

## The Role of Community Participation in Planning Processes of Emerging Urban Centres. A study of Paidha Town in Northern Uganda.

<sup>1</sup>Kayom Wilson, <sup>2</sup>SengendoHannington, <sup>3</sup>Mukiibi Stephen

<sup>1,2,3</sup>Department of Architecture and Physical Planning, Makerere University. P.O Box 7062 Kampala, Uganda (East Africa). Email Id(s) [wkayom@gmail.com/wkayom@yahoo.com].

Mob. Tel: +256-772635545/0754432826.

**ABSTRACT:-** Participation has increasingly become one of the most vital ingredients of urban planning and development. In Uganda participatory planning has been given prominence with the rise to practice of planning policies and approaches that sought to democratize the country's development planning system. A major tenet in the democratization agenda was the establishment of a participatory system of planning in which local communities, facilitated by technocrats would participate in planning processes and influence the way physical planning functioned. Based on this unique value, this paper examines the level of participation of the urban community in physical planning process. This article focuses on an emerging urban centre of Paidha in northern Uganda. It shows that whereas participatory planning is recognised by many stakeholders, urban community inclusive, in practice nothing significant have been achieved. The level of urban community participation in physical planning is still very low. The study indicates that participatory planning plays a fundamental role in planning processes making it vital for physical planning. This study thus provides insights into the potential of urban participation for sustainable urban development. It therefore calls for community participation to be taken into account in efforts to promote planning process as an integral part of physical planning.

**Keywords:-** Community Participation, Planning Process, Physical Planning, Emerging Urban Centre

### I. INTRODUCTION

*The need for the study – urban order and democratic development* Over the last century, the 'popularity' of planning has waxed and waned in various parts of the world. In China, it was abolished under Mao Tse-tung, but was formally rehabilitated in 1989 (Shahid and Weiping, 1949). In Eastern Europe; urban master planning was a central pillar of communist ideology (Durning et al., 2010). Planning suffered a severe crisis of legitimacy in the post-communist neo-liberal era, but the resultant chaotic growth of cities and environmental crisis compelled the re-establishment of planning across the region in the post 2000 period (World Bank, 2003).

Urban areas account for about 80% of any country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This demonstrates why efficient and sustainable planning of cities, municipalities and towns are vital to restoring and speeding up economic growth and enhancing access to economic opportunities and social services, particularly for the low-income groups (Kayom, 2014). In Uganda, as reported by Nicchia (2011) and UN-Habitat (2010), the newly gazetted Town Councils, Town Boards, and upcoming Rural Growth Centres constitute a predominant form of urbanization MOLG - Ministry of Local Government, (2010). According to UN-Habitat (2009), the positive aspects of urbanization could be fully realized in government planning processes if there was a proactive understanding of the role, community participation plays in promoting sustainable physical planning in developing countries.

It is on the basis of the structural problems affecting planning process that the researcher became interested in undertaking this particular study. This study contributes to this area of research and policy development related to the physical planning process in emerging urban centres. The philosophical underpinning for this study was largely dependent on social constructivist worldview of scientific investigation (Ayiro, 2012). This paper is based on the study of this subject in Uganda. More efficient and sustainable cities and towns are therefore crucial to the Government of Uganda's strategies for achieving socio-economic transformation as enshrined in the Uganda National Vision 2040. Mcloughlin, 1969 planning process model provided the theoretical framework for this study. According to Mcloughlin (1969), participation of urban community in planning process is expected to last as long as a plan remains in force.

**The problem:** *Poor planning systems; poorly serviced and resourced urban areas* Uganda has many examples of declining inner cities, municipalities and small towns, poorly serviced townships and spatially distorted urban

areas (Kayom, 2014). These have become complex and costly to manage and service. It is these basic problems that ought to be addressed if the country is to take up the challenge of urban transformation (Kayom, 2006). Local Government planning and financing in Uganda and elsewhere in the less developed countries of sub-Saharan Africa has tended to focus on preparation of plans without regard to community participation. Where physical planning effort has been made, what passes for community participation is a quasi-form of participation which is mass planning meetings at the Town Council Hall once or twice whenever a new physical plan was to be prepared. The vital level for participation has remained elusive in the minds of technocrats. This has hampered planning efforts because of inadequate contribution of communities to planning processes.

