribute to socio-economic sustainability of vulnerable people and development of Gasabo District, to find out the challenges of Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District and to demonstrate the strategies to overcome the challenges to Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District. The study used descriptive research design and the population of this research was 870548 population of Gasabo Distruct while the sample size was 400 respondents selected using cluster and convenience sampling techniques. Data were obtained using different approaches including questionnaire surveys and interviews. The study found that ubudehe (collective action to reduce poverty), gacaca (informal conflict settlement arrangements), imihigo (competitive performance contracts and accountability mechanisms), itorero (cultural mentoring and leadership training) and umuganda (communal work), and others were first presented as practical ways of overcoming the immense challenges faced by Rwanda at the turn of the century. The ubudehe program was re-introduced to address rural poverty through community action, creating empowerment and participatory democracy. The ubudehe programme also helps the most vulnerable people in the community to acquire shelter. Community members, either through ubudehe or umuganda (communal work), come together, make bricks, or gather other construction materials to construct the house. The ubudehe funds are then used to buy iron sheets and other required construction materials which the individual or the family cannot afford. Another component of ubudehe is what is known as direct support or emergency fund (Inkunga y'ingoboka). The direct support targets families in the first category of ubudehe, a household with no working family members; these include households headed by children, very old or physically disabled people. Unrealistic categorisation of families into *ubudehe* categories and complaints to change categories and petty corruption and proposal to get lower categories were identified as challenges in the Implementation of Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District. Local authorities should paying poor people well and at the time whenever they are given jobs in public works and services. Marginalize people should valuing the assistance that the government allocates to them, they take their hands out of their pockets in order to develop themselves, fight against poverty and ignorance, and issue the sustainable development of their families.

**Key words:** Ubudehe, Ubudehe categorization, social development, economic development



## **CHAPTER 1:**

### **GENERAL INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.0. Introduction**

This chapter presents background to the study, the problem statement, objectives of the study, research questions and the significance of the study. The chapter further presents limitations of the study as well as the scope of the study.

#### **1.1 Background to the study**

Over 90 per cent of Rwanda's mostly agrarian population lives in rural areas. In 2003, the World Bank's World Development Indicators stated that 'approximately 85% of Rwanda's population lives on less than two dollars a day, and 36% lives on less than one dollar a day; of the poor, 96% live in rural areas and life expectancy is 49 years' (World Bank, 2003). Ten years later in 2013, the same report notes an improvement in life expectancy from 49 to 62 years, with the percentage of poor people pegged at 44.5 per cent (World Bank., 2013). Aid represents up to 40 per cent of Rwanda's national budget, with 65 per cent of aid spent by government agencies (Oxfam, 2013).

Rwanda is a country that has come a long way after the internal strife of the early 90s. As signalled by Tony Blair in 2014, today the country is a beacon of hope and progress has been extraordinary "as Rwandans themselves have shaped the policy to heal the nation". In fact, Rwanda's development since the genocide in 1994 is a unique story of social and economic progress based on the country's core values of self-sufficiency (kwigira) and dignity (agaciro), resilience, determination and hard work. These values have been the basis on which home-grown

solutions have been built, and which also show that non-STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) disciplines can be rallied to drive economic transformation (Bizoza, 2016).

During the genocide, one million people perished and three million were internally or externally displaced. The economy shrank by half down to the second lowest per capita income in the world, four-fifths of the population lived below the poverty line and life expectancy fell to below 30 years. This situation reversed radically after the conflict, thanks to prudent micro- and macroeconomic policies, strategies, laws, regulations and institutional restructuring, which coupled with a favourable international context and the contribution of better-managed foreign aid –have created a conducive environment for the acceleration of the Rwandan economy. Simultaneously, social advances took place, with important improvements in health and education systems, all of which had a direct positive impact on communities’ livelihoods (GoR, 2013).

Despite these developments, there remain challenges to be faced in the short, middle and long terms to achieve a middle-income status by 2020, and to transform into an active knowledge-based economy as proposed in Vision 2020 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (SDGs). The national objectives for 2020 set in 2000 include increasing per capita income to US\$900 from US\$220 in 2000; reducing the poverty rate to 30% from 60.4%; and increasing the average life expectancy to 64 years from 49 years (GoR., 2007).

As part of the effort to reconstruct Rwanda and nurture a shared national identity after the 1994 genocide, the Government of Rwanda has drawn on aspects of Rwandan culture and traditional practices. Therefore, the cultural context was made a strong basis from which home-grown solutions to fulfil needs would emerge. After the genocide, these solutions were understood as

culturally owned practices aimed to translate sustainable development programmes into practice. In addition to contributing valuable inputs to Rwanda's reconstruction and development, homegrown solutions came together with insightful approaches that successfully mobilise citizens' participation towards their own development (Ndahiro and Nkusi, 2015).

Under the framework of the PROSOWO project (Professional Social Work in East Africa), an empirical study on indigenous and innovative models of social work practice was undertaken. Field data was collected on traditional/indigenous approaches from different categories of informants through focus group discussions (FGDs) and personal interviews. Initial findings established that development programmes in place are informed by cultural practices and are more or less similar to social work models of helping individuals, families, and communities (European Commission, 2006).

The *ubudehe* concept is very inclusive, covering men, women, and all social groups, including the most marginalised community members. It also extends to those who are very poor or incapacitated so that they, too, can participate in the collective action. After the group completed their fields, they moved on to the fields of those who had not been able to participate directly. A successful harvest was then celebrated with *umuganura* (a celebration of the harvest, a day that is still celebrated in Rwanda on every first Friday of August) made from collecting contributions from everyone's first harvest (Republic of Rwanda, 2016a).

The innovative use of neo-traditional cultural institutions as operational tools to support the implementation of the country's poverty reduction and development strategies was born out of the national dialogue known as *umushikirano* which took place in Urugwiro, the President's office. Habiyonizeye and Mugunga (2012) contend that it was during these dialogue meetings that *ubudehe* (collective action to reduce poverty), *gacaca* (informal conflict settlement

arrangements), imihigo (competitive performance contracts and accountability mechanisms), itorero (cultural mentoring and leadership training) and umuganda (communal work), and others were first presented as practical ways of overcoming the immense challenges faced by Rwanda at the turn of the century (Habiyonizeye and Mugunga, 2012).

All the traditional approaches mentioned above were re-introduced after the 1994 genocide to help in the reconstruction of the country after the atrocities, which left around one million people dead, three million refugees, ten thousand people in prison on genocide-related charges, a large number of widows and orphans, as well as leaving the country in a state of extreme poverty (OSSREA, 2006). The ubudehe approach was re-introduced to address rural poverty through community action, creating empowerment and participatory democracy (European Commission, 2006). What should be mentioned here is that ubudehe features in a number of national programmes, strategies and policies related to economic development and poverty reduction. Some of these strategies include the Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (1 and 2), Vision 2020 Umurenge, community development policy, health insurance scheme, and others (OSSREA, 2006).

Ubudehe as an approach to poverty reduction started as a pilot project in Butare, southern Rwanda, as part of the Participatory Poverty Assessment to provide background data for the PRSP. Although poverty has reduced and proportion living in extreme poverty has reduced since Ubudehe exercise in 2011, understanding the extent to which these Ubudehe characteristics are useful in distinguishing between the poor and non-poor raised a concern (RGB, 2013).

## **1.2 Problem statement**

Of all the risks facing poor households, health risks pose the greatest threat to the lives and livelihoods of citizens in any given economy (Tabor, 2015). According to Carrin(2003), scarce economic resources, low or modest economic growth, constraints on the public sector and low organizational capacity explain why the design of adequate health financing systems in developing countries, especially the low income ones, remains cumbersome and the subject of significant debate (Carrin, 2013).

In the event that community members dispute the decision made by their village, they are entitled to lodge a complaint and appeal in the first instance to the sector level. The Ubudehe Committee at the sector level conducts a visit to the household and either upholds the original decision or issues a new decision. If community members remain unhappy with the sector-level decision, they can appeal again, but this time to the district level.

Some village members made attempts to be classified into lower categories than would be appropriate given their true socioeconomic status, in order to benefit from support from social security programmes.

### **1.3 Objectives of the study**

#### **1.3.1 General objective**

The general objective of this research is to assess the contribution of Ubudehe categorization to the socio-economic development of Rwanda, case study of Gasabo District.

#### **1.3.2 Specific objectives**

The research was guided by the following specific objectives;

1. To examine reasons Ubudehe categorization programs was implemented in Gasabo District
2. To assess Ubudehe socio-economic programs in Gasabo District.
3. To determine the extent to which Ubudehe categorization programs contribute to socio-economic sustainability of vulnerable people and development of Gasabo District
4. To find out the challenges of Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District.
5. To demonstrate the strategies to overcome the challenges to Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District

### **1.4 Research questions**

This research has been carried out with the following research questions

1. What reasons Ubudehe categorization programs was implemented in Gasabo District?
2. What are the ubudehe socio-economic programs in Gasabo District?
3. To what extent do Ubudehe categorization programs contribute to socio-economic sustainability of vulnerable people and development of Gasabo District?
4. What are the challenges of Ubudehe categorization programs in Gasabo District?

5. What are the strategies to overcome the challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District?

## **1.5 Scope of the study**

The research was limited in terms of content, geography and time, this was done to make the research remained clearer and focused.

### **1.5.1. Geographical scope**

Gasabo District is one of the three Districts of City of Kigali, with 15 sectors, 73 cells and 481 villages (imidugudu). It is bordered by Kicukiro district (South), Nyarugenge (West), Rwamagana (East) and Rulindo and Gicumbi (North). The district's landscape or surface area is 429.2 km<sup>2</sup> of which a big portion is rural while the small portion represents the developed urban area. It has 15 sectors which are Bumbogo, Gatsata, Gikomero, Gisozi, Jabana, Kacyiru, Kimihurura, Kimironko, Kinyinya, Ndera, Nduba, Remera, Rutunda and Rusororo.

### **1.5.2. Scope in domain**

The study brought on the socio-economic development and mainly focuses on the contribution of Ubudehe categorization on the socio-economic sustainability of Rwanda, case study of Gasabo District. Therefore, the focus was based mainly on study objectives of assessing socio-economic innovative neo-traditional cultural programs for inclusion of vulnerable people and sustainable development of Gasabo District, to assess the relationship between Ubudehe categorization and socio-economic of vulnerable people and sustainability of Gasabo District and to identify the challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District.

### **1.5.3. Time scope**

The study covered the period of seven years from 2019 - 2023. This period especially interested the researcher because it is new-Ubudehe categorization project is introduced 2019. Ubudehe is a social stratification programme depending on income among households. The new five categories are represented by letters A, B, C, D, and E; with A consisting of households with the highest income, while E consists of those who are the most vulnerable in the society.

### **1.6. Significance of the study**

This study was the benefit of the researcher, future researchers, Kigali Independent University, Society, future researchers and the public in different ways including the following: Through this study, the researcher improved or increased her understanding in the field of Ubudehe categorization on the socio-economic sustainability of Rwanda. The researcher fulfilled partial requirements for the award of a Master's Degree in Development Studies of Kigali Independent University. Future researchers on Ubudehe categorization on the socio-economic sustainability of Rwanda used this research for reference. The research was also form a basis for future understanding of the role played by Ubudehe categorization by promoting socio-economic sustainability of Rwanda. The Government of the Republic of Rwanda may use this research to know the contribution of Ubudehe categorization by promoting socio-economic sustainability. The public may use this research to know the important role played by w Ubudehe categorization by promoting socio-economic sustainability in Rwanda.

### **1.7. Organization of the Study**

The research is in five chapters, the first chapter presents the introduction and background to the study, the second chapter presents the review of related literature while the third presents the research methodology. Chapter four presents analyse and interprets the collected data while chapter five presents the conclusion and recommendations of the study.



## **CHAPTER 2: LITEARTURE REVIEW**

### **2.0. Introduction**

This chapter presents the review of literature related to the contribution of Ubudehe categorization on the socio-economic sustainability of Rwanda, the review of literature was done in relation to the study objectives and therefore the researcher looked socio-economic innovative neo-traditional cultural programs for inclusion of vulnerable people and sustainable development of Gasabo District; the relationship between Ubudehe categorization and socio-economic of vulnerable people and sustainability of Gasabo District and challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District.

### **2.1 Conceptual review**

Through this conceptual literature review is the researcher categorize and describe concepts relevant to the study or topic and outline a relationship between them, including relevant theory and empirical research regarding to ubudehe categorization and socio-economic sustainability. And is from this conceptual literature review the research objectives were described.

#### **2.1.1. Ubudehe categorization approach**

From the colonial era until the pre-genocide era, Rwanda operated a strongly centralized and authoritarian system of government. Excluded from decision-making, citizens imbibed a culture of silence and forced obedience. The absence of citizens' voices in governance has been linked to the massive death and destruction orchestrated by the genocidal regime of 1994 (Mamdani, 2002). One of the immediate challenges for Rwanda's post-genocide administration therefore was how to reintroduce a culture of citizen participation in governance in modern-day democracy. Ubudehe was introduced as one of the methods.

Ubudehe's history dates back to ancient Rwanda and this term refers to the practice of communities collectively digging farmlands to loosen the soil prior to the commencement of the rainy and planting seasons. Regardless of the number of people in a household vis-à-vis the size of the farm, the united nature of Ubudehe work ensured that all farmlands within the community were jointly cultivated prior to the planting season; the poor and vulnerable members of society such as childless aged persons, the infirm, and widows were well taken care of as a result of Ubudehe (RGB, 2013).

Ubudehe was reintroduced into the present-day consciousness of Rwandans in 2009. Ubudehe came about as part of government efforts to decentralize and bring decision-making and services as close as possible to the people, and to create the necessary climate for local communities to take decisions regarding their development (RGB, 2013). According to the Ubudehe concept note, 'the aim of the Ubudehe process as it has been designed in Rwanda is to build on the positive aspects of Rwanda's history and complement it with modern participatory techniques, which have proven their worth in community development' (MINALOC, 2009).

Ubudehe's basic functions begin at the lowest level of administration, the village (umudugudu) which was created in 2006, when Rwandan government reforms sought to bring governance closer to the people. A total of 14,837 villages were created throughout the country with each village consisting of a cluster of 100–150 households (MINALOC, 2009). The current administrative structure of Rwanda can be seen as Government 1, Provinces (including Kigali) 5, Districts 30, Sectors 416, Cellules 2148 and Villages (Umudugudu) 14,837.

By targeting communities at the village level, Ubudehe penetrates right down to the lowest decentralized structure of local government. The ultimate aim is that Ubudehe becomes a tool for bottom-up planning and policy-making (RGB, 2013).

### **2.1.1.1. Practice of Ubudehe**

Ubudehe is a Rwandan practice and a cultural value of mutual assistance among people living in the same area in order to overcome or solve their socio-economic problems. In the past, Ubudehe was pre-occupied in agricultural activities to ensure timely agricultural operations for food security purposes. As a form of social capital, Ubudehe involved trust and reciprocity. The practice of Ubudehe in the traditional context was a mechanism of bringing together the community, sharing the burden of problem solving, maintaining social norms, social cohesion and ensuring social control among communities living together (Niringye, 2012).

The main pillars of social protection consist of eradication of extreme poverty and ensuring prosperity and wellbeing for everyone, but all these cannot be achieved without a fundamental baseline that is based on poverty levels amongst Rwandan population. The Ubudehe categorization was first established by the Government of Rwanda in 2000 as part of the strategies to address poverty reduction and recently these categories were revised from four numerical naming to five letters (A, B, C, D, E) (Niringiye, 2012).

### **2.1.1.2. Ubudehe categories and determining inequality**

The discussion with a representative of the Local Administrative Development Entities (LODA) was focusing on putting clear distinctions between the new Ubudehe categories and the previous ones as well as tackling the issue of new aspects and what the general public should expect from the new categorization.

At the end of year 2020, all people in Rwandan are giving the main information with categorization in new ubudehe programme 2020. The local government leadership with Loda helps the people to get all information in collaboration LODA and MINALOC. The challenges demonstrate how a process of community consultation and participation is able to identify and

rank community members according to “social poverty”, drawing on the Ubudehe tradition which is considered a strength of Rwanda’s social fabric (Republic of Rwanda., 2007).

There were now four Ubudehe poverty categories which started in February 2015; these were as follows:

**Table 2.1. Ubudehe: poverty characteristics of households in Rwanda**

Category name and number	Characteristics
Umutindi Nyakuja	Destitute. Need to beg to survive. Have no land or livestock. Lack adequate shelter, clothing, and food. Fall sick often and have no access to medical care. Children are malnourished and they cannot afford to send them to school. Not respected. Discriminated against.
Umutindi (the very poor)	The main difference between the Umutindi and the Umutindi Nyakuja is that this group is physically capable of working on land owned by others, although they themselves have either no land, or a very small landholding, and no livestock. They suffer from low harvests and also have no access to health care or schooling.
Umukene (the poor)	These households have some land and housing. They live on their own labour and produce. Though they have no savings, they can eat, even if the food is not very nutritious. However, they do not have a surplus to sell in the market. Their children do not always go to school and they often have access to healthcare.
Umukene Wifashije (the resourceful poor)	This group shares many of the characteristics of the Umukene, but, in addition, they have small ruminants and their children go to primary school. They have a few animals and petty income to satisfy a few other needs.
Umukungu (the food rich)	This group has larger land holdings with fertile soil and enough to eat. They have livestock, often have paid jobs, and can access health care. They employ others on own farms and at times have access to paid employment. They have some savings.
Umukire (the money rich)	This group has land and livestock and often has salaried jobs. They have good housing, often own a vehicle, and have enough money to lend and to get credit from the bank. Many migrate to urban centres.

