

Stakeholder Involvement and Team Capacity on the Performance of Rural Electrification Projects in Southwestern Uganda

¹Violah Mpangwire, ¹Sarah Ainomugisha, ²Benjamin Musiita

¹Makerere University Business School, Uganda

²Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda

*vmpangwire@mubs.ac.ug, sainomugisha@mubs.ac.ug, bmusiita@must.ac.ug

Abstract: This research delves into the dynamics of stakeholder involvement and team capacity in shaping the success of rural electrification projects in Southwestern Uganda. The study adopted a cross-sectional design using a quantitative approach. Data was collected from a population of 38 rural electrification projects in Southwestern Uganda. A sample of 34 projects was determined using Krejcie and Morgan's Table 1970, and these were selected through simple random sampling. Findings indicate significant positive relationships between stakeholder involvement, team capacity, and project performance. The analysis reveals that 41.9% of the variations in project performance are explained by stakeholder involvement and team capacity, with 58.1% unaccounted for, signaling potential avenues for future research. The study concludes by advocating for strategic interventions that prioritize stakeholder engagement and team capacity in rural electrification projects in Southwestern Uganda. Therefore, it is important to emphasize the critical role of engaging stakeholders and enhancing team capabilities for successful rural electrification projects.

Keywords: *Rural electrification, stakeholder involvement, team capacity, project performance*

1. Introduction

In Uganda, the landscape of electrification projects reveals a substantial urban-rural disparity, emphasizing the need for a closer examination of the challenges impeding progress. The International Trade Administration's (2023) data highlights a significant contrast, with 57.2% of urban Ugandans having access to electricity compared to a mere 10% in rural areas, resulting in a national average of 22.1%. This stark reality necessitates a comprehensive understanding of global rural electrification rates, wherein countries like Norway and Sweden exhibit high success, while numerous African nations, including Uganda, grapple with electrification of remote areas (Clark, 2017; Trotter et al., 2019; Hansen & Xydis, 2020). Our research delves into the dynamics of rural electrification in Southwestern Uganda, specifically investigating the intertwined effects of stakeholder involvement and team capacity on project performance (Mubarok, 2017; JOSEPH, 2023).

Stakeholder engagement and effective team capacity emerge as pivotal elements in the success of rural electrification initiatives. In the realm of electricity projects, stakeholders encompass diverse entities, ranging from local communities and government bodies to non-governmental organizations and private enterprises (Nederhand & Klijn, 2019). Their collective involvement proves instrumental in shaping project goals, securing resources, and navigating regulatory frameworks. Simultaneously, the competence and cohesion of project teams play a crucial role in surmounting the inherent challenges of electrification efforts (Lehtinen & Aaltonen, 2020). Examining instances in Uganda, our study uncovers scenarios where stakeholder engagement and robust team capacity propelled success. Community-driven initiatives, actively involving local residents and leveraging their regional insights, exhibited heightened sustainability (Masika, 2020). Conversely, projects facing team capacity issues or internal conflicts encountered setbacks (Englund & Graham, 2019). Through an exploration of these dynamics, our research provides insights into the intricate interplay between stakeholder involvement, team capacity, and the outcomes of rural electrification projects in Southwestern Uganda (Gómez-Hernández et al., 2019).

This study makes a substantive contribution to the existing body of knowledge on rural electrification in Uganda by unraveling the combined impact of stakeholder involvement and team capacity. Unlike previous research, which often scrutinized these factors in isolation, our approach dissects the complex interdependencies defining project success (Stritzke et al., 2021). By concentrating on Southwestern Uganda, we acknowledge the region's unique contextual factors influencing electrification efforts (Lo & Kibalya, 2023). Through an in-depth analysis of case studies and empirical data, our research aims to offer a nuanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities associated with rural electrification. Ultimately, we aspire

to furnish actionable recommendations informing policy decisions, project management strategies, and future research in the broader domain of sustainable rural electrification (Leary et al., 2019; Backe et al., 2021).