In Uganda, policies and laws do exist which require participatory planning to be carried out, but they are not coherent at national level and the resources to implement them have not been forthcoming (Kayom & Cripps, 2014). The Constitution, 1995, Physical Planning Act 2010 and Local Government Act, Cap 243 emphasize participatory planning. However, the devolution of physical planning function to local governments caught them unprepared, lacking capacity and adequate funding to handle the challenge of urban development (Koojo, 2005).

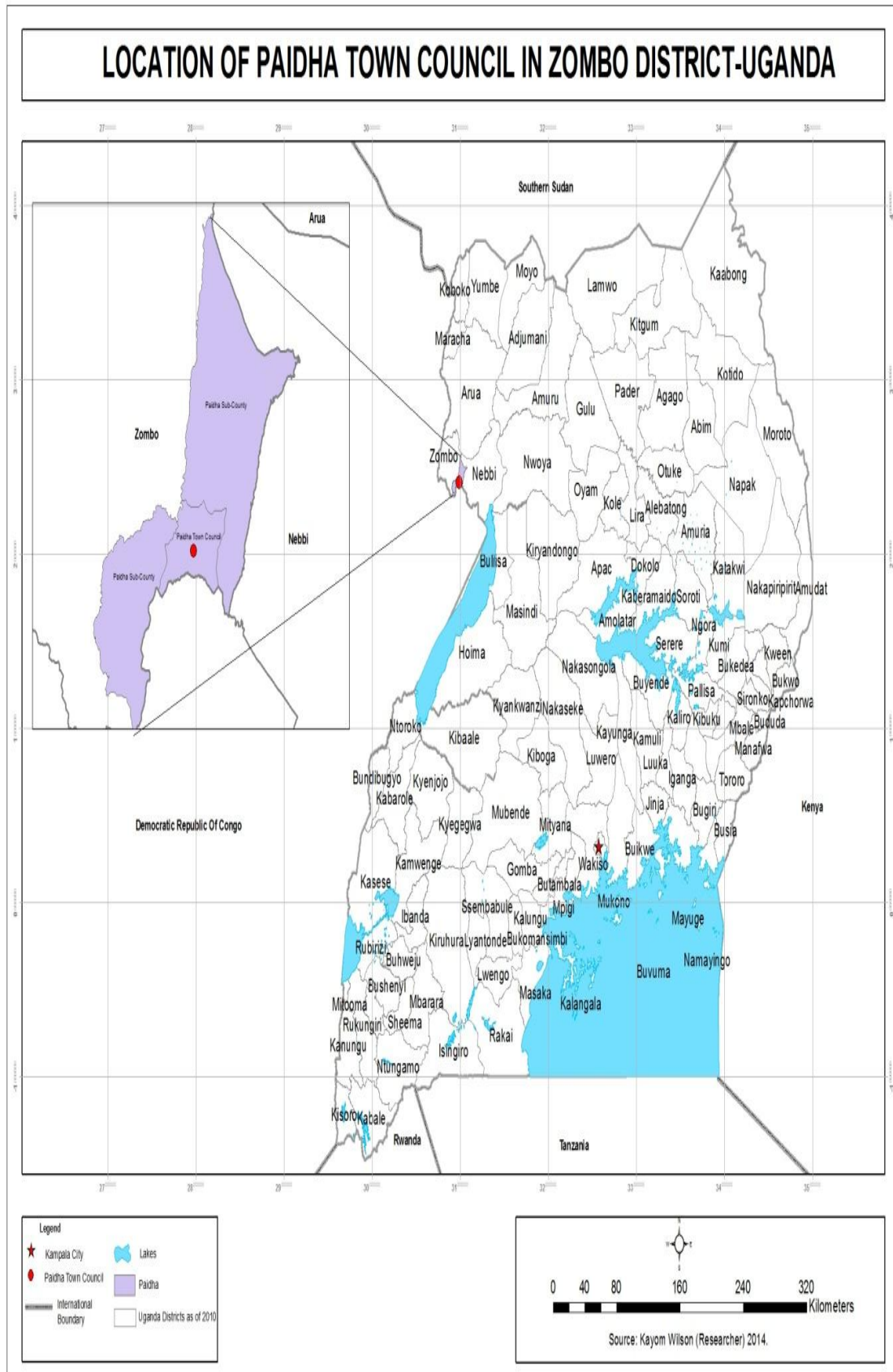
***The essential issues associated with the research topic;*** Lack of awareness and community participation, are proposed as a major cause of the problems which are being faced. In order to understand the interventions which the Government of Uganda believes are necessary for sustainable urban development, it is important to examine the realities pertaining to urban areas and their planning processes. They are too simplistic, uncoordinated and failing to get anywhere near catching up with the scale and pace of development (Kayom, 2014). This paper therefore focuses on planning process with an on the understanding that organized physical development does not depend on the content of a physical plan alone but also on the process undertaken in carrying out the planning. It looks at the levels of participation of urban community in planning processes as a basis of understanding how to move forward. In this paper an analysis is done on what the author believes to be the defining question: how extensive are the physical planning processes currently being followed by developing countries/economies of Sub-Saharan Africa? In addition, the author examines the origins of the physical planning systems which are in use and their current situation. The paper concludes by advocating that it is time for a clear understanding of the basics of planning process, stating the reasons why it is needed and how it fits into physical planning. Urban communities should be made aware of the benefits and demands of planning process in order to enhance their participation in physical planning.