Source: Rwanda MINECOFIN (2002).

### **2.1.1.3. Ubudehe: The Community Plays an Active Role in Solving Problems at Cell Level**

The Ubudehe Program was launched in 2001 as part of partnership between the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning and the Ministry of Local Government in a bid to draft the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, PRSP. During field visits of Ubudehe facilitators to people in

their cells, they are empowered to discuss the characteristics of poverty and their role in poverty reduction (Martin, 2005).

When Ubudehe was launched into Rwandan life it was as way to better involve communities in their development by setting up participatory problem solving mechanisms. The program was seen as a way to strengthen democratic processes and good governance through greater community involvement in decision making. Ubudehe creates opportunities for people at all levels of society, especially the village level, to interact with one another, share ideas, create institutions and make decisions for their collective development. Ubudehe is one of Rwanda's best known Home Grown Solution because of its participatory development approach to poverty reduction. In 2008, the program won the United Nations Public Service Award for excellence in service delivery. Today Ubudehe is one of the country's core development programs (Kalinganire, 2015).

This process was named UBUDEHE with reference to the Rwandan culture of mutual assistance and conviviality whereby people would come together to address problems facing them so as to work for their development. In a remote past, Rwandan people resorted to UBUDEHE mainly in agricultural and house building activities as the latter were the main activities of the time. Nowadays, Rwandans are faced with various problems (construction of roads, ensuring child education, health facilities, security...) which require combined efforts to address them as was the case in the past when people resorted to UBUDEHE (Kalinganire, 2015).

#### **2.1.1.4. Umudugudu, Ubudehe and Social Policy Making In Rwanda**

The government of Rwanda's efforts at establishing grassroots participation and capitalizing on indigenous knowledge or homegrown ideas in social policy action centers around the Ubudehe categorization of poverty at the lowest administrative unit, the Umudugudu. Ubudehe was drawn

from ancient Rwandan history and can be rightly described as an indigenous knowledge and grassroots based approach to community development which has been scaled up to conform to the requirements of modern rural administration and grassroots governance (Martin, 2005).

Historically, Ubudehe is a term used to refer to the culture of collective work by community members aimed at either addressing general challenges or to assist individual households who are short of labour to address their own challenges. Ubudehe in the area of agriculture, for instance, would see some members of community coming together to assist vulnerable households such as the handicapped, aged and widows to cultivate their land at no cost. The idea is that any member of the community could be in need of community efforts and that the community should be available to assist Bizoza (2010).

Ubudehe categorization much more than any other governmental policy, Ubudehe plays a central role in determining the flow of government resources aimed at social protection. To a large extent, it determines the politics of who gets what and how at the grassroots level. Presently, the government channels its health insurance policy, cash transfer, credit scheme, public works and education bursary assistance through the Ubudehe categorization. It was marred by over-dependency on the government, and slow graduation of communities from poverty (Charles, Dallery, & Marie, 2014). Each of these is discussed in more detail in the next segment. The categorization of Ubudehe from inception until February 2015 was based on the six following categories:

- 1) Umitindi Nyakuja:handicapped, destitute and beggars who depend on alms for survival
- 2) Umutindi:able to work but little or no land and no health insurance
- 3) Umukene:no savings but access to regular if less nutritious meals, often no health insurance and limited access to education for school age children

4) Umukene Wifashije: owners of small land holdings with children of school age able to attend primary school, may have small savings

5) Umukungu: owners of large land holdings and livestock, gainfully employed and employ farm hands on own farms, health insurance and school fees are guaranteed

6) Umukire: wealthy with good housing, automobile and access to credit. In

February 2015, the Minister for Local Government and Social Affairs launched a new categorization for Ubudehe.

Reasons advanced for the new categorization include the fact that the general economic status of Rwandans had risen dramatically over the five years since the previous categorization. The enhanced living standards have been attributed to several factors, including numerous social protection policies of the government, such as Girinka and the Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme (VUP). Other reasons include the fact that under the previous categorization, many people resisted being classified due to the derogatory names attached to the different levels. For instance, the first level, Abatindi Nyakuja, is a Kinyarwanda term for those without hands and feet, meaning one who is helpless and without hope (KPMG, 2008).

Being a people whose culture is firmly founded in dignity and self-respect, many Rwandans at the community level fought against being rightfully categorized due to the stigma attached to such terms, while some sought and tried to influence being placed in categories of a much higher economic status than they belonged as that will increase their respect in the eyes of other villagers. The new categorization is as below: Category 1: Very poor and vulnerable citizens who are homeless and unable to feed themselves without assistance. Category 2: Citizens who are able to afford some form of rented or low class owned accommodation, but who are not gainfully employed and can only afford to eat once or twice a day. Category 3: Citizens who are gainfully employed or are even employers of labour (KPMG, 2008).

### **2.1.1.5. Ubudehe Categories from 2020 Onwards**

The new 2020 categorisation attempts to fairly re-classify households according to their socioeconomic status. A common complaint was that households with different welfare levels were classified in the same category; another was that households in category 1 and 2 had almost the same standards of living.

The new Ubudehe approach puts emphasis on the graduation principle, fostering upward social mobility. The new model seeks to be cost-effective, evenly spreads resources, and assigns roles and tasks across all categories. Category names have also been changed from numerical numbers to letters.

A & B: These categories of households have diverse life choices and are self-reliant in ways that can also spur community empowerment and help other households graduate from poverty. Households in categories A and B do not benefit from social protection schemes but are expected to be partners in community development through their own investments and skills, which can create jobs through application of corporate social responsibility principles.

C & D: these two categories are self-reliant households but that also benefit from social protection interventions and multi-sectoral interventions; but to do so they must also sign performance contracts (Imihigo) containing a plan for graduation from this assistance within a period of 2 years. These categories will have graduation as the main focus.

Special category (E): This category of households is expected to benefit from full state social protection; individuals in this category are not expected to graduate and will thus not be obliged to sign performance contracts. This is a new category; those in it may be aged, vulnerable or may have no skills to pursue any job. These households will benefit from full state social protection, accessing everything from the Vision 2020 Umurenge programme, subsidies for solar based



domestic electrical systems, Community-Based Health Insurance, fortified blended foods, Girinka, and other schemes.

The majority of literature and journalistic pieces refer to Ubudehe as a “revived traditional practice”. Indeed, the literal origins of the word refer to it being a Rwandan practice and cultural value of working together to solve problems, traditionally digging fields collectively before the rains came and the planting season began. It is considered a “home-grown initiative”, aiming to nurture citizen participation in development through collective action, with roots in the Rwandan tradition where people used to sit together to analyze their problems and help each other in problem-solving at a local level.

### **2.1.2.Socio-economic innovative neo-traditional cultural programs for inclusion of vulnerable people and sustainable development of Gasabo District**

#### **2.1.2.1. Umuganda**

Umuganda is a traditional Rwandan practice and cultural value of working together to solve problems in a shorter time than it would take for an individual to solve them. Umuganda embodies the ideas of mutual assistance, mutual social responsibility, social obligation, self-help and traditional strategies for development. In Rwanda, striving for the common good relates to creating a sense of peace and responsibility in the community. Umuganda is regarded as crucial for economic and social development, and involves Rwandans between the ages of 18 and 65. Supervision of its implementation is carried out by village leaders, who compare what has been done with what is expected, as it appears in the performance contracts (Barnhart, 2011).

Over 400 offices of microfinance institutions, the so-called SACCOs (Savings and Credit Cooperative Organizations), have been built because of community work, particularly in agriculture, which is the main source of income for most Rwandans. These institutions help to

transform lives and improve communities where they are located, as they instil a saving culture within cooperatives. Cooperatives are poverty reduction engines that drive government policies and programme implementation (Bizoza, 2016).

Moreover, Umuganda fosters social relations, patriotism, and a spirit of self-reliance in Rwandans; it entails sense of togetherness and interaction among community members. Perhaps surprisingly for a country with such a turbulent history, Rwanda has quickly regained its sense of unity. Because of the country's strong leadership and sensitive reconciliation programmes, Rwanda has managed to understand and honour the identity of its people and make them love their country. As members of the community interact, they share and solve problems with neighbours. Thus, Rwandans expand their solutions to problems on sustainable development through umuganda (GoR., 2007).

#### **2.1.2.2. Vision Umurenge Programme – VUP**

Despite significant efforts to eradicate poverty over recent decades, Rwanda is still ranked as one of Africa's poorest countries. Poverty persists, albeit at a slightly lower rate, as discussed above. There are multiple factors that contribute to this situation, including: low agricultural productivity, leading to poor major crops; population pressure on arable land; poor agriculture marketing in rural areas; rural unemployment and underemployment; a lack of savings and investment in rural households; and weak environmental conservation practices (GoR., 2007).

These factors are compounded by the enormous social challenges that resulted from Rwanda's turbulent history. The most vulnerable groups are victims of the 1994 genocide war – children who are heads of families, widows and wives, whose husbands are in prison, recently liberated prisoners, unskilled and unemployed youth, landless farmers, the elderly who care for their surviving minor relatives, and wheelchair users.

The GoR has formulated several strategies and initiatives to tackle the issue of extreme poverty. The key strategy is the Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme (VUP) (GoR., 2007). This is an integrated local development programme with a specific focus on the acceleration of poverty eradication, rural growth and social protection. The programme is one of the three flagship programmes of the National Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy (2008–2012), designed to face these challenges. The main aim of the programme is to eradicate extreme poverty by 2020, and its potential is already apparent – the rate of extreme poverty decreased from 36.9% in 2006 to 24% in 2012 (VUP., 2010).

The Umurenge Programme uses the existing decentralization system and leverages technical and financial assistance to accelerate the rate of poverty reduction. It has built on past experiences that show that ‘isolated’ interventions by sector Ministries, donors and NGOs were not enough to lift people out of poverty in a cost-effective and sustainable manner. The other extreme of ‘integrated’ development has also shown its limitations in many circumstances. One limitation of both isolated and integrated approaches has been the failure to address the two most important economic factors: (i) resources are scarce and (ii) the manner in which people respond to incentives (GoR., 2007).

### **2.1.2.3. Abunzi (Community mediators)**

Traditionally, the term abunzi meant ‘those who reconcile’ or those ‘who bring together’, which comes from the verb kunga (= to reconcile) in Kinyarwanda. According to Rwandan tradition, abunzi were men known in their communities for personal integrity and honesty, who were often asked to facilitate reconciliation in cases of conflict. The opposing parties would bring these community mediators to help settle disputes without alienating the other party, and they were

considered as problem-solvers. Not only were they required to settle the disputes, but they were also asked to restore harmony within the affected community (UNDP., 2017).

Nowadays, abunzi is considered as a hybrid combination of tradition with modern methods of justice and conflict resolution. It was reintroduced in 2004, in the hope of reducing caseloads for the courts and decentralizing the legal process, thereby offering the population a simple and cost-effective way to access the justice system. The system has gained more recognition due to its successful methods of conflict resolution. By 2012, more than 30,768 abunzi were operating throughout Rwanda (RLDSF., 2010).

#### **2.1.2.4. Imihigo (performance contract)**

The term itself is the plural of umuhigo (= to vow to deliver a service), which translates as ‘performance contract’. The system was introduced in 2006 and includes the concept of guhiganwa, which expresses the idea of competing among parties. This dates to pre-colonial practices, whereby an individual sets goals to be achieved within a specific period. The person setting the goals must complete them within the guiding principles and be determined to overcome any possible challenges that arise. Since the introduction of imihigo, there have been many successes. It has increased accountability and increased the efficiency of citizen-centred development activities and programmes. The practice has even extended to other areas, such as ministries, embassies and public service staff, and has evolved into a tool for planning, implementation, performance evaluation and accountability for all public institutions (NIRS, 2016b).

#### **2.1.2.5. Girinka ('One cow per poor family' programme)**

The word itself translates as 'May you have a cow' and is usually used for 'One cow per family', a very old Rwandan culture that has existed for centuries. This is mainly because, according to Rwandan tradition, giving a cow to a neighbour meant sealing a bond of friendship, a culture that is profoundly respected by Rwandans. The act of giving symbolizes unity and social cohesion; it was either a sign of gratitude or given as a gift during marriage ceremonies. In the hope of reviving Rwandan culture, the practice of giving cows as a symbol was re-introduced to restore national unity. The traditional practice was thus embedded in development programmes as a home-grown solution (UNDP., 2017). The programme 'One cow per poor family' was introduced as a response to alarmingly high rates of malnutrition among children under 5 years old. Its main purpose was to deliver cow milk to those children from poor households to help them have a more nutritious and balanced diet. Providing a cow to households also gave additional value, in that it enabled them to grow their agricultural products through improved soil fertility and increase their family income by selling dairy products (Republic of Rwanda, 2016a).

#### **2.1.2.5. Traditional medicine**

A medical system is normally called 'traditional' when it is practised within the country from where it originated. It includes a diversity of health practices, approaches, knowledge and beliefs incorporating plant, animal, and/or mineral-based medicines; spiritual therapies; manual techniques and exercises applied singly or in combination to maintain well-being, and to treat, diagnose, or prevent illness (WHO, 2016). In Rwanda, treatment using traditional herbs is common. The knowledge is passed on in families from generation to generation creating a group of well-respected healers, even though they do not have any formal education. Traditional

medicine in Rwanda is practised by recognized and registered traditional healers who have been accredited by the community where they work (WHO, 2016).

#### **2.1.2.6. Itorero (civic education)**

Itorero refers to a cultural school where Rwandans would study the foundations of the nation, such as patriotism, language, social relation, team sports, dancing, songs and defence. This system targets youth to encourage them to understand their culture. Itorero increases their awareness of cultural values and prepares them for leadership (GoR., 2007).

Itorero was readopted in 2009 by the government of Rwanda to bolster the nation's social fabric and to ignite Rwandan cultural values (GoR, 2012b). This followed an assessment of cultural practices and development programmes, where the country's leaders realized that some behaviour was hindering the achievements of certain programmes due to a lack of Rwandan values. Graduates from the school are called intore and their comportment is greatly appreciated by Rwandan society. Itorero created an opportunity for participants to develop a sense of responsibility and a problem-solving approach, through a combination of patriotism and professional knowledge.

A special organization, the National Itorero Commission, was created specifically for this activity. Graduates are many each year where between 2007-2012, 284,207 intore made up of teachers, local leaders, executive secretaries, farmers, community policing committees and diaspora were trained. In 2016, 2,500 trainees were brought together for training on Rwandan values and taboos. The aim was to enhance the leadership culture and foster a sense of responsibility and patriotism (GoR, 2012b).

#### **2.1.2.7. Umushyikirano (National dialogue council)**

Translated, umushyikirano means ‘a place to meet, share knowledge and question each other’. This is governed by the Rwandan constitution 2003, Article 140, where the forum is designated to debate on the country’s issues, national unity and local government. This annual meeting began on 28 June 2008 and is coordinated by the office of the prime minister. It is chaired by the president of the country and gives Rwandans the chance to ask questions directly to their leaders in different departments. The president invites people from overseas to the forum, such as members of the diplomatic community, the media, local government, representatives of the Rwandan community abroad, cabinet and parliament. Non-participants can also contribute to discussions through social media such as Twitter, SMS and Facebook, and can follow live on radio and TV (Niringiye, 2012).

#### **2.1.2.8. Umwiherero (National leadership retreat)**

The term umwiherero means ‘retreat’ in Rwandan culture. It consists of a gathering of leaders in a specific place to discuss issues relating to their communities and aims to bring about resolutions to those issues. It can also refer to ‘moving to a quiet place to discuss issues with a small group of people’. The government of Rwanda, through the office of the president of Rwanda, and in collaboration with the prime minister, has reintroduced the idea to address the challenges annually. The forum is chaired by the president of Rwanda, during which leaders present their achievements and challenges, either economic or social, and any other constructive input they may have about Rwanda as a nation (Turatsinze, 2016).

### **2.1.3. The extent to which Ubudehe program contribute socio-economic impact of vulnerable people and development**

In re-introducing the traditional approach of ubudehe, the Government of Rwanda believed that the complexity and specific nature of poverty at household level do not mean that there are no solutions or that these solutions have to be complicated. This implies that ‘outsiders’ cannot design those solutions for the affected people but that they themselves must do so. There is sometimes a tendency to underestimate the abilities of illiterate peasants to analyse what is going on around them and their ability to implement solutions (Republic of Rwanda, 2003 and 2009). The same understanding is also shared by developmental social work, where it is believed that social action and systems advocacy engage citizens in understanding and building power and using it to advocate and negotiate for the interests of the community that later on contribute to the improved quality of life of all community members (Lombard, 2014).