2. Review of Existing Literature

Stakeholder Theory: A Balancing Act

Drawing inspiration from Harrison, Barney, Freeman and Phillips (2019), our study aligns with the Cambridge Handbook of Stakeholder Theory, providing a comprehensive understanding of the relationships organizations maintain with stakeholders. Stakeholder theory, as discussed by Freeman (2023) and Friedman and Miles (2002), emphasizes the moral and strategic perspectives. Freeman's (2023) work, housed in Selected Works on Stakeholder Theory and Business Ethics, deepens our understanding of the political dimensions inherent in stakeholder theory, offering future directions for exploration. The moral view, articulated by Freeman (1984) and Mitchell et al. (1997), posits that stakeholders impacted by organizational operations have a rightful claim to information and can demand certain standards of performance. This theory, grounded in strategic and moral considerations, provides a comprehensive framework to navigate the complex landscape of rural electrification projects, where ethical considerations and strategic imperatives intersect.

The synthesis of stakeholder theory, stewardship theory, and insights from Pinto (2019) forms a robust theoretical foundation for understanding how knowledge, skills, and abilities possessed by stakeholders and team members influence the performance of rural electrification projects. This blend of paradox theory, stakeholder theory, and stewardship theory offers a comprehensive framework to navigate the complexities inherent in electrification initiatives. By integrating these theories, our study provides a nuanced understanding of the intricate dynamics shaping the success of rural electrification projects, shedding light on the collective responsibility of top management, the delicate balancing act required in stakeholder relationships, and the autonomy and trust crucial for effective project performance.

Combined Impact of Stakeholder Involvement, Team Capacity, and Success in Rural Electrification

Projects: The exploration of stakeholder involvement, team capacity, and project success in rural electrification projects unfolds across diverse global contexts, with studies offering nuanced insights into the interplay of these factors. Mubarok's (2017) research on the Capacities and Accountabilities of Stakeholders in Indonesia's Rural Electrification Program serves as a foundational pillar in understanding the complexities of rural electrification. The study, conducted at Eindhoven University of Technology, underscores the critical role of leveraging stakeholders' capacities for effective electrification. In tandem, Wanner and Pröbstl-Haider's (2019) examination of Barriers to Stakeholder Involvement in Sustainable Rural Tourism Development in Southeast Europe complements this discourse, revealing the region-specific challenges obstructing stakeholder engagement. By illuminating the hurdles faced in involving diverse stakeholders in sustainable rural tourism, the study indirectly contributes to the broader global understanding of how overcoming barriers is essential for successful rural electrification projects. These studies collectively argue for a comprehensive approach that recognizes and leverages the capacities of stakeholders, underscoring their importance in the success of rural electrification initiatives globally.

In Europe, Stober et al.'s (2021) Comparative Analysis of Participatory Renewable Energy Planning in 25 projects enriches the discourse by providing a comparative lens across diverse European projects. The study refines the understanding of stakeholder engagement in renewable energy planning, emphasizing the need for innovative practices. This aligns with Mubarok's (2017) findings, as both studies emphasize the dynamic and context-dependent nature of stakeholder involvement. Concurrently, Furmankiewicz et al.'s (2021) exploration of the Role of Rural Stakeholders in Driving the Low-Carbon Transition in Poland broadens the scope by integrating climate-related activities. The study in Poland not only speaks to the unique challenges and opportunities in the region but also contributes to the global narrative by emphasizing the potential for rural stakeholders to drive sustainability initiatives. Together, these studies construct a compelling argument for the importance of context-specific stakeholder engagement strategies and innovative practices in ensuring the success of rural electrification projects on a global scale.

The intersection of stakeholder involvement, team capacity, and project success finds resonance in the synthesis of diverse studies. Mubarok's (2017) emphasis on understanding stakeholder capacities aligns with

Wanner and Pröbstl-Haider's (2019) identification of barriers in Southeast Europe. This conjointly underscores the global imperative to recognize and address challenges in stakeholder engagement. Additionally, the comparative insights from Stober et al.'s (2021) analysis across European projects strengthen the argument by emphasizing the need for innovative practices tailored to specific contexts. Furmankiewicz et al.'s (2021) exploration in Poland augments this narrative by highlighting the broader sustainability dimension, reinforcing the argument that rural stakeholders play a pivotal role in driving both electrification and climate-related initiatives. Together, these studies form a cohesive narrative, emphasizing the combined effect of stakeholder involvement, team capacity, and innovative practices on the success of rural electrification projects globally.