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

The general objective of the study was to critically analyze the physical planning process that is affecting the emerging urban centre of Paidha in Zombo district, Uganda. Specifically, the study attempted to critically analyze the level of participation of the urban community in planning processes in Paidha town. This study was guided by the question; what is the level of participation of the community in physical planning process in Paidha town.

## **II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

Both quantitative and qualitative methodological approaches were considered appropriate for this research. These approaches, allowed for capturing of all key stakeholders involved in urban development and particularly the physical planning Sub-Sector at the National, District, Town Council and Local Community levels. A total of 190 respondents were selected as the sample size using simple random sampling and purposive sampling methods. Published and unpublished materials were used in the research (Creswell, 2007). Interviews with various stakeholders that are instrumental in community participation and physical planning were also carried out. Paidha urban local government was selected as the field research area, based on its unique characteristics and functions. The urban physical development plans, development plans and reports for Paidha in particular were thoroughly evaluated. The Ugandan physical planning initiatives for various years, were assessed. Finally, the experiences of staff from the Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development (USMID) Program, Physical Planning Departments of the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD), Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development were used as the basis for an assessment of the current situation such that the findings and recommendations are appropriate and timely.



### **III. LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **(i). Understanding community participation in the context of physical planning.**

Participation has increasingly become one of the most hotly debated concepts in urban planning and development (Jamal and Julia, 2009). Yet the notion is as old as democracy itself (Fisca, 2005). It emerged during the time of the Greek city-states, where it was believed that every citizen should be allowed to participate in decision-making. The importance of participatory planning in urban development is also highlighted in the Planning Sustainable Cities Report of 2009, published by UN-Habitat. The report adds significantly that participatory planning is one of the most important shifts in urban planning that has occurred during the last few decades. It is a remarkable shift from a view of planning being an expert –driven technocratic activity to one that is inclusive of relevant stakeholders and communities. This shift from government to governance and its implications from the role of local/municipal government leads one to zero on participation.

According to Fiskaa (2005) participatory planning is that approach to planning that is about people and the development of their communities. It is where the beneficiary communities participate in a particular way on the implicit assumption that their participation is a means to some further action on their part to bring about specific change (UN-Habitat, 2009). It is a process and not a product, in which the planner gets to know the people and their situation well enough to offer him/her as a resource. Participatory planning is an expression of and commitment of people's right to be involved in matters where decisions are made that concern or affect them (the Republic of Uganda, 1995). One could simply say, it is a departure from planning "for" the people to planning "with" the people (UN-Habitat, 2010). Thus according to Omolo (2011), Planning Schools should embrace innovative planning ideas with a focus on participatory planning skills.

UN-Habitat (2009), successful participation is, however, dependent upon certain pre-conditions relating to the political context (a political system that encourages active citizenship and that is committed to equity and redress), the legal basis for participation (processes and outcomes are legally specified) and available resources (skilled and committed professionals, well-resourced and empowered local governments, and informed, financially empowered and organized communities).