Implementing change is about people’s ability to transform their own lives, and, where necessary, with support from others. The Government of Rwanda believed that local government institutions have a vital role to play in facilitating people to do things by themselves (Republic of Rwanda, 2003). The ubudehe was set up as part of the Participatory Poverty Assessment (PPA). The overarching goal of the PPA is ‘to help community members and some poor households create their own problem-solving experiences’ (Republic of Rwanda 2003, ubudehe to fight poverty, concept note, 5). As such, information gathered at the cell level<sup>6</sup> by the community members helped to understand people’s experience of poverty and was integrated into the final Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP 2002-2006).

The following principles were used to guide the PPA and the Poverty Reduction Strategy: enhancing local problem-solving experience; ensuring participation of all actors; enabling affected individuals to participate; protecting the ‘action-experience-knowledge-new action’



cycle of all nationals (Republic of Rwanda, 2009). In supporting people's participation in their own development, Easterly (2006) asserts that, in the use of foreign aid, the poor have little power to hold anyone accountable for meeting their needs. To their credit, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund now show some awareness of this problem by respecting some choices of the poor and insisting on their participation in development-related activities (Ezeanya, 2015).

#### **2.1.3.1. Socio-Economic impact of the Ubudehe Programme**

Different evaluations carried out on the impact of ubudehe have highlighted its achievements and impact towards contributing to poverty reduction at community and household levels (Niringiye and Ayebale, 2012). An evaluation carried out by the European Commission on Rural Poverty Reduction established that the ubudehe programme has contributed greatly to improvement in access to health services, education, shelter, food, and social cohesion. It further adds that the level of beneficiaries' participation in decision-making processes is also significant (European Union, 2009).

In the same regard, Mupenzi has praised the programme for directly engaging citizens in their own development (Mupenzi, 2014). In terms of social impact, a poverty analysis of ubudehe also found that the ubudehe programme creates a mechanism for grassroots communities' empowerment, whereby communities have the opportunity to improve both their quality of life and their social cohesion (OSSREA, 2006, 7).

Regarding the access to health care, the assessment carried out by the Rwanda Governance Board (RGB) in 2014 indicates that health access increased from 40.6% to 75.4% owing to the ubudehe programme, and participation in health insurance, known as 'Mutuelle de Santé', increased from 81.8% to 97.1%. The same assessment further established that ubudehe has

contributed to improvements in access to education, shelter, and food. In terms of the economic impact, the assessment confirmed the developed capacities of individuals and households for income generation, the capacity to reimburse the loans received from the programme, and allowing more community members to get the loan and develop themselves (RGB,2014).

#### **2.1.3.2. Contribution of Ubudehe to Poverty Reduction: Perspectives from the Grassroots**

The projects have been made possible through a combination of a national grant to each village as well as local contributions from community members. The local contribution can be in cash or kind. It was revealed by respondents that some community members give their contribution in kind by providing the required manpower to the project, while others contribute financially to the construction of those infrastructures. When a project benefits more than one village they all combine their efforts and resources to solve the problem. Projects of this nature included the construction of schools, water sources, health centres and health posts, roads, and bridges that benefit the participating villages (Kalinganire, 2015).

In other parts of the country like Kigali, where water is a major problem in some parts of the city, the ubudehe programme facilitated the construction of water tanks and the payment for water trucks that bring water to communities at a nominal fee, compared to what each individual would pay for the same quantity of water. On this, respondents reiterated the official literature on ubudehe regarding the distinctiveness of projects at the village level, attributable to the principle of self-determination that has been espoused through the approach (Kreitzer, 2012).

#### **2.1.4. Challenges of the Ubudehe Approach**

From a critical point of view, regardless of all the programme's achievements credited to ubudehe, there are also a number of challenges that require attention in order to ensure future progress. In all the sites of the study, participants raised concerns about how households were put

into the ubudehe categories, accusing their local leaders of manipulating the information provided by the community members. Conversely, some village members preferred to be classified into lower poverty levels as a way to receive support from social security programmes, such as health insurance, girinka, and other programmes that target the poor by using the ubudehe categorisation as a basis.

What should be noted concerning this categorisation is that the support for expenses such as tuition fees for students' higher education, students' upkeep fees, and contributions to health insurance are determined by the ubudehe category to which one belongs. It is a problem for students from poor families to cover their tuition fees and living expenses, since only students from families that are grouped in the first and second categories receive a waiver for tuition and receive support to cover their living expenses. If a family is put in a category that does not reflect its economic status, this will have a negative implication for their children at the time they want to enrol in public universities.

A 'wrong' categorisation will also affect the contributions towards health insurance fees, as different categories receive differing amounts of support. The assessment of home-grown solutions also raised concerns regarding the unrealistic categorisation of families into ubudehe categories; hence, a review and potential correction of these categories was recommended (RGB, 2014). As a result of this inappropriate categorisation or owing to changes made concerning their family's grouping into a particular ubudehe category, some students failed to complete their university studies and several families found it impossible to cover their health insurance premiums. To overcome this, respondents recommended that the assignment of ubudehe categories on the basis of household poverty levels should take place publicly with all community members present and should be validated by the village itself. Additionally, the outcome of this process should be respected by the local leaders.

According to the guideline of the ubudehe categorisation, community members who are not satisfied with the category they were put in are given a chance to complain and appeal in the first instance at the sector level, and if the respective community members remain discontented with the decision, they can appeal in the second instance to the district level. The final level of appeal is the office of the Ombudsman at the central government level. For ordinary community members, especially those from rural areas, this appeal process will be complicated as it involves high travel costs. Therefore, some would decide against filing complaints in spite of their dissatisfaction.

This article highlights 5 challenges related to new categories differentiations and comparison between the old ubudehe with new ubudehe program: 1) The system used to identify the people from one category refers to the documentation riche and richest poor and non-power ranking and the barriers of lacking information from villages and the population system also can be the barriers; 2) We need to know the difference between the new ubudehe programme and old ubudehe program; 3) Categorization based on the salaries also is a challenge; 4) The same features characterize as old ubudehe programme and all of people do not have a category; 5) No Training for implantation, fail system computerization and no regularly public debates and private with overall objective (Martin, 2015). Table 2 provides the pre-set categories within which all residents of a village must be placed with their consent, and in agreement with the rest of the community.

## **2.2 Theoretical review**

This section on theoretical literature provides a structure that is helpful in conducting the present study. For this reason, the description of key concepts and information related to varies used in this study were extensively explored.

### **2.2.1 Social Well-being Theory**

Unconvinced with SWB and theories detailing the psychological component of wellbeing, Keyes (2018) introduced the dimension of social well-being, pointing out that wellbeing is “the appraisal of one’s circumstance and functioning in society. Individuals remain embedded in social structures and communities, and face countless social tasks and challenges, including:

Social integration: the evaluation of the quality of one’s relationship to the society and community; Social acceptance: the construal of society through the character and qualities of the other people as generalized category (trust others, think that others are capable of kindness; a social counterpart to self-acceptance; Social contribution: the evaluation of one’s social value (belief that one is a vital member of society with something to give to the world); Social actualization: the evaluation of the potential and the trajectory of society (evolution of society and potential); Social Coherence: the perception of the quality, organization and operation of the social world; includes a concern of knowing about the world. Social Well-being theory can be applied to study individual’s capacity for adaptation and integration into the society, such as the case of migration, refugee or asylum seekers.

### **2.2.2 Quality of Life Theory**

Veenhoven (1994; 1999; 2006; 2014), a sociologist, has devoted three decades to studying quality of life. He conducted a seminal meta-analytic literature review and summarized it in the Quality of Life Matrix model, by looking into variants of potential quality of life: outer opportunities vs inner qualities of human being in two life domains: life chances and life results. The matrix shows different ways of looking at quality of life; once individuals make use of their

outer opportunities and inner qualities, their quality of life can be seen in the life result domain. The result is the reflection of one's appraisal of one's environment and value for oneself.

Live-ability of the environment means good living conditions, a quality of society as a whole. Economists may refer to it as welfare; ecologists see liveability in the natural environment and describe it in terms of global warming.

Life-ability of the person means inner life chances; how well we are equipped to cope with the problems with life. Psychologists may refer to this as self-efficacy or intelligence/potency or self-actualization; biologist refers to it as adaptive potential; medical perspective refers to this quality of life based on the absence of functional defects, such as physical and mental illness.

Nussbaum and Sen (2013) introduced a similar concept called the Capability approach which stipulates that in order to achieve a quality of life, a person needs to have three factors: functioning (achievement of a person), freedom (range of choice & autonomy for judgment/measurement of quality of life) and conversion efficiency (ability of person to convert his/her resources into functioning's given his/her freedom; depends on individual, society and environment).

Utility of life is the external worth of life result. A good life is a meaningful life for others, such as contribution to the society, pro-social behaviour, environmentally friendly living, virtuous living, and is often presented as the essence of true happiness. Appreciation of life is the inner appraisal of life result, or eminently worded as Subjective well-being, life satisfaction and happiness.

### **2.2.3. Inclusive Development Theory**

This study has adopted Inclusive Development Theory as it addresses gender relations and aims at enhancing development cooperation outcomes through collaboration between different stakeholders in the economy. Gupta 2015 (in van Gent 2017) notes that inclusive development is a recent dimension of development that puts a strong emphasis on the poorest and most marginalised by considering economic, social and environmental dimensions and structural factors that hinder the poorest from participating in the development process. There has been well documented feminisation of poverty literature, with female headed households being poorer than male headed households (Mafa et al 2015). As such, inclusive development gives voice and power to marginalised groups such as women to enhance their capabilities and participate in the process of development such as land reforms and agriculture.

The ideas of inclusive development emerged in the second half of the twentieth century focusing on different levels including the individual, states and international relations (Gupta, Cornelissen & Ros-Tonen 2015). Rauniyar and Kanbur, (2015) note that inclusive development was first published by the Asian Development Bank (ADB, 2007) as a strategy towards equity and empowerment through poverty reduction, human and social capital development and gender development. According to Ali and Zhuang 2007 (in van Gent 2017) there is no agreed-upon and common definition of inclusive development.

### **2.2.4. Citizen Participation Theory**

Citizen participation theory advocates for public involvement as a means to ensure that citizens have a direct voice in public decisions. The citizen participation theory is inclined towards giving the citizens an opportunity to participate in matters relating to their economic gain. This theory

suggests that governments involve their citizens in decision making concerning national policy. This is also seen with the Global health systems that continue to be championed by biomedical scientists and health experts whose technocratic solutions to ill health provide community members with few opportunities to appropriate these solutions to local realities through community participations (Mompoti, 2000)

Despite the revolutionary significance of viewing primary health care through the lenses of equity, social justice, and participation, shifts favoring community participation have been slow and saw a decline in the late 1980s and 1990s (Mompoti and Prinsen 2000). More efforts on community participation on health care however, spearheaded by the 2008 Lancet special edition to celebrate the 30 year anniversary of Alma Ata and the 2008 WHO report on Social Determinants of Health, have revitalized the message that community participation is key to the delivery of health care. Many countries, including Rwanda through their Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS) Programme, have since taken active steps to involve community members in addressing health problems at the community-level have fully embraced community participation on social health care.

Alongside these efforts, much work has been done to encourage community participation in CBHI to increase access to health services, improve health outcomes and promote health enhancing behaviors (Kelly, 2001). According to Mosso et al. (2001), "despite a growing interest in 'evidence-based public health' and the proliferation of theoretical literature into community participation, there remains a dearth of tools and indicators for evaluating how communities participate in and influence programmes in practice". In the context of the Ubudehe categories in Rwanda, the aspect citizen participation where the government involves the community on categorization process indicates that the programmes in inclusive and takes into account all the social structures of her citizens (Putnam, 2013).



### **2.3 Empirical Review**

Under the framework of the PROSOWO project (Professional Social Work in East Africa), an empirical study on indigenous and innovative models of social work practice was undertaken. Field data was collected on traditional/indigenous approaches from different categories of informants through focus group discussions (FGDs) and personal interviews. Initial findings established that development programmes in place are informed by cultural practices and are more or less similar to social work models of helping individuals, families, and communities. This chapter will focus on the traditional approach of ubudehe.

Poverty reduction is a primary priority of the Government of Rwanda. One of the astonishing effects of the 1994 genocide was extreme poverty among Rwandese. Infrastructures such as schools, hospitals, roads, and bridges were seriously damaged or completely destroyed. The agricultural sector, once considered the backbone of the country's economy, was significantly affected. Therefore, it was important for the Government of Rwanda, which took over after the genocide, to put in place different programmes that would help to reconstruct the country and enable sustainable development (Republic of Rwanda, 2003). One of the foremost poverty reduction programmes that the government introduced was ubudehe. Some empirical evidence of our study is presented below, both in terms of the success of the ubudehe programme as well as with regard to some critical comments raised by study participants.

### **2.4. Critical review and research gap**

Despite the fact of ubudehe program is a common topic of study in development studies, there has been very little research on ubudehe categorization and its contribution to the socio-economic sustainability.

Very relevant to this study is Kabeer and Cook's (2010) understanding of social policy as those processes and mechanisms championed by the state and aimed at the protection of vulnerable groups through the creation of basic economic and social conditions to encourage wealth creation; this is often in collaboration with civil society, development partners and the private sector (Kabbeer, 2010). Yeates, (2001) in his study was seen throughout the history of Rwanda, global structures and processes such as the nature of colonial relations, the Structural Adjustment Programme of the Bretton Woods institutions and the influence of development partners, international civil society and private sector in post-genocide Rwanda have shaped the nation's social policy. Ezeanya, (2015) in his research worked on homegrown and Grassroots based Strategies for Determining Inequality toward Policy Action: Randa's Ubudehe Approach in Perspective and in 2014 worked on Indigenous Knowledge, Economic Empowerment and Entrepreneurship in Rwanda: The Girinka Approach Ezeanya, (2015). Makaka, Breen, and Binagwaho, (2012) worked on Universal Health Coverage in Rwanda: A Report of Innovations to Increase Enrolment in Community Based Health Insurance (Makaka, 2012).

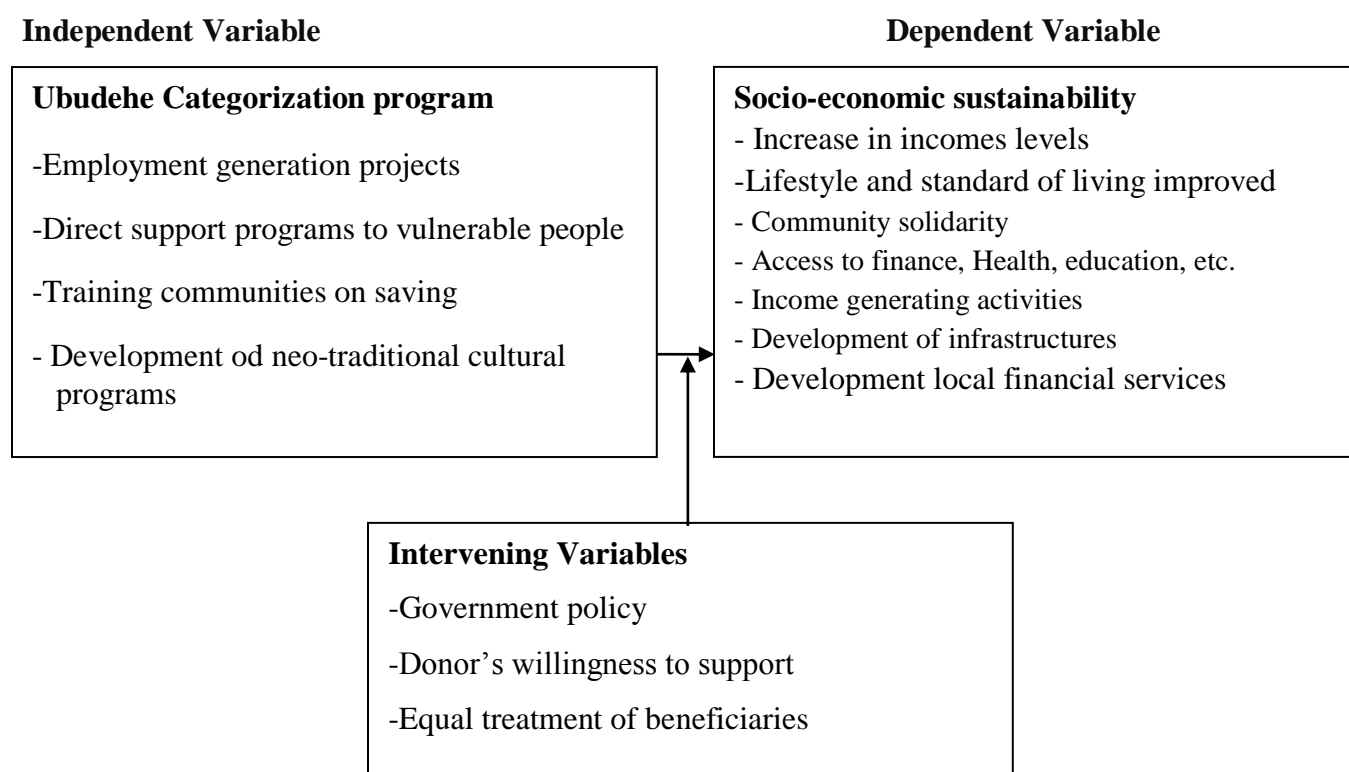
After conducting a national review of studies, the researcher focused on this study because he could not find a similar subject scope being conducted in consideration of Contribution of ubudehe categorization in sustaining social economic development of Rwanda, a case study of Gasabo District.