In Kenya, Limo and Muchelule's (2023) study on Community Engagement and Implementation of Rural Electrification Projects in Kwale County provides insights into the critical nexus of stakeholder engagement and rural electrification success. Conducted within the local context of Kwale County, the research emphasizes the pivotal role of community engagement in the successful implementation of electrification projects. The findings highlight that a collaborative approach involving local communities positively influences project outcomes, reinforcing the argument for stakeholder involvement in the African context (Limo & Muchelule, 2023).

Moving to Ethiopia, Abrham's (2021) work on Rural Electrification Projects in the Amhara Region delves into the effectiveness, challenges, and implications of rural transformation. By specifically analyzing the Amhara Region, the study provides context-specific insights into the intricacies of rural electrification. The research emphasizes the need for a nuanced understanding of local challenges and opportunities, echoing the broader global discourse on tailoring electrification initiatives to specific contexts (Abrham, 2021). In Cameroon, Njoh et al.'s (2019) study on Opportunities and Challenges to Rural Renewable Energy Projects further contributes to the African narrative.

Rwanda becomes a focal point in the analysis of Factors Affecting the Performance of Rural Electrification Projects by Mwizerwa and Mulyungi (2023). The study, centered on the Scaling Up Energy Access Project (SEAP), dissects the various elements influencing project success in the Rwandan context. The findings underscore the critical role of understanding local dynamics and tailoring strategies to enhance the performance of rural electrification initiatives in Africa (Mwizerwa & Mulyungi, (2023)). Lambooi's (2020) Master's thesis on Achieving Universal Access to Electricity and Cleaner Cooking Fuels in Sub-Saharan Africa offers a comprehensive Stakeholder Influence Analysis of Energy Sector Development in Rwanda. The study provides a detailed understanding of stakeholder dynamics, emphasizing their influence on electrification initiatives in the region. Both studies contribute to the broader discourse on stakeholder involvement, team capacity, and success in African rural electrification projects, highlighting the need for context-specific approaches (Lambooi, 2020).

Nigeria's electricity sector comes into focus with Edomah, Ndulue, and Lemaire's (2021) review of stakeholders and interventions. The study delves into the multifaceted landscape of Nigeria's electricity sector, offering insights into the complex relationships between stakeholders. By examining the various interventions, the research provides a foundation for understanding the dynamic nature of stakeholder involvement in the African electrification context (Edomah et al., 2021). In a related Nigerian context, Dunmade's (2021) exploration of Community/Shared Solar Power as a Pathway to Sustainable Rural Electrification delves into innovative approaches. The study advocates for community-driven solutions, emphasizing the need for active stakeholder engagement and collaboration to achieve sustainable rural electrification in Nigeria (Dunmade, 2021). Community acceptability becomes a central theme in Antwi and Ley's (2021) research on Renewable Energy Project Implementation in Africa. The study, addressing sustainability through community acceptability, brings to the forefront the critical role of stakeholders in determining project success. By emphasizing the need for community buy-in, the research contributes to the discourse on how stakeholder involvement is intertwined with the success of renewable energy projects in Africa (Antwi & Ley, 2021). Downs et al.'s (2020) integrative collaborative project approach in Zambia unlocks high sustainable energy potential. The electrification landscape in Uganda is a complex tapestry woven by the interplay of stakeholder involvement, team capacity, and project success. Expanding the discourse, Lo and Kibalya's (2023) examination of electric cooperatives and the political economy of rural electrification in Africa adds depth to the

understanding of the Ugandan context. The study provides a nuanced analysis of the political and economic dimensions that shape electrification projects, highlighting the pivotal role of stakeholders in influencing outcomes. Existing study gaps in the literature

The existing literature on rural electrification projects, when viewed through the global, African, and Ugandan contexts, reveals discernible gaps, particularly concerning Southwestern Uganda. A predominant trend across these contexts is the prevalence of studies that often adopt a global or national perspective, neglecting the nuances specific to regional settings. While the global discourse on rural electrification provides valuable insights, its applicability to the unique socio-economic and geographic conditions of Southwestern Uganda remains uncertain. Furthermore, existing African studies, while contributing to a broader understanding of electrification dynamics on the continent, may not adequately capture the intricacies of this specific region. In the Ugandan context, literature tends to focus more broadly on national rural electrification efforts, overlooking the localized factors that could significantly impact project success in Southwestern Uganda. A critical observation is the scarcity of literature that explicitly links the variables of stakeholder engagement, team capacity, and the success of rural electrification projects in the context of Southwestern Uganda. Most existing studies tend to discuss these variables in a general rural electrification framework, lacking the specificity required to inform targeted interventions in this particular region. The dearth of research exploring the interconnectedness of stakeholder involvement and team capacity in influencing project outcomes further exacerbates this gap. Therefore, the identified study gap emphasizes the need for research endeavors that adopt a more granular approach, addressing the specific dynamics of Southwestern Uganda and establishing a robust connection between stakeholder engagement, team capacity, and the success of rural electrification projects in this particular context.