#### **(ii) Levels of participation of urban community in planning process.**

According to Arstein (1969), there are basically eight levels of citizens' participation in planning process as Manipulation, Therapy, Informing, Consultation, Placation, Partnership, delegated power and citizen control. Lwasa and Nyakaana (2005) carried out a review of the Local Government Act, 1997 and the 1998 Financial Guidelines for Local Governments in Uganda. Their analysis showed that despite adoption of abottom-up approach to development planning, communities were only involved actively in the planning process mainly during the fourth stage out of the fourteen stages. This involvement was also mainly in the form of consultative meetings. There is an element of participation but given the limited time frame of the planning cycle, adequacy of participation is still lacking (Lwasa and Nyakaana, 2005).

Koojo's (2005), findings on the mode of planning for the 1994 Kampala structure plan is not different from that of Lwasa and Nyakaana (2005). Koojo's findings revealed that, the pattern of contacts between planners and the community consisted of collecting information and opinions in the analytical stage of plan making, presentation and explanation of planning proposals to the public during the legally public hearing stage. This implies, active community participation only feature at the local planning authority level. There is no community participation at the grassroots and middle level.

Mohamed (2006) noted that the improvement in the level of community participation in urban planning processes in South Africa was due to the fact that urban councils adopted clear strategies for community involvement. These strategies include; the Integrated Development Plan, Communication Strategy; the Community Outreach Programme; and the Stakeholder Involvement Strategy. According to Mohamed (2006) South Africa, because of adoption of the strategies mentioned, has achieved more public participation in urban planning than ever before in the history of the country. Do these strategies of community engagement exist in Uganda's development planning document? This question is answered in a study by Kayom (2006). He noted that, most development plans of urban councils present lists of activities without clear strategies for achieving them. This implies low level of community involvement in planning processes. But again is this also the case for Paidha town? In any case to what extent has this low level of urban community involvement affected the pattern of urban physical development in Paidha? These questions constituted an academic gap that was fulfilled by this study.



### III. RESEARCH ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

➤ *Level of participation of urban community in physical planning in Paidha*

(i) Very few urban community members are involved in physical planning in Paidha.

The result of interviews conducted with households revealed, only 17 out of 91 respondents admitted taking part in physical planning. Majority (38 out of 91) were not involved in physical planning. Others (36 out of 91) were not even sure on what to answer regarding physical planning. Inadequate level of involvement of the urban community of Paidha is further demonstrated by their levels of awareness regarding physical development plans. It was found, 45.1% of urban residents interviewed knew about the existence of a physical development plan for Paidha. 35.2% responded that there was no plan while 19.8% claimed ignorance of whether there was a physical plan or not. Respondents who admitted knowledge of physical development plan for Paidha were right. Indeed the researcher also saw the current physical plan of Paidha prepared in 2008. It should be noted, whereas majority of respondents alluded that there was a physical plan for Paidha, many of them pointed out they did not take part in its preparation. The result of an interview conducted with members of the urban community regarding availability of physical development plan of Paidha was in line with the observation of the researcher.

Even the few urbanites who participated in planning processes did not know their rights, responsibilities and options. This was partly because since the creation of Paidha Town Council in 1993, it was only able to recruit one qualified Physical Planner in 2010. The absence of a Physical Planner also meant there was no competent officer who could articulate physical planning agenda in Town Council meetings. This led to allocation of meagre budgets for physical planning. Hence, communities could not be reached at, for them to fully understand the basics of physical planning.

The study found, physical planning, had never been discussed by the District Technical Planning Committee of Nebbi. This explains why the level of awareness of urban community regarding physical planning remained low in Paidha. The district leadership of Nebbi (former mother district of Paidha) only concentrate on activities like roads, schools and medical centres which receive funding from central government.

(ii) Community participation is limited to a few mass meetings in Paidha.

In Paidha, participation of urban community though part of physical planning process, is only limited to a few levels comprising of mass planning meetings. These meetings were organized not according to administrative hierarchy of government. Ideally, such meetings would have been meaningful if they were organized based on local council level hierarchy. On the contrary, these meetings were organized at the town council hall for everybody living in Paidha. According to respondents, this level was too high for them to deliberate freely. They felt intimidated by presence of prominent personalities. Hence, this level of participation was not helpful for them. Successful participation of urban community in planning process therefore require different levels starting from village to town council.