As a result, this study was an attempt to fill a knowledge gap concerning contribution of Ubudehe categorization program on socio-economic sustainability and more especially Gasabo District. As a result, after the successful completion of this study, there was a research gap to fill.

## 2.5 Conceptual Framework

This partition entitled conceptual framework presents the types of variables to be used in collecting, processing and analyzing information from the field. In order to stick to scientific rigor, this study used selected independent and dependent variables and their relationship were analyzed and statistical significance computed.

**Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework**



Source: Researcher, 2023

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

In this chapter, the researcher was mainly concerned with presentation of the methods that the researcher used to carry out the research. It presents the researcher design, the target population, sample size, sampling method and techniques. Sources of data, data collection tools, ethical considerations, validity and reliability of the study, methods that were used to present and analyze the collected data are also presented.

#### **3.1 Research approach**

Research approaches are plans and the procedures for research that span the steps from broad assumptions to detailed methods of data collection, analysis, and interpretation. This plan involves several decisions, and they need not be taken in the order in which they make sense to me and the order of their presentation here. The overall decision involves which approach should be used to study a topic. Informing this decision should be the philosophical assumptions the researcher brings to the study; procedures of inquiry (called research designs); and specific research methods of data collection, analysis, and interpretation. The selection of a research approach is also based on the nature of the research problem or issue being addressed, the researchers' personal experiences, and the audiences for the study (Creswell, 2007)

#### **3.3 Target population**

Alvi (2016) described a target population, saying that: "a target population refers to all the members who meet the criteria specified for a research investigation. The author further attest that the target population corresponds to a portion of the population about which one intends to

conclude, thus part of the population whose characteristics are an interest to the investigator " (Alvi, 2016). A target population needs to be exclusive enough to avoid having participants who do & represent the study needs which will misrepresent the population of interest (Casteel, 2021). The authors further emphasise that the target population must be a complete subset of the population of interest members of the target population must also be described by the boundaries of the population of interest (Casteel, 2021).

Therefore, the targeted population of this study refers to the 870548 adult people registered in Ubudehe category from 15 sectors of Gasabo District, and from different categories Ubudehe categorization.

**Table 3.1: Population of the study**

S/N	Sectors	Categorization				Population by sector
		Cat 1	Cat2	Cat3	Cat 4	
1	BUMBOGO	6944	41847	61960	148	<b>110899</b>
2	GATSATA	3168	19041	23940	113	<b>46262</b>
3	GIKOMERO	4404	10297	4928	1	<b>19630</b>
4	GISOZI	2716	30617	40497	1091	<b>74921</b>
5	JABANA	9162	22079	30594	459	<b>62294</b>
6	JALI	4543	18500	16951	103	<b>40097</b>
7	KACYIRU	3108	11164	18802	890	<b>33964</b>
8	KIMIHURURA	899	7057	8328	983	<b>17267</b>
9	KIMIRONKO	2579	20096	31433	3024	<b>57132</b>
10	KINYINYA	3222	46678	67824	1252	<b>118976</b>
11	NDERA	9210	54457	30457	346	<b>94470</b>
12	NDUBA	5435	38494	21806	45	<b>65780</b>
13	REMERERA	2151	18826	21488	2236	<b>44701</b>
14	RUSORORO	6774	24572	29612	507	<b>61465</b>
15	RUTUNGA	5563	12321	4790	16	<b>22690</b>
<b>SUB/Tot</b>		<b>69878</b>	<b>376046</b>	<b>413410</b>	<b>11214</b>	<b>870548</b>

Source: Primary data, 2023

### 3.4. Sampling design

This included the sample size as well as the sampling technique.

#### 3.4.1. Sample size

Sample size is part of the population that the researcher decides to use in the research as a representation of the total population.

Therefore, a sample had to be determined. Cochran, put it that if the sample is selected properly, the information collected about the sample may be used to make statements about the whole population (Cochran, 1963). For reason of convenience, data were collected from some selected respondents from the study population. The sample of the study described selected using Yamane's formula (Yamane, 1967). According to his method the following formula was applied:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N (e)^2}$$

This method gives a confidence interval of 95% and a margin error of 5%, which error is tolerable in research.

N= Population of study, K= Constant (1), e = degree of error expected, n= sample size

$$n = \frac{N}{K + N (e)^2} = \frac{870548}{1 + 870548 (0.05)^2} =$$

$$\frac{870548}{1 + 870548 (0.0025)} = 399.816 \approx 400 \text{ respondent } s$$

**Table 3.2. Sampling and sample size**

No	Sectors	Population	Sampling	Sample size
1	BUMBOGO	110899	$110899 \times 400 / 870,548$	51
2	GATSATA	46262	$46262 \times 400 / 870,548$	21
3	GIKOMERO	19630	$19630 \times 400 / 870,548$	9
4	GISOZI	74921	$74921 \times 400 / 870,548$	34
5	JABANA	62294	$62294 \times 400 / 870,548$	29
6	JALI	40097	$40097 \times 400 / 870,548$	18
7	KACYIRU	33964	$33964 \times 400 / 870,548$	16
8	KIMIHURURA	17267	$17267 \times 400 / 870,548$	8
9	KIMIRONKO	57132	$57132 \times 400 / 870,548$	26
10	KINYINYA	118976	$118976 \times 400 / 870,548$	55
11	NDERA	94470	$94470 \times 400 / 870,548$	43
12	NDUBA	65780	$65780 \times 400 / 870,548$	30
13	REMERA	44701	$44701 \times 400 / 870,548$	21
14	RUSORORO	61465	$61465 \times 400 / 870,548$	28
15	RUTUNGA	22690	$22690 \times 400 / 870,548$	11
		<b>870,548</b>		<b>400</b>

Source: Researcher's calculation, 2023

### 3.4.1. Sampling techniques

The study used cluster sampling technique and convenience sampling for data collection. Stratified sampling technique helped the total population is divided into smaller groups or strata to complete the sampling process. The strata are formed based on some common characteristics in the population data such as sectors where people live and their ubudehe categories. After knowing the number of respondents in each sector that makes up the Gasabo District, the researcher wishes to know the number of respondents in each cell according to sectors. Later, the residents are grouped according to the cells they live in and the Ubudehe Category they belong to. Therefore, convenience sampling employed to select the respondents from general assembly held at every Tuesday of the week.

### **3.5. Data collection instruments**

To ensure that the study is completed successfully, each objective of the study investigated using specific questions. The following data collection tools used in the study: documentary study, but primarily questionnaires.

#### **3.5.1. Documentation technique**

Asiamah defined documentation as the careful reading, comprehension, and analysis of written documentation for a specific purpose such as social research. Documentation is a technique for gathering secondary data. Secondary data is information gathered by someone other than the user and obtained through documentation (Asiamah, 2017).

The researcher used some documents during the documentary analysis process, and after understanding and analyzing the relevance of texts to this study, researcher classified them on manuscripts and later type them on a computer for compilation. This is significant because it examines the literature and seeks global perspectives in order to create a comparative framework for readers' analysis and evaluation.

#### **3.5.2. Questionnaire technique**

The questionnaires enabled the researcher to collect in-depth information about the population being studied and therefore giving the best results for the case study. The data was collected in local language (Kinyarwanda) then translated into English language. This was so because the community members in Rwanda were conversant with the local language than English. Secondary data was obtained from journals in the library and online publication by other scholars. Articles and books were formed part of the data collection materials.



### 3.5.3. Interview technique

In social science, interviews are a method of data collection that involves two or more people exchanging information through a series of questions and answers. The questions were designed by a researcher to elicit information from interview participants on a specific topic or set of topics.

One of the local administrative offices stated that, in different sectors where the ubudehe programme operates, citizens have the problem of infertile soil that needs to be fertilised before they can grow anything. Those who do not have cows or other domestic animals to provide this kind of manure have to buy it, usually at a rather high cost. This explains why many consider livestock farming as important to them. The study participants also mentioned that the offspring of the animals provided by the ubudehe project, be it cows, goats or other livestock, would often be given to another needy individual or family that, in turn, would share the offspring of these animals with others. Owing to this rotational approach, the project can have a multiplier effect, specifically building trust and friendship among the individuals and families exchanging and sharing these animals.

As confirmed by local authority said that “Another non-material benefit of the ubudehe programme is that it has facilitated people to work together, which, in turn, promotes unity and reconciliation, aspects that were seriously damaged by the 1994 genocide. Ubudehe brings people together, without discrimination of any kind, and promotes the participation of everyone in the village”.

Regarding to education, one a District authority interviewed stated that for a student applying to enroll at the University of Rwanda, they are graded with three elements to make up the grade 100 for the student. 20 grades is allocated to the Ubudehe category, 40 grades for the field of study

and the remaining 40 grades for the score from the national exam. Last year, the cut-point was 52 grades and above to enter UR. Students whose families are in Ubudehe category 3 and 4, are automatically excluded from applying for university government sponsorship. According to the government's thinking at the time, parents in this category can pay university tuition for their children.

It means that a student from a poor family ranked in Ubudehe category 1 automatically get 20 grades, and in case they are applying for STEM (science) course get higher ranking to qualify for university, even if they get a very low pass-mark from the national exam. It also means that for a student ranked in Ubudehe category 2, deemed to be in relatively good economic conditions, it is extremely difficult to qualify for admission into UR if you are applying for a non-STEM course. For people in this category, they have to be among the best students nationally.

### **3.6. Reliability**

According to Thurstone validity and reliability in research design refer to the need to ensure that concepts used in the study measure what they are actually intended to and that this measurement is consistent and stable for all respondents (Thurstone, 2009). The study relied on instruments developed in other related studies as well as concepts generated from a broad range of appropriate literature. Content validity based on the extent to which a measurement reflects the specific intended domain of content. This study used content validity to examine whether the content of the research instrument covers representative sample of construct domain to be measured. The researcher used professional or experts in the strategy field to assess the concept the instrument is trying to measure and also determine whether the set of items or checklist accurately represents the concepts under the study.

### **3.7. Validity**

Validity is an evolving complex concept because it relates to the inferences regarding assessment results. Focusing on the consequences of the inferences made implies that they should be appropriate and adequate. Messick (1989) points out that inferences are hypotheses, and when these inferences are validated it amounts to hypothesis-testing. As a result, validity is seen as evaluative judgements that are made on the inferences of assessment results or test scores, that is whether correct interpretations are made and actions are taken based on the inferences. These evaluative judgements need to be correct and reflective of the truth.

### **3.8 Data Analysis**

The researcher used quantitative and qualitative method of data analysis. For the quantitative analysis, the questionnaires were checked for completeness, and then coded using the statistical SPSS software for analysis in order to minimize margin of error, and accuracy during analysis. Qualitative data was analyzed through coding against the set objectives of the study. The researcher grouped individual responses according to the objectives they belong then meaningful information obtained from the grouped responses.

### **3.9. Limitations of the study**

The main data collection instrument for the study was questionnaires. The researcher dealt with the issue by assuring them that the information treated with the utmost confidentiality and used solely for academic purposes. Some respondents may wish to be compensated for their time spent filling out questionnaires, which may have skewed the intended results, but the researcher persuaded them of the importance of the research to them.

### **3.10. Ethical consideration**

The researcher adheres to free expression by respecting the respondents' rights and privacy. When it comes to human subject's research, ethical behavior is essential. For example, permission obtained and concerned parties were informed of the research objectives.

Participants that participated in this study were given a clear explanation of the research process and were provided with letters of consent that also stipulated the objectives of the study. Each participant that was interviewed face-to-face was given a consent letter to sign before the interview took place. For the participant that could not meet physically, a telephone script was briefly provided with a statement that communicated that the individual was being invited to participate in the research project. Furthermore, a comprehensive statement was read which highlighted the nature of the research project, the identity and institutional affiliation of the researcher, a description of the type of questions that would be asked, as well as an accurate estimate of the time that the telephonic interview would take.

## CHAPTER 4

### PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

#### 4.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the findings of the study are discussed and analysed. The analysis was made on the responses of 400 respondents as the simple size from different categories of Ubudehe program in Gasabo District. This chapter presents the results of data analysis and findings compiled from the field. It is divided into three main sections. The first section deals with the identification of the respondents, the second section presented the findings from the study while the third section discusses the findings.

#### 4.1. Demographic characteristics of respondents

The demographic section sought information on the respondents ages, gender and education levels attained. The response for all the respondents on age, gender and levels of education has been presented on the table below.

**Table 4.3. Gender of respondents by ubudehe category**

Category	Gender	Number of respondents	%
Category 1	Male	13	3.3
	Female	19	4.8
Category 2	Male	75	18.8
	Female	98	24.5
Category 3	Male	81	20.3
	Female	109	27.3
Category 4	Male	2	0.5
	Female	3	0.8
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>400</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data, 2023

The results of this table show the number of respondents according to their ubudehe category and gender here 8.1% were categorized in category 1 with 3.3% of male and 4.8% of female. In category 2 was presented by 43.3% with 18.8% of male and 24.5% of female. Category 3 was presented by 47.5% of respondents with 20.3% of male and 27.3% of female while category 4 was presented by 1.3% of respondents with 0.5% of male and 0.8% of female. Therefore, female in all categories were 57.3% of participants and this highlights how women participate in national sectoral programs since they were attended Inteko y'abatwage (People's Assembly) held at Tuesday of every week.

**Table 4.4. Age of respondents**

Category	Gender	18-35 years old		36-55 years old		Above 56 years old		Total	
		Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%	Freq.	%
Category 1	Male	2	0.5	7	1.8	4	1.0	13	3.3
	Female	2	0.5	12	3.0	5	1.3	19	4.8
Category 2	Male	16	4.0	46	11.5	13	3.3	75	18.8
	Female	28	7.0	58	14.5	12	3.0	98	24.5
Category 3	Male	25	6.3	45	11.3	11	2.8	81	20.3
	Female	27	6.8	61	15.3	21	5.3	109	27.3
Category 4	Male	-	-	1	0.3	1	0.3	2	0.5
	Female	-	-	3	0.8	0	-	3	0.8
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>100</b>	<b>25.0</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>58.3</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>16.8</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data, 2023

According to age level, category 1 is respondents by 1% ranged between 18 and 35 years old of respondents with 0.5 of male and female respectively, category 2 is represented by 11% of respondents range between 18 and 35 years old with 4.0% of male and 7.0% of female. Category 3 is represented by 13.1% of respondents range between 18 and 35 years old with 6.3% of male and 6.8% of female. In category 2 the majority of respondents were 26% ranged between 36-55 years old, in category 3 the majority were 26.6% ranged between 36-55 years old and in category 4 the majority were 1.1% ranged between 36-55 years old. This is evidenced by the fact that those who are ranged between 36-55 years old were 58.3%.

All the categories share the same specifications of having a big number of people in range of 36 and 55 years old, this implies that people in this range of age looking for development gives him the confidence of wellbeing.

**Table 4.5. Education background of respondents by Ubudehe category**

Category	Gender	No formal education		Primary level		Secondary level		University level		Total	
		N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%
Category 1	Male	2	0.5	7	1.8	4	1.0	0	-	13	3.3
	Female	2	0.5	11	2.8	6	1.5	0	-	19	4.8
Category 2	Male	13	3.3	41	10.3	21	5.3	0	-	75	18.8
	Female	28	7.0	54	13.5	16	4.0	0	-	98	24.5
Category 3	Male	11	2.8	49	12.3	17	4.3	4	1.0	81	20.3
	Female	15	3.8	68	17.0	20	5.0	6	1.5	109	27.3
Category 4	Male	-	-	0	-	1	0.3	1	0.3	2	0.5
	Female	-	-	0	-	2	0.5	1	0.3	3	0.8
<b>Total</b>		<b>71</b>	<b>17.75</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>57.5</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>21.75</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100</b>

Source: Primary data, 2023

Through the results of this table about education background of respondents, the study revealed that the majority in category 1 was attended primary school as presented by 4.6% with 1.8% of male and 2.8% of female. In category 2, the study revealed that 23.8% had primary level. In category 3 the majority 29.3% was attended primary school with 12.3% of male and 17.0% of female and all respondents of category 4 had secondary and university level. According to research information, it is clear that non-learning is one issues that slow development.

#### **4.2. Findings of the study**

The findings of this study were presented following the research specific objectives such as to identify the reason Ubudehe categorization programs was implemented in Gasabo District; to assess Ubudehe socio-economic programs in Gasabo District; to examine the extent to which Ubudehe categorization program contribute to socio-economic of vulnerable people and

development of Gasabo District and to examine the challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District.

#### 4.2.1. Reasons why Ubudehe categorization programs was implemented in Gasabo District

The study needed to know the main reason behind the establishment of the Ubudehe categorization and its importance in the development of the people of the Gasabo District.