3. Methodology

A cross-sectional design was employed and this is because it allows the researcher to collect data in a short period of time (Maier et al, 2023). The study population is composed of 38 projects that are still under contraction (Uganda Electricity Regulatory Authority, 2022). The sample size was 34 projects based on Krejcie and Morgan's Table (1970). Data was collected from 32 projects representing a 94% response rate. Inferential statistics were then applied for quantitative data analysis, allowing the study to explore and evaluate relationships between variables (Saunders et al., 2009). Each project was examined by one project manager, three foremen, and two heads of engineering. Primary data gathered through self-administered closed-ended questionnaires, constituted the main data source. The questionnaire encompassed sections addressing background information, stakeholder involvement, team capacity, and project performance. In this study, Stakeholder involvement and team capacity are the dependent Variables and the independent variable is Project performance. These variables were measured using item scales derived from existing literature and theories. The data collection instrument was anchored on a 5-point Likert scale. Stakeholder Involvement was Measured by engagement, communication, and compliance, aligned with Discenza and Forman (2017) and Probst (2016). Team Capacity was assessed through attitude, knowledge, critical thinking, and collaboration as coined by (Brooks and Silva (2016; Figl, 2017). Project Performance was evaluated based on timeliness, cost-effectiveness, service quality, and scope (Davis (2016; Tabish & Jha, 2011).

4. Study Findings

Demographic characteristics of the Rural Electrification projects staff.

The findings presented reveal a gender distribution among respondents, with the majority being male (58.7%), while their female counterparts constitute 41.3%. This balanced representation of both genders suggests inclusivity and addresses affirmative action, fostering a diverse and comprehensive perspective conducive to high performance. Furthermore, the age demographics of the respondents show that the age bracket of 31-40 years had the highest representation, encompassing 93 individuals (47.4% of the total). Another significant portion, comprising 41-50-year-olds, consists of 84 respondents (42.9% of the total sample), indicating a concentration of participants in their thirties and forties, contributing valuable experience to the study. Moreover, the educational distribution underscores a well-educated participant pool, as 112 individuals (57.1% of the total) reported holding master's degrees, while 7 respondents (3.6% of the total) held doctorate degrees, reflecting a noteworthy presence of individuals with advanced academic qualifications. In terms of

marital status, a considerable majority of 162 respondents were married, constituting 82.7% of the total, while 34 respondents were single, comprising 17.3% of the total. Overall, these demographic characteristics provide a comprehensive understanding of the diverse participant profile, encompassing factors such as gender, age, education, and marital status, contributing to the richness and inclusivity of the study.

Distribution by demographic characteristics of Rural Electrification Projects.

Southwestern Uganda, the study reveals that the predominant size of Rural Electrification Projects involves 31-40 employees, constituting 50% of the sampled projects. Notably, a limited proportion, specifically 2.9%, of projects surpass this range, having more than 50 employees. This implies a prevalence of smaller to moderately sized projects in the surveyed sample. Additionally, concerning the existence period of these projects, a substantial majority, accounting for 47.1% of the projects, have operated for 6 to 10 years. In contrast, a smaller fraction, constituting 14.7%, extends beyond the decade mark, indicating a cohort of projects with a more prolonged operational history. In summary, the surveyed Rural Electrification Projects in Southwestern Uganda predominantly fall within the 31-40 employee range, and most have been in operation for 6 to 10 years. These insights shed light on the demographic characteristics of these projects in terms of size and operational experience. A more in-depth exploration could further examine the interplay between employee count, existence period, and the key variables of stakeholder involvement, team capacity, and project performance in Rural Electrification Projects in Southwestern Uganda.

Multiple regression analysis

A multiple regression analysis was run to explain the predictive power of the independent variables to the dependent variable and to show the causal relationship among the study variables.