Based on Anstein 1969 ladder of citizen participation, it was found, participation of urban community though part of physical planning process, is only limited to a few aspects of manipulation, therapy, informing and consultation. Other methods; placation, partnership, delegated power and citizen control are almost non-existent in Paidha. It was found, only one or two planning meetings were organized for urban community in Paidha. These meetings were organized at the Town Council Hall for everybody living in Paidha. According to respondents, only a few people attended such meetings which were also just for information. Hence, majority of whom, admitted failure to influence planning proposals presented to them. Hence, the meetings were not helpful to them. Participation of urban community in Paidha can therefore be considered, non-participation. This is because for urban community participation to have impact on planning processes, different methods ought to be employed.

(iii) Community participation only takes place at the initial stage of plan formulation in Paidha.

The study found, community physical planning meetings were always organized at the beginning of planning attempts in Paidha. This implies, participation in the context of Paidha is only limited to the first stage of the planning process based on McLaughlin's 1969 planning process model. Critical stages like consensus building on vision, goals and mission, generating alternative plans, adoption of best planning option and implementation of the plan including monitoring and evaluation are not part and parcel of Paidha Town Council participatory planning process. It should be noted, a planning document is only as strong as the community of people working to implement the articulated vision. According to urbanites, dispersed/sprawling and fragmented developments in Paidha were partly a result of their low level of participation in planning processes. For patterns of developments to improve, there is a need for increased levels of participation of urban community in planning process in Paidha.

(iv) Community participation does not take into account administrative hierarchy of government in Paidha.

As implied in the preceding paragraphs, there were no any form of involvement of urban residents in physical planning processes at the village and ward level. Yet according to Obeng- Odoom (2010), the classic justification for decentralization and devolution is that deliberation works best in small face-to-face forums where everyone has a chance to speak and where solutions to problems are tailored to local conditions (Beal, 2005). But this is not to conclude, participation should entirely remain at the village level. The same members who participated at the village level should also take part at the ward and town council level which unfortunately was found lacking in Paidha. Neo-liberal governance rejects the 'one-size-fits-all' approach to planning and/or policy. Also without some way of connecting localities, communities can become inward looking, parochial and restricted to their own local resources, potentially exacerbating spatial differentiation, competition and conflict (Nour, 2011).

The failure of urban community of Paidha to participate right from the village to the Town Council level implies the spatial vision of Paidha Town Council is not a shared one. More so, the urban physical development plans of Paidha do not reflect the real priorities of the local people. Hence, it is obvious; implementation of physical development plans of Paidha had to fail. This is because, plans that do not have a vision and do not have a response to real problems are easily sidelined and forgotten when political agendas change (UN-Habitat 2013:21). From the foregoing, it is disputable to conclude, the form of planning taking place in Paidha was indeed urban planning. This is because according to UN-Habitat (2013:11), urban planning should not be viewed by local leaders as simply developing drawings and images of the city or town in the future, without discerning how this process and the decisions it requires can become the backbone of urban transformation. Constant and consistent engagement of stakeholders in urban planning should be the norm not an option (UN-Habitat, 2013:11).

The finding that, no community participation takes place at the village or Local Council one level in Paidha is in congruence to that of Koojo's (2005); Lwasa and Nyakaana (2005). The scholars mentioned conducted their studies in Kampala. According to the duo, the pattern of contacts between planners and the community happened only at the analytical stage of plan presentation and explanation of planning proposals to the public during the legally public hearing stage, is contrary to the theoretical framework adopted for this study. This is because according to Mcloughlin, (1969), community participation is expected to last as long as the physical planning process last. Individual (s) who attend planning meeting (s) once or twice may not fully embrace physical planning. Indeed this was also true for Paidha. These findings are in line with that of Omolo (2011) and Koojo (2005). According to the duo, absence of community participation during the implementation stage of planning process causes resistance. This means community participation during planning processes is a problem in Uganda's urban centres generally. The result of the current study is therefore significant for the whole urban sector in the country.

(v) No influence of community participation on physical planning in Paidha.

According to respondents (household heads) who took part in this study, planning meetings were just for information purposes besides they did not understand most of the issues at hand. A similar view was expressed during Focus Group Discussions. Most respondents said participation was mainly limited to close associates of their Local Council 3 Chairman. According to them, community information on development programmes were in most cases shared by political agents of their Chairman (Mayor). Other respondents said they could not be effectively engaged to participate in planning meetings because the leadership of Paidha Town Council feared anybody who would challenge its authority. This imply, only puppets were involved in physical planning in Paidha. Since these are close associates of the Mayor, they could not exert influence on the rest of the urban residents. This finding reinforces that of Fenster and Yacobi (2007) who argue that unless urban community members across political, religious, cultural and social divide are involved in physical planning, nothing significant can be achieved in terms of their influence on development.