**Table 4.6. Reasons why Ubudehe categorization programs was implemented in Gasabo District**

<b>The main reasons why Ubudehe categorization programs was implemented in Gasabo District</b>		<b>SD</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>N</b>
1. Determine the poverty profile as perceived by the people themselves	Freq	12	3	37	80	268	400
	%	3.0	0.8	9.3	20.0	67.0	100.0
2. Determine the causes and consequences of poverty	Freq	43	14	17	31	295	400
	%	10.8	3.5	4.3	7.8	73.8	100.0
3. Draw up the social map of the cell, their social category, their developmental infrastructure, and the roofing material of each household.	Freq	31	12	19	41	297	400
	%	7.8	3.0	4.8	10.3	74.3	100.0
4. Identify and analyse the problems facing their community and determine a priority problem to be addressed	Freq	14	9	24	108	245	400
	%	3.5	2.3	6.0	27.0	61.3	100.0
5. Plan the activities and relative means needed to address the prioritized problem through a collective action plan	Freq	31	12	19	103	235	400
	%	7.8	3.0	4.8	25.8	58.8	100.0
6. To increase the level of institutional problem-solving capacities at the local level by citizens and the local government	Freq	9	28	25	77	261	400
	%	2.3	7.0	6.3	19.3	65.3	100.0
7. Traditional Rwandan practice and cultural value of working together to solve problems	Freq	32	12	12	96	248	400
	%	8.0	3.0	3.0	24.0	62.0	100.0

Source: Primary data, 2023

The study found out that among the main reasons why Ubudehe categorization programs was implemented in Gasabo District, the purpose was to determine the poverty profile as perceived by the people themselves as strongly agreed by 67.0% of respondents, to determine the causes and consequences of poverty as strongly agreed by 73.8% of respondents, to draw up the social



map of the cell, developmental infrastructure, and the roofing material of each household as strongly agreed by 74.3% of respondents, to identify and analyse the problems facing their community and determine a priority problem to be addressed as strongly agreed by 61.3% of respondents, to plan the activities and relative means needed to address the prioritized problem through a collective action plan as strongly agreed by 58.8% of respondents, to increase the level of institutional problem-solving capacities at the local level by citizens and the local government as strongly agreed by 65.3% of respondents and other reason is that ubudehe is traditional Rwandan practice and cultural value of working together to solve problems as strongly agreed by 62.0% of respondents.

Through respondents' views, one of local authorities clarified that Ubudehe is a Rwandan practice and cultural value of mutual assistance among people living in the same area in order to overcome or solve their socio-economic problems. In the past, Ubudehe focused on agricultural activities to ensure timely agricultural operations for food security purposes. Indeed, ubudehe is about citizen participation, advocacy and citizen mobilisation for collective action, empowerment, and the struggle for the equality of life for all. He emphasized that that Ubudehe categorization can be understood as a socio-economic stratification system in which poor Rwandans are supported with social protection schemes. Currently, in this District people have been classified under four categories with the first category designated for the poorest people in society while the fourth category is for the wealthiest members of society.

The report of RGB (2013) declared that Ubudehe came about as part of government efforts to decentralize and bring decision-making and services as close as possible to the people, and to create the necessary climate for local communities to take decisions regarding their development. According to the Ubudehe concept note, 'the aim of the Ubudehe process as it has been designed

in Rwanda is to build on the positive aspects of Rwanda's history and complement it with modern participatory techniques, which have proven their worth in community development' (MINALOC, 2009).

#### 4.2.2. Ubudehe socio-economic programs for sustainable development of Gasabo District

In accordance of restoration of ubudehe as traditional Rwandan practice and cultural value of working together to solve problems the study wanted to what programs based on Rwandan culture have helped Ubudehe category to achieve the goals of development and welfare of the people in Gasabo District. The table below shows well different programs considered as cornerstone for the achievement of sustainable development in Gasabo District. She said that in the context of sustainable reconstruction, it is important to look at our past, how our ancestors lived and developed in cooperation, and then we should act like them because they were united and helped each other.

**Table 4.7. Ubudehe socio-economic programs in Gasabo District.**

<b>Ubudehe socio-economic programs for inclusion of vulnerable people and sustainable development of Gasabo District</b>		<b>SD</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>SA</b>	<b>N</b>
Umuganda	Freq	14	9	34	98	245	400
	%	3.5	2.3	8.5	24.5	61.3	100.0
Vision Umurenge Programme – VUP	Freq	31	12	19	73	265	400
	%	7.8	3.0	4.8	18.3	66.3	100.0
Classic work (Daily working)	Freq	9	28	25	77	261	400
	%	2.3	7.0	6.3	19.3	65.3	100.0
Expended work (Work 2 day per week)	Freq	31	12	19	41	297	400
	%	7.8	3.0	4.8	10.3	74.3	100.0
Imihigo (performance contract)	Freq	92	10	35	52	211	400
	%	23.0	2.5	8.8	13.0	52.8	100.0
Girinka ('One cow per poor family' programme)	Freq	31	19	29	56	265	400
	%	7.8	4.8	7.3	14.0	66.3	100.0
Direct support (Abageze muzabukuru)	Freq	99	12	14	39	236	400
	%	24.8	3.0	3.5	9.8	59.0	100.0

Source: Primary data, 2023

The study found that in order to solve the problems, programs based on Rwandan culture were put in place such as Umuganda as strongly confirmed by 61.3% of the respondents, Vision Umurenge Programme – VUP as strongly agreed by 66.3% of respondents, Classic work (Daily working) as confirmed by 65.3%, expended work as strongly agreed by 74.3%, Imihigo (performance contract) as strongly agreed by 52.8% of respondents, Girinka (‘One cow per poor family’ programme) as strongly agreed by 66.3% of respondents, Itorero (civic education) as strongly agreed by 59.0% of respondents. In this study Classic work (Daily working) are the people counted in category 1&2 who are given permanent jobs and are paid 2000 reals per day. Expended work (Work 2 day per week) is the elderly population who are unable to work, or have disabilities that keep them from working for a long time. So they are given a job that allows them to be able to defend themselves and work two days a week.

The study revealed that ubudehe (collective action to reduce poverty), gacaca (informal conflict settlement arrangements), imihigo (competitive performance contracts and accountability mechanisms), itorero (cultural mentoring and leadership training) and umuganda (communal work), and others were first presented as practical ways of overcoming the immense challenges faced by Rwanda at the turn of the century. The ubudehe approach was re-introduced to address rural poverty through community action, creating empowerment and participatory democracy.

The results of this are supported by Barnhart, (2011) who said that Umuganda is regarded as crucial for economic and social development, and involves Rwandans between the ages of 18 and 65. Supervision of its implementation is carried out by village leaders, who compare what has been done with what is expected, as it appears in the performance contracts. The study of Niringiye (2012) supported those of Barnhart by saying that as a form of social capital, Ubudehe involved trust and reciprocity. The practice of Ubudehe in the traditional context was a mechanism of bringing together the community, sharing the burden of problem solving,

maintaining social norms, social cohesion and ensuring social control among communities living together.

#### **4.2.3. The extent to which Ubudehe categorization program contribute to socio-economic of vulnerable people and development of Gasabo District**

The study would like to know in particular the role that Ubudehe categorization has played in the development and well-being of the people in the Gasabo region. The study asked people in different categories to find out what each of them benefits from the cost of living in which they live. The results of this show the role of Ubudehe categorization in the well-being and economy of the residents of Gasabo District.

##### **4.2.3.1. Social contribution of Ubudehe categorization program**

The study already knows that Social wellbeing is building and maintaining healthy relationships and having meaningful interactions with those around you. Is in this framework the study wanted to perceive if Ubudehe categorization program has the contribution to the development and social well-being of people from Gasabo District.

##### **4.2.3.1.1. Ubudehe categorization and food security among marginalized people**

Food security is completed when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. The study wanted to see the contribution of ubudehe categorization on food security in Gasabo District and what has been done so that the people of Gasabo can be self-sufficient in food.

**Table 4.8. Ubudehe categorization and food security among marginalized people**

Ubudehe categorization and food security among marginalized people	SD		D		N		A		SA	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
People were helped to postharvest handling and storage services	5	1.3	7	1.8	21	5.3	107	26.8	260	65.0
Local food processing factories	12	3.0	9	2.3	32	8.0	114	28.5	233	58.3
People were helped to promotion of agriculture cooperatives	8	2.0	11	2.8	13	3.3	78	19.5	290	72.5
People were helped to easy access to improved seed stocks and fertilizer	8	2.0	6	1.5	19	4.8	98	24.5	269	67.3
People were helped to the construction of local markets for food crops	15	3.8	19	4.8	18	4.5	115	28.8	233	58.3
People were helped to the improved irrigation system	10	2.5	21	5.3	33	8.3	82	20.5	254	63.5

Source: Primary data, 2023

The study found that as Ubudehe categorization based on economic development and poverty reduction various programs and activities based on agriculture have been developed to lift people out of extreme poverty and fight hunger where people were helped to postharvest handling and storage services as strongly agreed by 65% of respondents, people were helped to promotion of agriculture cooperatives as strongly agreed by 72.5% of respondents, people were helped to easy access to improved seed stocks and fertilizer as strongly agreed by 67.3% of respondents, people were helped to the construction of local markets for food crops as strongly agreed by 58.3% of respondents, people were helped to the improved irrigation system as strongly agreed by 63.5% of respondents.

The interviewed people who live close rural sectors and work in agriculture believe without doubt that the category has benefited them in terms of agricultural development aimed at opening markets, they believe that the State and other donors have helped them to develop and fight hunger in a visible way. One of the respondents in Ubudehe category 2 said "I had no knowledge

of how they grow rice" but because of the help and training of the cooperative I am now a rice farmer. "When I harvest rice, I sell it and earn money to support myself and my family and I can't lack food at home."

The results of this study are completed by those of Martin (2015) who quoted that Ubudehe creates opportunities for people at all levels of society, especially the village level, to interact with one another, share ideas, create institutions and make decisions for their collective development. While Bizoza (2016) quoted that Cooperative are poverty reduction engines that drive government policies and programme implementation. And Shah, (2011) Ubudehe added that categorization helped to the long-standing tradition of Rwandan practices and its culture of collective action and mutual support to solve problems within a community.

#### **4.2.3.1.2. Ubudehe categorization and availability of living place (accommodation) and animals husbandry**

Accommodation is a dwelling, which people can use for temporary or permanent live. It is a place wherein a people can stay and receive other services (dry-cleaning, room service etc.). This is important for the family. For rural people breeding is one of the most important activities because it helps the farmers to produce food and fertilizer. So this is important for the family's peace and development and security. The study wanted to see how ubedehe category contributed to the availability of living place (accommodation) and animals husbandry.

**Table 4. 9. Ubudehe categorization and availability of living place (accommodation) and animals husbandry**

Ubudehe categorization and people to find a place to live (accommodation) and animal husbandry	SD		D		N		A		SA	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Through umuganda residents of category 1 & 2 whose houses were destroyed were rebuilt	10	2.5	12	3.0	44	11.0	80	20.0	254	63.5
Through umuganda residents of category 1 & 2 who were homeless were rebuilt	18	4.5	17	4.3	20	5.0	54	13.5	291	72.8
In the Girinka program, the people in the ubudehe 1st & 2nd category were given animals to breed	11	2.8	11	2.8	35	8.8	82	20.5	261	65.3
As a result Girinka program, the people have created friendships based on cooperation (Korozanya)	13	3.3	14	3.5	55	13.8	84	21.0	234	58.5
Kugwingira has been reduced due to access to milk and fertilizers that help in agriculture (Category 1 & 2)	19	4.8	18	4.5	37	9.3	85	21.3	241	60.3

Source: Primary data, 2023

The study found that Ubudehe categorization was important to the availability of living place (accommodation) and animals husbandry in Gasabo District and more especially to sectors of rural areas such as Bumbogo, Gikomero, Jali, Rutunga, Rusororo, Ndera and Jabana where people from these sectors clearly confirmed that through umuganda residents of category 1 & 2 whose houses were destroyed were rebuilt and is strongly agreed by 63.5% of the respondents, through umuganda residents of category 1 & 2 who were homeless were rebuilt is strongly agreed by 72.8% of the respondents, in the Girinka program, the people in the ubudehe 1st & 2nd category were given animals to breed is strongly agreed by 65.3% of the respondents, as a result Girinka program, the people have created friendships based on cooperation (Korozanya) is strongly agreed by 58.5% of the respondents, Kugwingira has been reduced due to access to milk

and fertilizers that help in agriculture (Category 1 & 2) is strongly agreed by 60.3% of the respondents.

In this study it was mentioned that people usually choose projects depending on their capacities to execute them. Some beneficiaries of the above-mentioned categories are given cows from either the ubudehe programme or from other projects that give people cows like girinka munyarwanda (one cow per family). Other beneficiaries are given goats or pigs, depending on their capacities to look after them. Regarding cattle farming, participants said that it has multiple benefits, especially providing milk for the household and having a surplus for sale to generate income for the household. Another benefit of cattle farming is that it also provides organic manure for fertilising people's gardens, as many of them practise subsistence farming for their livelihoods.

The ubudehe programme also helps the most vulnerable people in the community to acquire shelter. Community members, either through ubudehe or umuganda (communal work), come together, make bricks, or gather other construction materials to construct the house. The ubudehe funds are then used to buy iron sheets and other required construction materials which the individual or the family cannot afford.

One sectors authority stated that, in different sectors where the ubudehe programme operates, citizens have the problem of infertile soil that needs to be fertilised before they can grow anything. Those who do not have cows or other domestic animals to provide this kind of manure have to buy it, usually at a rather high cost. This explains why many consider livestock farming as important to them. The study participants also mentioned that the offspring of the animals provided by the ubudehe project, be it cows, goats or other livestock, would often be given to another needy individual or family that, in turn, would share the offspring of these animals with



others. Owing to this rotational approach, the project can have a multiplier effect, specifically building trust and friendship among the individuals and families exchanging and sharing these animals.

As confirmed by local authority said that “Another non-material benefit of the ubudehe programme is that it has facilitated people to work together, which, in turn, promotes unity and reconciliation, aspects that were seriously damaged by the 1994 genocide. Ubudehe brings people together, without discrimination of any kind, and promotes the participation of everyone in the village”. Basing on the results of this study Mupenzi (2010) added that some beneficiaries are given cows from either the ubudehe programme or from other projects that give people cows like girinka munyarwanda (one cow per family), UNDP (2017) completed this idea by saying that the programme ‘One cow per poor family’ was introduced as a response to alarmingly high rates of malnutrition among children under 5 years old. Its main purpose was to deliver cow milk to those children from poor households to help them have a more nutritious and balanced diet.

#### **4.2.3.1.3. Ubudehe categorization and education**

Education is real important factor in human life, because if you get the knowledge about certain thing, you will be able make a better decision. Education is Self-Empowerment. It keeps us aware of our given surrounding as well as the rules and regulations of the society we're living in, but poor families find it difficult to afford the cost of education for their children. It in this reason the study aimed at seeing the contribution of Ubudehe category on education mainly for poor families in Gasabo District.

**Table 4.10. Ubudehe categorization and education**

Ubudehe categorization and education	SD		D		N		A		SA	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
9 and 12 Years basic education are built for the underprivileged population of all ubudehe categories	11	2.8	15	3.8	31	7.8	52	13.0	291	72.8
Underprivileged students passed on high scores in secondary level , they receive a scholarship that they will pay only if they get a job	16	4.0	17	4.3	44	11.0	60	15.0	263	65.8
Underprivileged families were given village childcare schools	11	2.8	12	3.0	50	12.5	70	17.5	257	64.3
For students of all ubudehe categories studying in public schools, they are provided with lunch	13	3.3	14	3.5	56	14.0	84	21.0	233	58.3
Students from underprivileged families were given school materials, uniforms and are exempted from school feeding	18	4.5	13	3.3	60	15.0	63	15.8	246	61.5

Source: Primary data, 2023

The study found that a lot has been done so that children from poor families can learn and live well. The answers of the respondents said that 9 and 12 Years basic education are built for the underprivileged population of all ubudehe categories as strongly agreed by 72.8% of the respondents, underprivileged students passed on high scores in secondary level , they receive a scholarship that they will pay only if they get a job as strongly agreed by 65.8% of the respondents, underprivileged families were given village childcare schools as strongly agreed by 64.3% of the respondents, for students of all ubudehe categories studying in public schools, they are provided with lunch as strongly agreed by 58.3% of the respondents, students from underprivileged families were given school materials, uniforms and are exempted from school feeding as strongly agreed by 61.5 % of the respondents

What should be noted concerning this categorisation is that the support for expenses such as tuition fees for students' higher education, students' upkeep fees, and contributions to health insurance are determined by the ubudehe category to which one belongs. It is a problem for students from poor families to cover their tuition fees and living expenses, since only students from families that are grouped in the first and second categories receive a waiver for tuition and receive support to cover their living expenses.

One a District authority interviewed stated that for a student applying to enroll at the University of Rwanda, they are graded with three elements to make up the grade 100 for the student. 20 grades is allocated to the Ubudehe category, 40 grades for the field of study and the remaining 40 grades for the score from the national exam. Last year, the cut-point was 52 grades and above to enter UR. Students whose families are in Ubudehe category 3 and 4, are automatically excluded from applying for university government sponsorship. According to the government's thinking at the time, parents in this category can pay university tuition for their children.