(vi) No formal strategies, policies and guidelines exist for community participation in Paidha.

It was found, no formal strategies for community participation exists in Paidha. Stakeholders like developers, landowners, cultural institutions and business community were not involved in physical planning. Special interest groups like the youth, persons with disability, the urban poor, women, children, older persons, minority groups and religious institutions were not part and parcel of planning processes in Paidha. This is not surprising since interviews with officials of the Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development which is responsible for overseeing their activity nationally is equally not involved in physical planning process. The danger is that it has left physical planning to remain a sector specific activity as opposed to being a cross cutting issue among sectors (NPA, 2010). This finding reinforces what had been discussed - that community participation is short of significant influence on physical planning in Paidha.

#### **IV. RESEARCH CONTRIBUTION**

One particular policy program which extended theoretical underpinnings was the decentralization program of which Uganda's experience is generally considered a success story in terms of its extent and impact (Nabaho, 2012). However, evidence from several studies, including Awortwi (2011), Green (2008) Beall (2005) and this paper, seems to point to the fact that emerging urban authorities have still not recovered from the negative impact of decentralization. This study has used empirical findings to show that the current decentralization policy is not making the anticipated impact. The theoretical arguments for this justification suggest the need for policy review which will enable physical planning to work for the local authorities and more especially the emerging urban authorities like Paidha (MOLG, 2010).

The study indicates that participatory planning plays a fundamental role in planning processes making it vital for physical planning. Participatory planning should be recognized as an important element of physical planning to complement scientific decision making processes in urban development. Thus, the principles of participatory planning need to be extended to all levels of planning processes including urban community. Assessing levels of participation of urban community presents an opportunity for a holistic diagnosis of and improvements to physical planning, which would not be possible if the assessments were limited to plan making and implementation that underpins it.

#### **V. CONCLUDING REMARKS**

This study analysed the physical planning process in emerging urban centre of Paidha in Uganda. The thrust of the study was to examine the critical physical planning issues affecting emerging urban centres. This study was motivated by the many uncoordinated developments that characterize emerging urban centres to the extent that everybody is wondering whether there is any form of physical planning considerations going on in these emerging urban centres. An attempt to address the above challenge compelled the researcher to analyse the planning process.

The overall conclusion of this study is that participation, is still a challenge that affects physical planning in emerging urban centre of Paidha. This is largely attributed to limited levels of awareness of physical planning among the different stakeholders. This conclusion is based on both empirical and the theoretical findings of this study. For example, Koojo (2005), Lwasa (2006) and Kayom (2005) noted, when stakeholders fail to participate in planning process, little is achieved in terms of orderly urban development. For physical planning to be successful in emerging urban centres, there is a need for planning mechanisms that can improve urban community participation (Kayom, 2014).

#### **REFERENCES**

- [1]. Ayiro L. (2012). Research Methodology. A Paper presented during the Post Graduate Research Seminar held on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2011 at Senate Main Conference Hall in Makerere University Kampala.
- [2]. Creswell, J.W. (2007). Qualitative inquiry & research design: Choosing among five approaches (2nd ed.). Thousand Oaks, California: Sage Publications California.
- [3]. Durning, B. et al. (2010). [The Spiral of Knowledge Development: Professional Knowledge Development in Planning](#). Planning Practice and Research 25(4) 497-516.
- [4]. Durning et al. (2010). Designing public participation processes. Theory to Practice
- [5]. Jamal, A. & Julia, M, (2009). Factors affecting compliance with residential standards in the city of Old Salt, Jordan. [Habitat International](#); Oct2009, Vol. 33 Issue 4, p301-309, 9p
- [6]. Kayom W. Cripps C. (2014). Great Places – through integrated planning. Proceedings of the conference: Planning Africa 2014: Making Great Places. 19th - 22nd October, 2014 International Convention Centre, Durban, South Africa. [https://www.academia.edu/9809497/Planning\\_Africa\\_2014\\_Making\\_Great\\_Places](https://www.academia.edu/9809497/Planning_Africa_2014_Making_Great_Places)
- [7]. Koojo C.A (2005), Implementation of Physical Plans with Reference to Wetland Land use in Kampala City – Uganda. Makerere University Unpublished Phd Thesis.
- [8]. Mcloughlin (1969). Urban Planning theory. Third edition.
- [9]. Ministry of Local Government (2010) Ministerial Policy Statement, Financial Year 2010/11. The Republic of Uganda. Kampala.
- [10]. Nicchia, Roberta (2011) Planning African rural towns: the case of Caia and Sena, Mozambique. PhD thesis, University of Trento.

- [11]. Omolo, Et.al. (2010). Planning of Kampala City 1903 – 1962: The planning ideas, Values, and their physical expression. *Journal of Planning History* 2010. DOI: 10.1177/1538513210373815.
- [12]. World Bank (2003). *The twenty first century: Asia becomes Urban*. Urban Symposium

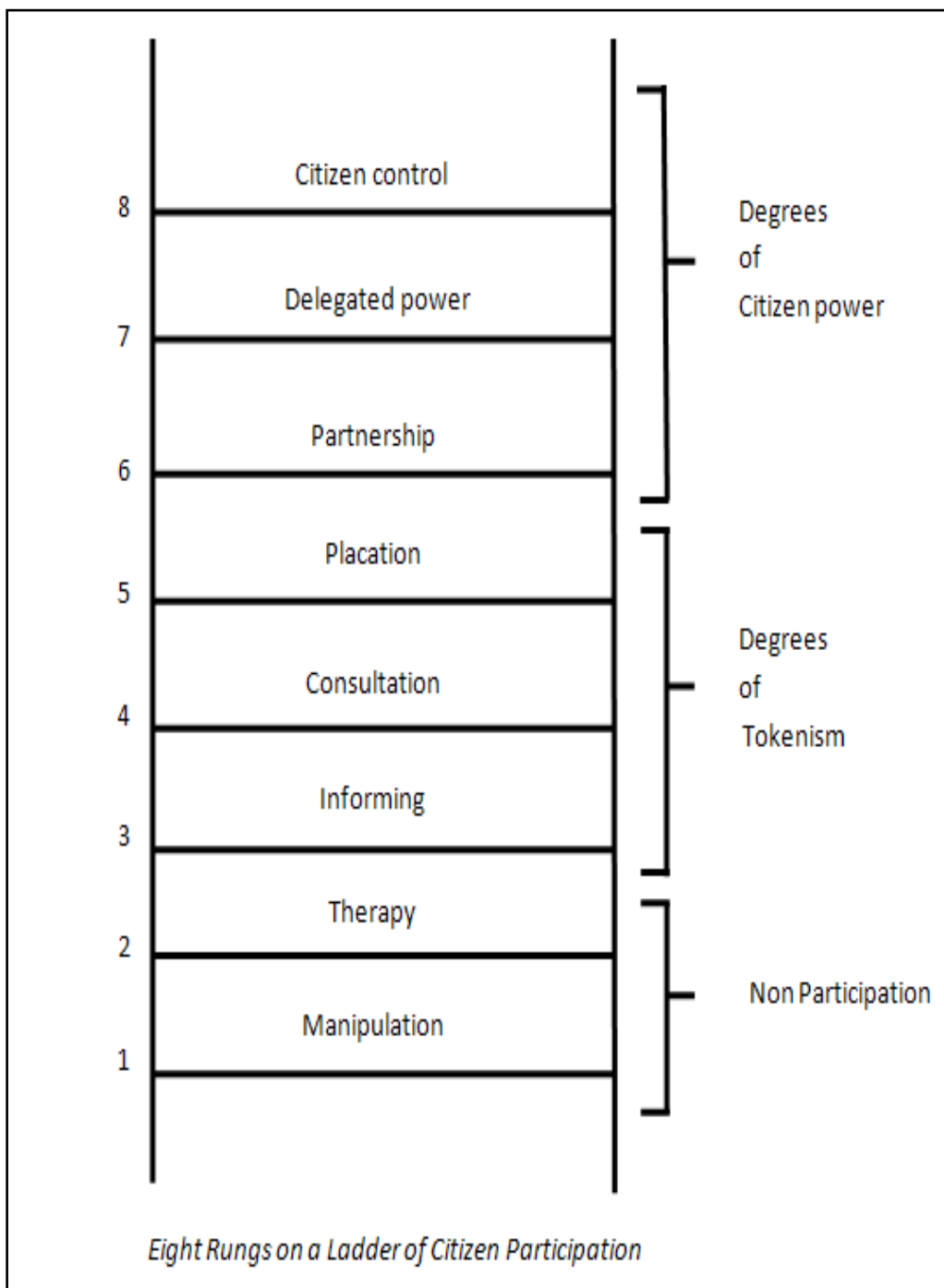
### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