It means that a student from a poor family ranked in Ubudehe category 1 automatically get 20 grades, and in case they are applying for STEM (science) course get higher ranking to qualify for university, even if they get a very low pass-mark from the national exam. It also means that for a student ranked in Ubudehe category 2, deemed to be in relatively good economic conditions, it is extremely difficult to qualify for admission into UR if you are applying for a non-STEM course. For people in this category, they have to be among the best students nationally.

Niringiye and Ayebale, (2012) established that the ubudehe programme has contributed greatly to improvement in access to health services, education, shelter, food, and social cohesion. While Mupenzi has praised the programme for directly engaging citizens in their own development (Mupenzi, 2014).

#### 4.2.3.1.4. Ubudehe categorization and health

The cost of health services is one of the factors that discourages people and slows down the development of society. When families do not have access to reliable health care, they turn to smuggling or some live in chronic poverty due to chronic illness or disease, so this is a source of growth delay for the family. This is the reason why we want to know the role of the Ubudehe category in helping the poor people in order to achieve stable health care in Gasabo District.

**Table 4.11. Ubudehe categorization and health**

Ubudehe categorization and health	SD		D		N		A		SA	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Underprivileged families were given annually mutual health insurance	15	3.8	17	4.3	41	10.3	47	11.8	280	70.0
A pregnant woman is in the ubudehe category 1 is given permanent assistance until a child is 2 years	25	6.3	25	6.3	56	14.0	33	8.3	261	65.3
Presence of Health Advisors all villages to ensure good health of underprivileged women	17	4.3	14	3.5	21	5.3	84	21.0	264	66.0
Poor elderly people are given a living allowance every month	15	3.8	22	5.5	6	1.5	75	18.8	282	70.5

Source: Primary data, 2023

These data indicates that a lot has been done to help poor people get access to quality healthcare. Underprivileged families were given annually mutual health insurance as strongly agreed by 70% of the respondents, a pregnant woman is in the ubudehe category 1 is given permanent assistance until a child is 2 years as strongly agreed by as strongly agreed by 65.3% of the respondents, presence of Health Advisors all villages to ensure good health of underprivileged women as strongly agreed by 66.0% of the respondents, Poor elderly people are given a living allowance every month as strongly agreed by 70.5% of the respondents.

It is in the same sense that ubudehe advocates for the poor and the most vulnerable members of the community, where they are given support of different kinds that may include, but is not limited to, housing, health insurance, domestic animals, and direct support in the form of money.

The study revealed that to solve the problem of illness for the poor, health centers have been built in many different sectors throughout the Gasabo District. Post de santé have been built in the cells for people who live far away from health centers.

Another component of ubudehe is what is known as direct support or emergency fund (Inkunga y'ingoboka). The direct support targets families in the first category of ubudehe, a household with no working family members; these include households headed by children, very old or physically disabled people. These families receive monthly financial support, depending on the size of the family. For example, a family with only one household member is given 7,500 RWF; two are given 12,000 RWF; three get 15,000 RWF; four get 18,000 RWF, etc. The bigger the family, the more the financial support awarded.

Due to the results of the study Asfaw (2013) quoted that all the risks facing households that are poor, health risks probably pose the highest threat to their lives and livelihoods. While Dror and Jacquier, (2019) quoted that community based insurances are a potential instrument of protection from the impoverishing effects of health expenditures for low-income populations.

#### **4.2.3.2. Economic contribution of Ubudehe categorization program**

Economic of people is to improve the material standards of living by raising the absolute level of per capita incomes. The study wanted to see how Ubudehe categorization contributed in raising income of vulnerable people.

#### 4.2.3.2.1. Employment creation among poor people in Gasabo District

Employment provides individuals with the means to support themselves and their families, while also driving consumer spending and boosting local economies. The study wanted to know if the poor people are given the opportunity and due to the Ubudehe category they live in.

Ubudehe categories are still the most preferred among the household in Gasabo District. The respondents were asked whether the Ubudehe categories meet the income levels among the household. The response is presented in the table below:

**Table 4.12. Employment creation among poor people of Gasabo District**

Ubudehe category and public work projects creation of employment to vulnerable people	SD		D		N		A		SA	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Underprivileged people employed in road rehabilitation	16	4.0	19	4.8	40	10.0	52	13.0	273	68.3
Underprivileged people employed in Anti-erosive ditches	13	3.3	28	7.0	30	7.5	53	13.3	276	69.0
Underprivileged people employed in Reforestation	24	6.0	28	7.0	31	7.8	44	11.0	273	68.3
Underprivileged people employed in Radical terraces	28	7.0	9	2.3	45	11.3	84	21.0	234	58.5
Underprivileged people employed in Classrooms construction	25	6.3	9	2.3	43	10.8	75	18.8	248	62.0

Source: Primary data, 2023

The study found that underprivileged people employed in road rehabilitation as strongly confirmed by 68.3% of the respondents, underprivileged people employed in anti-erosive ditches as strongly confirmed by 69% of the respondents, underprivileged people employed in Reforestation as strongly confirmed by 68.3% of the respondents, Underprivileged people employed in Radical terraces as strongly confirmed by 58.5% of the respondents,

underprivileged people employed in Classrooms construction as strongly confirmed by 62% of the respondents.

Through *ubudehe*, the poor from the first category in the *ubudehe* classification who are able to work are helped by local authorities to find employment within their communities or in the nearby communities. In our study it was stated that the most common activities where these people usually find a job are the so-called public works, such as road construction, the preparation of radical terraces, the construction of schools, health centres, and water sources or water pipelines.

One of the District authority said that social workers in Gasabo District play multiple roles towards the district's development and poverty reduction. Such roles include the mobilisation and sensitisation of masses; advocacy and networking for the good of the client at different levels; planning, monitoring and evaluating of development and poverty reduction-related projects; education and providing training in various aspects of development and poverty reduction. For one day of work, from seven a.m. to 12 p.m., they are paid around 2000 RWF, which is equivalent to two dollars. During the study, some local leaders explained that they also negotiate with employers to allow people to work for only a half-day so that, in the evening, they can get time to engage in other development-related activities for their households.

Kalinganire and Rutikanga (2015) explain that social workers in Rwanda play multiple roles towards the country's development and poverty reduction. This is not different from the intentions and approaches of developmental social work as argued by Lombard (2014), where she contends that social work intervention is relevant to advocacy for the poor and the most vulnerable.

#### 4.2.3.2.2. Ubudehe category and financial services

Financial institutions play a pivotal role in every economy including people because deal with managing and exchanging money. Therefore, the opportunities to work with financial institutions are very limited for poor people because they mostly do not have collateral or have not yet opened an account in a financial institution. This makes it difficult for them to solve their financial problems, which is why we want to know what Ubudehe category has helped these people to be able to work with financial institutions. The results from respondents are presented below.

**Table 4.13. Ubudehe category and financial services**

Ubudehe category and financial services	SD		D		N		A		SA	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Establishment of Savings and Credit Cooperatives based in each sector called Umurenge SACCO to all Ubudehe categories	25	6.3	9	2.3	43	10.8	75	18.8	248	62.0
Poor people working in VUP have been opened bank accounts	33	8.3	13	3.3	18	4.5	60	15.0	276	69.0
Poor people are organized into groups and receive small loans for self-development	15	3.8	22	5.5	33	8.3	65	16.3	265	66.3
Promotion public funds to help pro-poor (BDF)	11	2.8	15	3.8	44	11.0	68	17.0	262	65.5

Source: Primary data, 2023

The study revealed that much has been done to connect poor people with financial institutions where there are establishment of Savings and Credit Cooperatives based in each sector called Umurenge SACCO to all Ubudehe categories as strongly agreed by 62% respondents, poor people working in VUP have been opened bank accounts as strongly agreed by 69% respondents, poor people are organized into groups and receive small loans for self-development



as strongly agreed by 66.3 % respondents, promotion public funds to help pro-poor (BDF) as strongly agreed by 65.5% respondents.

The study found that the provision of a bank account to each community has facilitated thousands of community-led actions such as purchasing livestock, undertaking agricultural activities, building clean water facilities, health centers as well as silos for storing produce.

Dror and Jacquier, (2019) quoted that the success of community-based microcredit schemes may have also contributed to the emergence of community-based health initiatives designed to improve the access through risk and resource sharing. When a project benefits more than one village they all combine their efforts and resources to solve the problem. Projects of this nature included the construction of schools, water sources, health centres and health posts, roads, and bridges that benefit the participating villages (Kalinganire, 2015).

#### **4.2.3.2.3. Ubudehe category and income generating activities**

The study wished to know the role of Ubudehe category in helping the poor people to develop themselves based on doing various profitable jobs since Income generating activities is to produce for the market and furthermore it can be called micro or small-scale enterprise, whether it is managed at individual or group level.

**Table 4.14. Ubudehe category and income generating activities**

Ubudehe category and income generating activities	SD		D		N		A		SA	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Low-income women and men are eligible for small business tax breaks	17	4.3	12	3.0	21	5.3	57	14.3	293	73.3
Poor men and women create small businesses because of the support they receive from the government or partners	21	5.3	25	6.3	50	12.5	55	13.8	249	62.3
Underprivileged men and women are trained and engaged in various gainful occupations such as Processing of agro products, hair dressing, farming, food vending, weaving of clothes, tailoring	19	4.8	16	4.0	63	15.8	35	8.8	267	66.8

Source: Primary data, 2023

The study found that low-income women and men are eligible for small business tax breaks as strongly agreed by 73.3% of respondents, poor men and women create small businesses because of the support they receive from the government or partners as strongly agreed by 62.3% of respondents, Underprivileged men and women are trained and engaged in various gainful occupations such as Processing of agro products, hair dressing, farming, food vending, weaving of clothes, tailoring as confirmed by 66.8% of respondents

The local authority quoted that the poor people and poor families are given a loan of 60,000 RWF to execute projects of their choice. The most common types of income-generating activities financed by the ubudehe programme from the different places where the data was collected included: crops and livestock farming, non-agricultural projects such as small-scale trade (mostly retail), handicrafts, and tailoring. While agriculturebased projects were mostly implemented in rural areas, trading was more common in urban and semi-urban contexts.

Ubudehe category is to increase the level of institutional problem-solving capacities at the local level by citizens and the local government. It seeks to put into operation the principles of citizens' participation through local collective action. The word ubudehe was selected to present a quick mental image of people working together; action to solve the problems of local people, by local people, for local people; with support from local governments, NGOs, local resources, and donors. It sets out to strengthen democratic processes and governance, starting from the people's aspirations, their abilities, and traditions.

**Table 4. 15. Correlation matrix between ubudehe categorization and socio-economic development**

		Employment	Direct Incentive	Micro-projects (IGA)	Production	Income	Living Standards
Employment	Pearson Correlation	1					
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000					
	N	400					
Direct supports	Pearson Correlation	.771**	1				
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000					
	N	400	400				
Microprojects (IGA)	Pearson Correlation	.600**	.859**	1			
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000				
	N	400	400	400			
Production	Pearson Correlation	.641**	.849**	.925**	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000			
	N	400	400	400	400		
Income	Pearson Correlation	.630**	.864**	.903**	.908**	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000		
	N	400	400	400	400	400	
Living Standards	Pearson Correlation	.718**	.819**	.870**	.950**	.854**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.000	.000	
	N	400	400	400	400	400	400

\*\* . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Primary research, 2023

The findings in table 15 indicate that Pearson correlations are positive strong and significant between the study variables.

RGB (2013) quoted that Ubudehe creates opportunities for people at all levels of society, especially the village level, to interact with one another, share ideas, create institutions and make decisions for their collective development. Kalinganire (2015) support this idea saying that Community-level benefits of Ubudehe include the following: The promotion of livestock rearing (and associated dietary benefits and income growth) The construction and repair of rural roads and other infrastructure. Together, households have increased economic demand for local businesses.

In terms of the economic impact, the assessment confirmed the developed capacities of individuals and households for income generation, the capacity to reimburse the loans received from the programme, and allowing more community members to get the loan and develop themselves (RGB, 2014). Niringiye and Ayebale (2012) also lauded the way in which ubudehe has brought communities together for collective action, based on their own priorities.

**Table 4.16. Regression model Summary**

<b>Mode</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>R Square</b>	<b>Adjusted R Square</b>	<b>Std. Error of the Estimate</b>
1	.914 <sup>a</sup>	.835	.819	.17823

a Predictors: (Constant), income generating activity, direct support programs to vulnerable people and micro-financing activities.

**Table 4.17. ANOVA Table**

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Squares	F	Sig.
1	Regression	24.515	3	8.171	177.63	.000b
	Residual	17.649	353	0.046		
	Total	42.164	356			

Source: Primary data, 2023

From the ANOVA statistics in table 4.19, the processed data which is the population parameters, had a significance level of 0.000 which shows that the data is ideal for making a conclusion on the population's parameter as the value of significance (p-value) is less than 5%. This is an indication that income-generating activity, direct support programs to vulnerable people and micro-financing activities significantly influence socio-economic development level among beneficiaries of Ubudehe category in Gasabo District.

**Table 4.18. Coefficients of regression model on economic development of rural areas**

<b>a Dependent Variable: socio-economic development among beneficiaries of Ubudehe category in Gasabo district</b>						
		<b>Unstandardized Coefficients</b>		<b>Standardized Coefficients</b>		
<b>Model parameters</b>		<b>B</b>	<b>Std. Error</b>	<b>Beta</b>	<b>t</b>	<b>Sig.</b>
1	(Constant)	1.569	.226		6.952	.000
	Income generating projects	.107	.003	.210	2.567	.012
	Direct support programs to vulnerable people	.216	.071	.016	.219	.000
	Micro-financing activities	.180	.048	.270	3.720	.050

Source: Primary data, 2023

This table 4.18 gives the individual regression model coefficients on extent to which independent variable as ubudehe categorization influence socio-economic development among beneficiaries

of Ubudehe program in Gasabo district namely, direct support programs to vulnerable people, income generating activities and micro-financing activities. The study revealed that the P-value was less than 0.05 in all the variables, which shows that all the independent variable were statistically significant and thus in position to make conclusion for the study. From the findings on the coefficient of determination, the study found that at 95% confidence interval, great variation in the socio-economic development of people supported from category 1 and 2. The development for the population mainly in the ubudehe category 1 & 2 is based on medical assistance, easier access to fertilizers, formation of cooperatives, easier for children's education. This means that the poor people in ubudehe category 1 & 2 receive different assistance depending on the categories they belong to.

#### 4.2.4. The challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District.

The study wound up by seeking the finding out on the challenges facing the categories of the programme and opinions on what should be done to enhance its performance. The response is presented in table below.

**Table 4.19. The challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District.**

Challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District.	SD		D		N		A		SA	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Complaints to change categories and petty corruption and proposal to get lower categories	15	3.8	13	3.3	32	8.0	84	21.0	256	64.0
Unrealistic categorisation of families into <i>ubudehe</i> categories	14	3.5	8	2.0	51	12.8	54	13.5	273	68.3
Ubudehe category that does not reflect its economic status	13	3.3	13	3.3	42	10.5	92	23.0	240	60.0

Source: Primary data, 2023

The study found that different challenges were raised by the respondents and some of them are complaints to change categories and petty corruption and proposal to get lower categories as confirmed by 64% of the respondents, unrealistic categorisation of families into ubudehe categories as strongly confirmed by 68.3% of respondents, Ubudehe category that does not reflect its economic status as strongly confirmed by 60% of respondents.

It is a problem for students from poor families to cover their tuition fees and living expenses, since only students from families that are grouped in the first and second categories receive a waiver for tuition and receive support to cover their living expenses. If a family is put in a category that does not reflect its economic status, this will have a negative implication for their children at the time they want to enroll in public universities. A ‘wrong’ categorisation will also affect the contributions towards health insurance fees, as different categories receive differing amounts of support.

As a result of this inappropriate categorisation or owing to changes made concerning their family’s grouping into a particular ubudehe category, some students failed to complete their university studies and several families found it impossible to cover their health insurance premiums. To overcome this, respondents recommended that the assignment of ubudehe categories on the basis of household poverty levels should take place publicly with all community members present and should be validated by the village itself. Additionally, the outcome of this process should be respected by the local leaders.

Another challenge mentioned by research participants was that the funds allocated to some community projects, even considering the added contributions of community members would, in some cases, not be enough to complete the planned activity. Moreover, the loans given to individuals and/or households were also partly considered to be insufficient. Respondents recommended that the loan amount be doubled (from 60,000 to 120,000 RWF).

Surprisingly, during the research one of the local administrative offices argued that in the one affected by the wrong Ubudehe category, my family was placed in Ubudehe category 3, “yet we are poor” which means I do not qualify for government funding. “I got a total of 46 grades out of 73, but I did not get the government scholarship loan because my family appears in Ubudehe category 3 of people considered able to finance their education. Yet there are students who are in the first category and got loans despite scoring lower grades than me like 43 out of 73.” I convinced my family was wrongly placed in Ubudehe category 3, a concern he shares with tens of thousands of other Rwandans. Until now I am a leader, there are people who have the same problem as me, are people complaining they were placed in the “wrong category”.

As many challenges are shown in this study Jutting (2003), it is an emerging and promising concept, which addresses health care challenges faced in particular by the rural poor. This means that the challenges to full implementation of the Ubudehe process include lack of participation by the households and shifting of categories without consultation Mupenzi (2012).

#### **4.2.5. Strategies to overcome challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District.**

For a good implementation, programme of ubudehe categorization requires a careful assessment on the stratification where reviews be carried out regularly to ensure that the categories match economic status of the community members. Information on the ways to enhance the programme is presented in the table below.



**Table 4.20. Strategies to overcome challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District.**

Strategies to overcome challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District.	SD		D		N		A		SA	
	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%	Freq	%
Having adequate staff to administer Ubudehe categorization process	10	2.5	32	8.0	33	8.3	81	20.3	244	61.0
Having well motivated staff members to perform their duties	15	3.8	17	4.3	18	4.5	64	16.0	286	71.5
Having good working relationships with the community members	8	2.0	28	7.0	37	9.3	74	18.5	253	63.3
Having full and accurate information about Ubudehe categories	20	5.0	36	9.0	49	12.3	52	13.0	243	60.8

Source: Primary data, 2023

The study found that there are the solutions or strategies put in place to overcome challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District such as having adequate staff to administer Ubudehe categorization process as strongly agreed by 61% of the respondents, having well motivated staff members to perform their duties as strongly agreed by 71.5% of the respondents, having good working relationships with the community members as strongly agreed by 63.3% of the respondents, having full and accurate information about Ubudehe categories as strongly agreed by 60.8% of the respondents.

According to the information of district authority said that, community members who are not satisfied with the category they were put in are given a chance to complain and appeal in the first instance at the sector level, and if the respective community members remain discontented with the decision, they can appeal in the second instance to the district level.

About strategies Bizoza (2012) indicates that at the community level, individual poverty profiles are drawn with the help of facilitators and trainers based on individual evaluation of one's

lifestyle and also establish the causes and consequences affiliated with individual poverty levels which is followed by drawing of the village social map that includes names of heads of households and development infrastructure of the region. Mupenzi adds that at another level, the household level, the community is equipped with a model that encourages them at a household level to overcome poverty by analyzing and identifying the household's survival strategies with the help of Ubudehe facilitators and community leaders, and develop strategies that address the promotion and improvement of the living conditions within the household, (Mupenzi, 2010).

## CHAPTER 5

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the final summary of the research findings, the conclusion, the recommendations and suggestions for future research. Both the summary of findings and recommendations are based on the objectives of the study.

#### 5.1. Summary of findings

The main purpose for this study was to assess the contribution of Ubudehe categorization on the socio-economic sustainability of Rwanda, case study of Gasabo District. In particular, it sought to identify the reason Ubudehe categorization programs was implemented in Gasabo District, to assess Ubudehe socio-economic programs in Gasabo District, to determine the extent to which Ubudehe categorization program contribute to socio-economic sustainability of vulnerable people and development of Gasabo District, to examine the challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District and to demonstrate the strategies to overcome the challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District.

##### 5.1.1. Reasons Ubudehe categorization programs was implemented in Gasabo District

The study found (table 4.6) out that among the main reasons why Ubudehe categorization programs was implemented in Gasabo District, the purpose was to determine the poverty profile as perceived by the people themselves as strongly agreed by 67.0% of respondents, to determine the causes and consequences of poverty as strongly agreed by 73.8% of respondents, to draw up the social map of the cell, developmental infrastructure, and the roofing material of each

household as strongly agreed by 74.3% of respondents, to identify and analyse the problems facing their community and determine a priority problem to be addressed as strongly agreed by 61.3% of respondents, to plan the activities and relative means needed to address the prioritized problem through a collective action plan as strongly agreed by 58.8% of respondents, to increase the level of institutional problem-solving capacities at the local level by citizens and the local government as strongly agreed by 65.3% of respondents and other reason is that ubudehe is traditional Rwandan practice and cultural value of working together to solve problems as strongly agreed by 62.0% of respondents.

### **5.1.2. Ubudehe socio-economic programs in Gasabo District**

The study found (table 4.7) that in order to solve the problems, programs based on Rwandan culture were put in place such as Umuganda as strongly confirmed by 66.2% of the respondents, Vision Umurenge Programme – VUP as strongly agreed by 63.5% of respondents, Abunzi (Community mediators) as strongly agreed by 70.5%, Imihigo (performance contract) as strongly agreed by 57.0% of respondents, Girinka (‘One cow per poor family’ programme) as strongly agreed by 71.6% of respondents, Itorero (civic education) as strongly agreed by 63.8% of respondents.

The study found that all the traditional approaches mentioned above were re-introduced after the 1994 genocide to help in the reconstruction of the country after the atrocities, which left around one million people dead, three million refugees, ten thousand people in prison on genocide-related charges, a large number of widows and orphans, as well as leaving the country in a state of extreme poverty. The ubudehe program was re-introduced to address rural poverty through community action, creating empowerment and participatory democracy.

### **5.1.3. The extent to which Ubudehe categorization program contribute to socio-economic of vulnerable people and development of Gasabo District,**

According to food security among marginalized people, the study found that as Ubudehe categorization based on economic development and poverty reduction various programs and activities based on agriculture have been developed to lift people out of extreme poverty and fight hunger where people were helped to postharvest handling and storage services as strongly agreed by 65% of respondents, people were helped to promotion of agriculture cooperatives as strongly agreed by 72.5% of respondents, people were helped to easy access to improved seed stocks and fertilizer as strongly agreed by 67.3% of respondents, people were helped to the construction of local markets for food crops as strongly agreed by 58.3% of respondents, people were helped to the improved irrigation system as strongly agreed by 63.5% of respondents (results of table 4.8).

About availability of living place (accommodation) and animals husbandry, study found that Ubudehe categorization was important to the availability of living place (accommodation) and animals husbandry in Gasabo District and more especially to sectors of rural areas such as Bumbogo, Gikomero, Jali, Rutunga, Rusororo, Ndera and Jabana where people from these sectors clearly confirmed that through umuganda residents of category 1 & 2 whose houses were destroyed were rebuilt and is strongly agreed by 63.5% of the respondents, through umuganda residents of category 1 & 2 who were homeless were rebuilt is strongly agreed by 72.8% of the respondents, in the Girinka program, the people in the ubudehe 1st & 2nd category were given animals to breed is strongly agreed by 65.3% of the respondents, as a result Girinka program, the people have created friendships based on cooperation (Korozanya) is strongly agreed by 58.5% of the respondents, Kugwingira has been reduced due to access to milk and fertilizers that help in agriculture (Category 1 & 2) is strongly agreed by 60.3% of the respondents.

In this study it was mentioned that people usually choose projects depending on their capacities to execute them. Some beneficiaries of the above-mentioned categories are given cows from either the ubudehe programme or from other projects that give people cows like girinka munyarwanda (one cow per family). Other beneficiaries are given goats or pigs, depending on their capacities to look after them. Regarding cattle farming, participants said that it has multiple benefits, especially providing milk for the household and having a surplus for sale to generate income for the household. Another benefit of cattle farming is that it also provides organic manure for fertilising people's gardens, as many of them practise subsistence farming for their livelihoods.

About Ubudehe categorization and promotion education, the answers of the respondents in table 4.10 demonstrate that 9 and 12 Years basic education are built for the underprivileged population of all ubudehe categories as strongly agreed by 72.8% of the respondents, underprivileged students passed on high scores in secondary level, they receive a scholarship that they will pay only if they get a job as strongly agreed by 65.8% of the respondents, underprivileged families were given village childcare schools as strongly agreed by 64.3% of the respondents, for students of all ubudehe categories studying in public schools, they are provided with lunch as strongly agreed by 58.3% of the respondents, students from underprivileged families were given school materials, uniforms and are exempted from school feeding as strongly agreed by 61.5% of the respondents.

About Ubudehe categorization and promotion of health, data indicates that a lot has been done to help poor people get access to quality healthcare. Underprivileged families were given annually mutual health insurance as strongly agreed by 70% of the respondents, a pregnant woman in the ubudehe category 1 is given permanent assistance until a child is 2 years as strongly agreed by as strongly agreed by 65.3% of the respondents, presence of Health Advisors all villages to

ensure good health of underprivileged women as strongly agreed by 66.0% of the respondents, Poor elderly people are given a living allowance every month as strongly agreed by 70.5% of the respondents.

It is in the same sense that ubudehe advocates for the poor and the most vulnerable members of the community, where they are given support of different kinds that may include, but is not limited to, housing, health insurance, domestic animals, and direct support in the form of money.

The study revealed that to solve the problem of illness for the poor, health centers have been built in many different sectors throughout the Gasabo District. Post de santé have been built in the cells for people who live far away from health centers.

For the economic contribution of Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District, the study focused on employment creation among poor people in Gasabo District and the study found that underprivileged people employed in road rehabilitation as strongly confirmed by 68.3% of the respondents, underprivileged people employed in anti-erosive ditches as strongly confirmed by 69% of the respondents, underprivileged people employed in Reforestation as strongly confirmed by 68.3% of the respondents, Underprivileged people employed in Radical terraces as strongly confirmed by 58.5% of the respondents, underprivileged people employed in Classrooms construction as strongly confirmed by 62% of the respondents (table 4.12).

Through ubudehe, the poor from the first category in the ubudehe classification who are able to work are helped by local authorities to find employment within their communities or in the nearby communities. In our study it was stated that the most common activities where these people usually find a job are the so-called public works, such as road construction, the preparation of radical terraces, the construction of schools, health centres, and water sources or water pipelines.

About the role of Ubudehe category on financial services, the study revealed that much has been done to connect poor people with financial institutions where there are establishment of Savings and Credit Cooperatives based in each sector called Umurenge SACCO to all Ubudehe categories as strongly agreed by 62% respondents, poor people working in VUP have been opened bank accounts as strongly agreed by 69% respondents, poor people are organized into groups and receive small loans for self-development as strongly agreed by 66.3 % respondents, promotion public funds to help pro-poor (BDF) as strongly agreed by 65.5% respondents (table 4.13).

About to the contribution of Ubudehe category on income generating activities, the study found that low-income women and men are eligible for small business tax breaks as strongly agreed by 73.3% of respondents, poor men and women create small businesses because of the support they receive from the government or partners as strongly agreed by 62.3% of respondents, Underprivileged men and women are trained and engaged in various gainful occupations such as Processing of agro products, hair dressing, farming, food vending, weaving of clothes, tailoring as confirmed by 66.8% of respondents.

The local authority quoted that the poor people and poor families are given a loan of 60,000 RWF to execute projects of their choice. The most common types of income-generating activities financed by the ubudehe programme from the different places where the data was collected included: crops and livestock farming, non-agricultural projects such as small-scale trade (mostly retail), handicrafts, and tailoring. While agriculture based projects were mostly implemented in rural areas, trading was more common in urban and semi-urban contexts.



#### **5.1.4. The challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District**

The study found that different challenges were raised by the respondents and some of them are lack of capacity to get money to pay for health as confirmed by 64% of the respondents, unrealistic categorisation of families into ubudehe categories as strongly confirmed by 68.3% of respondents, Ubudehe category that does not reflect its economic status as strongly confirmed by 60% of respondents.

It is a problem for students from poor families to cover their tuition fees and living expenses, since only students from families that are grouped in the first and second categories receive a waiver for tuition and receive support to cover their living expenses. If a family is put in a category that does not reflect its economic status, this will have a negative implication for their children at the time they want to enrol in public universities. A ‘wrong’ categorisation will also affect the contributions towards health insurance fees, as different categories receive differing amounts of support.

Another challenge mentioned by research participants was that the funds allocated to some community projects, even considering the added contributions of community members would, in some cases, not be enough to complete the planned activity. Moreover, the loans given to individuals and/or households were also partly considered to be insufficient. Respondents recommended that the loan amount be doubled (from 60,000 to 120,000 RWF).

The local authority declared that “About Ubudehe categories of poverty, there are problems that the people often express and we also see them; the previous categories have been characterized by several challenges including over-dependency of Rwandans on the government, and slow graduation of communities from poverty. The current categories were also characterized by repetitive and constant appeals and complaints to change categories and petty corruption and bribery in a bid to get lower categories. It is the same reason, the minister said, “the

implementation framework needed to be reviewed to ensure that we actually support those that need to be supported.”

The study indicates that lack of participation of the population and their unhappiness is the major problem with the categorization. In addition there is poor involvement of the community and households in the in categorisation process. However, this is against the study conducted by Shimeles(2010) who indicated that the communities at village level go through a process of collectively mapping their community facilitated by trained community volunteers. Niringiye’s (2012) findings indicated that Ubudehe program involves the local community members themselves identify development issues and deciding on priority actions to fight poverty in their neighborhoods and therefore the governments participation.

#### **5.1.5. The strategies to overcome the challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District.**

The study found that there are the solutions or strategies put in place to overcome challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District such as having adequate staff to administer Ubudehe categorization process as strongly agreed by 61% of the respondents, having well motivated staff members to perform their duties as strongly agreed by 71.5% of the respondents, having good working relationships with the community members as strongly agreed by 63.3% of the respondents, having full and accurate information about Ubudehe categories as strongly agreed by 60.8% of the respondents (table 4.16).

According to the information of district authority said that, community members who are not satisfied with the category they were put in are given a chance to complain and appeal in the first instance at the sector level, and if the respective community members remain discontented with the decision, they can appeal in the second instance to the district level.

## 5.2. Conclusion

The main purpose for this study was to assess the contribution of Ubudehe categorization on the socio-economic sustainability of Rwanda, case study of Gasabo District. In particular, it sought to identify the reason Ubudehe categorization programs was implemented in Gasabo District, to assess Ubudehe socio-economic programs in Gasabo District, to examine the extent to which Ubudehe categorization program contribute to socio-economic of vulnerable people and development of Gasabo District, to examine the challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District and to highlight the strategies to overcome the challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District.

The sample size was 400 respondents selected using stratified sampling technique and simple random sampling for data collection. Descriptive statistics were used where distribution (frequencies, percentages) through statistical package for social sciences (SPSS, 23.0). The study found that ubudehe (collective action to reduce poverty), gacaca (informal conflict settlement arrangements), imihigo (competitive performance contracts and accountability mechanisms), itorerero (cultural mentoring and leadership training) and umuganda (communal work), and others were first presented as practical ways of overcoming the immense challenges faced by Rwanda at the turn of the century. The ubudehe program was re-introduced to address rural poverty through community action, creating empowerment and participatory democracy.

In this study it was mentioned that people usually choose projects depending on their capacities to execute them. Some beneficiaries of the above-mentioned categories are given cows from either the ubudehe programme or from other projects that give people cows like girinka munyarwanda (one cow per family). Other beneficiaries are given goats or pigs, depending on their capacities to look after them. Regarding cattle farming, participants said that it has multiple benefits, especially providing milk for the household and having a surplus for sale to generate

income for the household. Another benefit of cattle farming is that it also provides organic manure for fertilising people's gardens, as many of them practise subsistence farming for their livelihoods.

The ubudehe programme also helps the most vulnerable people in the community to acquire shelter. Community members, either through ubudehe or umuganda (communal work), come together, make bricks, or gather other construction materials to construct the house. The ubudehe funds are then used to buy iron sheets and other required construction materials which the individual or the family cannot afford.

What should be noted concerning this categorisation is that the support for expenses such as tuition fees for students' higher education, students' upkeep fees, and contributions to health insurance are determined by the ubudehe category to which one belongs. It is a problem for students from poor families to cover their tuition fees and living expenses, since only students from families that are grouped in the first and second categories receive a waiver for tuition and receive support to cover their living expenses.

Another component of ubudehe is what is known as direct support or emergency fund (Inkunga y'ingoboka). The direct support targets families in the first category of ubudehe, a household with no working family members; these include households headed by children, very old or physically disabled people. These families receive monthly financial support, depending on the size of the family. For example, a family with only one household member is given 7,500 RWF; two are given 12,000 RWF; three get 15,000 RWF; four get 18,000 RWF, etc. The bigger the family, the more the financial support awarded.

Through ubudehe, the poor from the first category in the ubudehe classification who are able to work are helped by local authorities to find employment within their communities or in the

nearby communities. In our study it was stated that the most common activities where these people usually find a job are the so-called public works, such as road construction, the preparation of radical terraces, the construction of schools, health centres, and water sources or water pipelines.

Ubudehe category is to increase the level of institutional problem-solving capacities at the local level by citizens and the local government. It seeks to put into operation the principles of citizens' participation through local collective action. The word ubudehe was selected to present a quick mental image of people working together; action to solve the problems of local people, by local people, for local people; with support from local governments, NGOs, local resources, and donors. It sets out to strengthen democratic processes and governance, starting from the people's aspirations, their abilities, and traditions.

The study found that different challenges were raised by the respondents and some of them are lack of capacity to get money to pay for health as confirmed by 69.2% of the respondents, unrealistic categorisation of families into ubudehe categories as strongly confirmed by 73.8% of respondents, Ubudehe category that does not reflect its economic status as strongly confirmed by 64.9% of respondents.