My sincere thanks to all physical planning colleagues for their unending support and whose useful assistance here and there, proved to be a catalyst for this paper. I recognise contributions from Prof. Hannington Sengendo and Dr. Stephen Mukiibi for their great support in supervising my PhD work. Their insightful suggestions, motivation and the guidance have proved invaluable in the pursuit of this paper. I also appreciate the support of Dr. Isaac Mutenyo, Program Coordinator for Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development and Mr. Gabbindade – Musoke, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development. I'm further indebted to Dr. Violet Kayom, of Medical School, Makerere University for her intriguing questions regarding techniques of writing manuscripts.

### **Appendixes**

**Appendix 1: Arstein's 1969 model of community participation.**





Source: Arstein (1969)

**Appendix 2: Summary of characteristics of each level of citizen participation**

Level of participation	Key features
Manipulation	(i). Physical Planning Committees available. (ii) Committees don't function well. (iii) Committees don't represent community's interest. (iv) People are placed on rubber stamp Advisory Committees/Boards (v) Participation is only about educating, persuading and advising people (vi) Government Officials just gather information from community
Therapy	(i) Communities assembled for group therapy (ii) Citizens are put on extensive activity but the essence is not to achieve real objectives of participation
Informing	(i) Citizens are informed of their rights, responsibilities and options during planning process (ii) Methods for informing the citizens are participatory

Consultation	(i) Inviting citizen's opinion (ii). Neighborhood meetings (iii) Attitude surveys (iv) Public hearings (V) Variety of methods for community consultations are used
Placation	(i) Degree of influence of community on government planning interventions available (ii) Community represented on Boards, Commissions etc. (iii) Citizens organized into formal groups (iv) Citizens advise and/or plan but subject to approval of the government authority (vi) Degree of tokenism available
Partnership	(i) Power redistributed through negotiations between citizens and power holders (ii) Existence of joint policy boards, planning committees and mechanisms for resolving impulse (all between community and government officials
Delegated power	(i) Negotiations between citizens and public officials (ii) Strong evidence of community interests reflected in the plans (iii) Communities contracted to undertake physical planning in neighborhoods and even entire town or city.
citizen control	(i) Evidence of community controlling urban infrastructure like schools, health centres, infrastructure projects etc

Source: Arstein's 1969 model of community participation.

**Appendix 3: Level of participation of urban community in physical planning process**

Level of participation (institutional)	urban residents	Local Council 1 officials	Local Council 2 officials	LC 3 Councilors	LC 3 Executive
Village/Local Council 1	No	No	No	No	No
Ward/Local Council 11	No	No	No	No	No
Special Interest Group (Church, school, health centre level, children, minority groups, business community etc	No	No	No	No	No
Urban Land Committee	Yes	No	No	No	No
Department of physical planning at Town Council	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Technical Planning Committee level - LC3	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
LC 3 Committee for physical planning	No	No	No	Yes	No
LC3 executive	No	No	No	No	Yes
District technical staff/Council	No	No	No	No	No
LC3 Council	No	No	No	Yes	Yes

Source: Field data, 2012.

**Author.**

**Mr Kayom Wilson** is a young, vibrant scholar and registered professional Physical Planner practicing in Uganda. He has vast experience having worked in three local governments and three central government institutions in Uganda. He has presented many papers at local and national levels. Mr. Kayom, has not only represented Uganda in many fora but presented papers at international level. Mr. Kayom Wilson is currently a PhD candidate in the Department of Architecture and Physical Planning, Makerere University Kampala. His PhD research focuses on; the critical physical planning issues that are affecting the emerging urban centres of the developing countries. Mr. Kayom is currently working as a Physical/Urban Planning Specialist for so far the largest Urban Development Program ever, Uganda has implemented since independence in 1962. This Program that is fully financed by the World Bank in Uganda is building capacity of the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development and 14 Municipal Urban Local Governments to deliver on sustainable urban development agenda. Mr. Kayom also wrote an academic paper on integrated planning that was published in the Planning Africa, 2014 conference proceeding - organized by South African Planning Institute in October 2014.