As a result of this inappropriate categorisation or owing to changes made concerning their family's grouping into a particular ubudehe category, some students failed to complete their university studies and several families found it impossible to cover their health insurance premiums. To overcome this, respondents recommended that the assignment of ubudehe categories on the basis of household poverty levels should take place publicly with all community members present and should be validated by the village itself. Additionally, the outcome of this process should be respected by the local leaders.

The study found that there are the solutions or strategies put in place to overcome challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District such as having adequate staff to administer Ubudehe categorization process as strongly agreed by 61% of the respondents, having well motivated staff members to perform their duties as strongly agreed by 71.5% of the respondents, having good working relationships with the community members as strongly agreed by 63.3% of the respondents, having full and accurate information about Ubudehe categories as strongly agreed by 60.8% of the respondents.

### **5.3. Recommendations**

Having analyzed, discussed and interpreted collected data of this study, the researcher therefore recommends the following:

#### **To the Government**

- The government and the policy makers need to change name, description and criteria of categorization process, proper editing and time allocation for the community to participate in the categorization and provision of adequate and accurate information by the government to the community and the household on the Ubudehe categorization to enhance full participation of the community.
- The government and the stakeholders in all sectors should do proper sensitization, mobilization and education of the community on their involvement in the categorization into the Ubudehe category and its benefits to the community and the households.

#### **To the local authorities**

- Delivering to the poor the support provided by the Government and donors in appropriate way (transparency, honesty and loyalty).

- Be free from fraud or discrimination of any kind in Ubudehe categorization and assistance
- Paying poor people well and at the time whenever they are given jobs in public works and services
- Being advocates for poor people and fighting for their development in education, health care, economy and social welfare.

### **To the vulnerable people**

- Valuing the assistance that the government allocates to them, they take their hands out of their pockets in order to develop themselves, fight against poverty and ignorance, and issue the sustainable development of their families.
- Be honest and provide accurate information in the Ubudehe categorization.

### **5.4. For Further Studies**

Based on the findings the researcher recommends further studies in the following areas,

1. Contribution of socio-economic innovative neo-traditional cultural programs for inclusion of vulnerable people and sustainable development of Rwanda
2. Impact Evaluation of the Ubudehe Programme in Rwanda: An Examination of the Sustainability of the Ubudehe Programme.
3. The benefits of the Ubudehe program based CBHI on households in Rwanda

## REFERENCES

### I. Books

- Alvi, M. (2016). *A manual for selecting sampling techniques in research. Pakistan: University of*  
*<https://mpr.aub.uni-muenchen.de/70218/1/>. Accessed 30 May 2023.*
- Aran, M. S. (2018). *Poverty and Welfare Changes in Turkey 2003–2006. Mimeo. Washington DC: The World Bank (Turkey Office).*
- Arneson, R. (2019). *Equality and Equal Opportunity for Welfare*. *Philosophical Studies*, 56(1): 77–93.
- Carrin, G. (2013). *Community Based Health Insurance Schemes in Developing Countries: Facts, Problems and Perspectives. Geneva: World Health Organization.*
- Casteel, A. (2021). *Describing populations and samples in doctoral student research. International Journal of Doctoral Studies*, 16 (2021), 339-362.
- Cochran, W. G. (1963). *Sampling Techniques, 2nd Ed., New York: John Wiley and Sons, Inc.*
- Creswell, (2007). *Qualitative inquiry and research design: Choosing among five approaches (3rd ed.). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage.*
- Lombard, A. (2014). *A Developmental Perspective in Social Work: Theory and Practice. In: Spitzer H, Twikirize JM and Wairire GG (eds) Professional Social Work in East Africa. Towards Social Development, Poverty Reduction and Gender Equality. Kampala: Fountain.*
- Makaka, A. B. (2012). *"Universal Health Coverage in Rwanda: A Report of Innovations to Increase Enrolment in Community Based Health Insurance." The Lancet 380(2):S7.*
- Mamdani, M. (2002). *When Victims Become Killers: Colonialism, Nativism and the Genocide in Rwanda. Princeton: Princeton University Press.*
- Martin, I. (2015). *Addressing Vulnerabilities of the Poorest: A Micro Perspective from BRAC. In The Annual Bank Conference in Development Economics . Amsterdam.*
- Martin, I. (2015). *Addressing Vulnerabilities of the Poorest: A Micro Perspective from BRAC. In The Annual Bank Conference in Development Economics. Amsterdam.*
- Ndahiro, C. and Nkusi F. (2015). *Rwanda: Rebuilding of a Nation. Kigali: Fountain.*
- Ray, D. (2018). *Development Economics. Princeton: Princeton University Press.*



Tabor, S. (2015). *Community Based Health Insurance and Social Protection Policy*. Social Protection Unit. Washington DC, USA: Social Protection Discussion Paper Series World Bank.

Thurstone, L. (2009). *The Measurement of Values*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2009.

Yamane, T. (1967). *Statistics, An Introductory Analysis*, 2nd Ed., New York: Harper and Row.

Zewde, A. (2010). *Sorting Africa's Developmental Puzzle: The Participatory Social Learning Theory as an Alternative Approach*. Maryland: University Press of America.

## **II. Journals**

Niringiye, A. (2012). *Impact Evaluation of the UBUDEHE Programme in Rwanda: An Examination of the Sustainability of the UBUDEHE Programme*. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*, 14, 141-154.

Niringiye, A. (2012). *Impact Evaluation of the UBUDEHE Programme in Rwanda: An Examination of the Sustainability of the UBUDEHE Programme*. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa*, 14, 141-154.

## **III. Reports**

GoR, (2007). *Vision 2020 Umurenge: An Integrated Local Development Programme to Accelerate Poverty Eradication, Rural Growth, and Social Protection*. Kigali, Government of Rwanda.

GoR, (2013). *Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy II 2013–2018*. Kigali, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning.

GoR, (2007). *Umuganda concept note on current status*. Kigali, MINALOC.

Asiamah, N. (2017). *General, Target, and Accessible Population: Demystifying the Concepts for Effective Sampling*. *The Qualitative Report* 22 (2017): 1607-1621.

Kabeer, K. a. (2010). "Re-visioning Social Policy in the South: Challenges and Concepts." *IDS Bulletin* 31(4):1-10.

Ezeanya, C. (2015). "Homegrown and Grassroots based Strategies for Determining Inequality.

MINALOC. (2009). 'Ubudehe mu Kurwanya Ubukene'. *Concept Note*. Kigali: Rwanda Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC).

ECA, (2013). *Economic Transformation for Africa's Development*. Addis Ababa, UN Economic Commission for Africa.

- NIRS, (2016b). *Poverty Trend Analysis Report 2010/11*, Kigali, National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda.
- OSSREA, (2006). *Economic Development Poverty Reduction Strategy, Poverty Analysis of Ubudehe. Draft Report*.
- OSSREA, (2016). *Economic Development Poverty Reduction Strategy, Poverty Analysis of Ubudehe*.
- Oxfam, (2013). *Development Finance and Inequality: Good Practice in Ecuador, Rwanda and Thailand*. London: Oxfam.
- Republic of Rwanda, (2016a). *Ubudehe mu Kurwanya Ubukene. Concept Note*. Kigali: Ministry.
- Republic of Rwanda, (2007). *National Poverty Reduction Programme and Ministry of Local*.
- RGB, (2013). *Documentation of Home-grown Initiatives and Solutions for Policy Makers, Researchers and the Public*. Kigali: Rwanda Governance Board (RGB).
- RLDSF, (2010). *Rwanda Local Development Support Fund, Annual report 2009–2010*.
- UNDP, (2017). *Country context. Assessment of Development Results: Rwanda*. UNDP. Available at: <http://web.undp.org/evaluation/evaluations/adr/rwanda.shtml>.
- VUP, (2010). *Vision 2020 Umurenge Programme Annual Report*. Kigali, Ministry of Local Government.
- World Bank, (2003). *World Development Indicators*. Washington DC: World Bank.
- World Bank, (2013). *World Development Indicators*. Washington DC: World Bank.

### **III. Papers**

- Ezeanya, C. (2015). *Home-Grown and Grassroots-Based Strategies for Determining Inequality towards Policy Action Rwanda's Ubudehe Approach in Perspective*. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER. (WIDER Working Paper No. 2015/008).

### **III. Electronic References**

- Bizoza, A. (2016). *Where Rwanda needs to focus on in the new course of Sustainable Development Goals by 2030? Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR)*. Available at: <http://www.chronicpovertynetwork.org/blog/2023/13/3/sdgs-series-1-where-rwanda-need>.

- Bizoza, A. (2016). *Where Rwanda needs to focus on in the new course of Sustainable Development Goals by 2030? Institute of Policy Analysis and Research (IPAR)*. Available at: <http://www.chronicpovertynetwork.org/blog/2023/22/3/sdgs-series-1-where-rwanda-need>.
- Barnhart, J. (2011). *Umuganda: The ultimate nation-building project? Pursuit – The Journal of Undergraduate Research, Vol. 2, No. 1*. Retrieved from: <http://trace.tennessee.edu/pursuit/vol2/iss1/3>.
- Habiyonizeye M. and Mugunga, J. (2012). *A Case Study of Citizen Engagement in Fostering Democratic Governance in Rwanda. Conference Paper, International Conference on Democratic Governance: Challenges in Africa and Asia August 8-9, 2012*. Available at: <https>.
- WHO, (2016). *Legal Status of Traditional Medicine and Complementary/Alternative Medicine: A Worldwide Review. Essential Medicines and Health Products Information Portal: A World Health Organization Resource, 200*. Available at: <http://doi.org/j>.
- Shah, P. P. (2011). *Girls' education and discursive spaces for empowerment: Perspectives from rural India. Research in Comparative and International Education, Vol. 6*. Retrieved from [www.worldwords.uk/RCIE](http://www.worldwords.uk/RCIE).

## **APPENDICES**

## Appendix 1 : Questionnaire addressed to beneficiaries of Ubudehe categories

I am **HIRWA Ephrem**, a student at Kigali Independent University ULK in Master of Development Studies (MDS). In partial fulfilment of the academic requirements for the award of Master's Degree, I am conducting a research on **“CONTRIBUTION OF UBUDEHE CATEGORIZATION IN SUSTAINING SOCIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF RWANDA; A CASE STUDY OF GASABO DISTRICT (2017-2023)”**. Therefore, I would like to request for your participation in collection of necessary data to achieve the objectives of this research. It is with pleasure to be with you and the information collected will be of an incommensurable importance. I will use them solely for work and we promise you that they will remain confidential.

### Section A. Identification of respondents

**Instructions: Please tick with  $\surd$  the appropriate response**

#### Age of the respondents

- a) 18-35 years old
- b) 36-55 years old
- c) Above 56 years old

#### Gender of the respondents

- a) Female
- b) Male

#### Level of education

- a) Illiterate
- b) Primary level
- c) Secondary level
- d) University level and above

#### Ubudehe category

- a) Category 1
- b) Category 2
- c) Category 3
- d) Category 4

*As member of community in Gasabo District, rate the level of agreement with the statements in the following Table using: Strongly Disagree= SD; Disagree= D; Neutral= N; Agree= A; and Strongly Agree= SA*

SECTION B 1: Reasons Ubudehe categorization programs was implemented in Gasabo District

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>SA</b>
The main reasons why Ubudehe categorization programs was implemented in Gasabo District	1. Determine the poverty profile as perceived by the people themselves					
	2. Determine the causes and consequences of poverty					
	3. Draw up the social map of the cell, developmental infrastructure, and the roofing material of each household.					
	4. Identify and analyse the problems facing their community and determine a priority problem to be addressed					
	5. Plan the activities and relative means needed to address the prioritized problem through a collective action plan					
	6. To increase the level of institutional problem-solving capacities at the local level by citizens and the local government					
	7. Traditional Rwandan practice and cultural value of working together to solve problems					

**SECTION C: Ubudehe socio-economic programs in Gasabo District.**

Question	Answer	SD	D	N	A	SA
Ubudehe socio-economic programs for sustainable development of Gasabo District	Umuganda					
	Vision Umurenge Programme – VUP					
	Abunzi (Community mediators)					
	Imihigo (performance contract)					
	Girinka ('One cow per poor family' programme)					
	Itorero (civic education)					

SECTION D: The extent to which Ubudehe categorization program contribute to socio-economic of vulnerable people and development of Gasabo District

**a) Social contribution of Ubudehe categorization program**

Question	Answer	SD	D	N	A	SA
<b>Ubudehe categorization and food security among marginalized people</b>						
Do you think the ubudehe category you are in has contributed to the food security?	People were helped to postharvest handling and storage services					
	People were helped to promotion of agriculture cooperatives					
	People were helped to easy access to improved seed stocks and fertilizer					
	People were helped to the construction of local markets for food crops					
	People were helped to the improved irrigation system					
<b>Ubudehe categorization and availability of living place (accommodation) and animals husbandry</b>						
How the ubudehe category that people are, have played a role in getting help?	Through umuganda residents of category 1 & 2 whose houses were destroyed were rebuilt					
	Through umuganda residents of category 1 & 2 who were homeless were rebuilt					
	In the Girinka program, the people in the ubudehe 1st & 2nd category were given animals to breed					
	As a result Girinka program, the					

	people have created friendships based on cooperation (Korozanya)					
	Fertility has been reduced due to access to milk and fertilizers that help in agriculture (Category 1 & 2)					
<b>Ubudehe categorization and education</b>						
What the role that ubudehe category can play in education of your children's education?	9 and 12 Years basic education are built for the underprivileged population of all ubudehe categories					
	Underprivileged students passed on high scores in secondary level , they receive a scholarship that they will pay only if they get a job					
	Underprivileged families were given village childcare schools					
	For students of all ubudehe categories studying in public schools, they are provided with lunch					
	Students from underprivileged families were given school materials, uniforms and are exempted from school feeding					
<b>Ubudehe categorization and health</b>						
Cotribution of Ubudehe categorization on health	Underprivileged families were given annually mutual health insurance					
	Women and men have the same opportunity to make decisions at work					
	A pregnant woman is in the ubudehe category 1 is given permanent assistance until a child is 2 years					
	Presence of Health Advisors all villages to ensure good health of underprivileged women					
	Poor elderly people are given a living allowance every month					



**b) Economic contribution of Ubudehe categorization program**

<b>Question</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>SA</b>
<b>Ubudehe categorization and Employment creation</b>						
Contribution of Ubudehe categorization Employment creation	Underprivileged people employed in road rehabilitation					
	Underprivileged people employed in Anti-erosive ditches					
	Underprivileged people employed in Reforestation					
	Underprivileged people employed in Radical terraces					
	Underprivileged people employed in Classrooms construction					
<b>Ubudehe category and financial services</b>						
Contribution Ubudehe category on accessibility of financial services to vulnerable people	Establishment of Savings and Credit Cooperatives based in each sector called Umurenge SACCO to all Ubudehe categories					
	Poor people working in VUP have been opened bank accounts					
	Poor people are organized into groups and receive small loans for self-development					
	Promotion public funds to help pro-poor (BDF)					
<b>Ubudehe category and income generating activities</b>						
Contribution of ubudehe categorization on income generating activity	Low-income women and men are eligible for small business tax breaks					
	Poor men and women create small businesses because of the support they receive from the government or partners					
	Underprivileged men and women are trained and engaged in various gainful occupations such as Processing of agro products, hair dressing, farming, food vending, weaving of clothes, tailoring					

## SECTION D: The challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District.

The challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District.						
What are the challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District?.	Complaints to change categories and petty corruption and proposal to get lower categories					
	Unrealistic categorisation of families into ubudehe categories					
	Ubudehe category that does not reflect its economic status					

## SECTION E: The strategies to overcome the challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District

The strategies to overcome the challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District	Having adequate staff to administer Ubudehe categorization process					
	Having well motivated staff members to perform their duties					
	Having good working relationships with the community members					
	Having full and accurate information about Ubudehe categories					
	Mobilize the population to know the benefits					

## Appendix 2: Interview questions administered local authorities

### Individual Interview Guide

“Welcome! My name is **HIRWA Ephrem**, a student at Kigali Independent University (ULK). I request for your participation in the interview about “**The contribution of ubudehe categorization in sustaining social economic development of Rwanda**” a case study of **Gasabo District 2017-2023**. I just want to get your perceptions, opinions and thoughts about this issue. Your answers will be kept confidential and used to achieve the objectives of this study.

1. To what reason Ubudehe categorization programs were implemented in Gasabo District?
2. What are the ubudehe socio-economic programs in Gasabo District?
3. To what extent does Ubudehe program contribute to socio-economic of vulnerable people and development of Gasabo District?
  - a) Contribution Ubudehe category on Employment creation
  - b) Contribution Ubudehe category on education of vulnerable people
  - c) Contribution Ubudehe category on accessibility of financial services to vulnerable people
  - d) Contribution of ubudehe categorization on income generating activity
4. What are the challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District.
5. What are the strategies to overcome the challenges based on Ubudehe categorization in Gasabo District?