Table 1: Multiple regression analysis

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-0.726	0.347		2.09	0.00
	Stakeholder involvement	0.38	0.146	0.238	2.60	0.00
	Team capacity	0.612	0.166	0.446	4.88	0.00
R		.652 ^a				
R Square		0.425				
Adjusted R Square		0.419				
F		198.311				
Sig.		.000 ^b				

The results of the regression analysis underscore significant relationships between Stakeholder Involvement, Team Capacity, and Project Performance in Rural Electrification Projects in Southwestern Uganda. Stakeholder involvement exhibited a positive and significant relationship (Beta=.238, p<.05), indicating that an incremental engagement with stakeholders correlates with a substantial increase of 0.238 in project performance. Similarly, Team Capacity demonstrated a positive and significant relationship (Beta=.446, p<.05), suggesting that enhancing team capacity leads to a statistically significant increase of 0.446 in project performance. In essence, the analysis highlights a statistically significant association between Stakeholder Involvement, Team Capacity, and Project Performance in Southwestern Uganda's Rural Electrification Projects. These findings emphasize the critical importance of prioritizing and enhancing these factors to bolster the likelihood of successful project performance. Furthermore, the regression results indicate that 41.9% of the variations in project performance

are explained by Stakeholder Involvement and Team Capacity, leaving 58.1% unaccounted for, pointing to the influence of other unexplored factors in this study.

Discussion of the results

The identified positive and significant relationship between Stakeholder Involvement and Project Performance aligns with extant literature emphasizing the crucial role of stakeholder engagement in project success (Davis, 2016; Tabish & Jha, 2011). Stakeholders, ranging from local communities to government entities, play instrumental roles in shaping the trajectory of electrification projects. The positive Beta coefficient of 0.238 indicates that as Stakeholder Involvement increases, project performance experiences a considerable upswing. This aligns with the argument posited by Discenza and Forman (2017) and Probst (2016), who stress that involving stakeholders positively influences project outcomes. Effective engagement fosters a sense of shared responsibility, enhances communication channels, and ensures compliance with project objectives. Consequently, the project becomes more attuned to local needs, garnering support and cooperation critical for success. As such, the current findings accentuate the necessity of tailored strategies for engaging stakeholders throughout the project life cycle to optimize rural electrification outcomes in Southwestern Uganda (Davis, 2016).

The parallel positive and significant relationship identified between Team Capacity and Project Performance corroborates the broader literature linking team competencies with project success (Brooks & Silva, 2016; Figl, 2017). The Beta coefficient of 0.446 underscores the substantial impact that an increase in Team Capacity can have on project performance. This aligns with Dasí et al. (2021), who emphasize that team capacity forms the bedrock for effective project performance in various work settings. The multifaceted nature of Team Capacity, encompassing attributes such as attitude, knowledge, critical thinking, and collaboration, aligns with the complex demands of electrification projects. Project teams endowed with a diverse skill set, a collaborative ethos, and a capacity for critical problem-solving are better positioned to navigate the challenges inherent in rural electrification. These findings resonate with the assertion that investing in the development and empowerment of project teams is integral to achieving successful project outcomes (Hirschfeld et al., 2017). Consequently, stakeholders involved in rural electrification initiatives should prioritize interventions that enhance the capacities of project teams, ensuring they possess the requisite skills and attributes for navigating the intricacies of electrification projects in the Southwestern Ugandan context.

The combined effect of Stakeholder Involvement and Team Capacity in explaining 41.9% of the variations in Project Performance indicates the significance of these factors, yet it also leaves a substantial proportion (58.1%) unaccounted for. This underscores the complexity of the rural electrification landscape in Southwestern Uganda, suggesting the presence of other influential variables not considered in this study. Previous literature, such as that by Falk et al. (2021) and Antwi & Ley (2021), indicates that contextual factors, policy frameworks, and unforeseen challenges may contribute to the unexplained variations. Therefore, future research endeavors should delve into exploring these unexplored dimensions, ensuring a more comprehensive understanding of the intricate dynamics shaping the success of rural electrification projects in the region.

In summary, the present discussion unravels the intricate relationships between Stakeholder Involvement, Team Capacity, and Project Performance in the context of Rural Electrification Projects in Southwestern Uganda. The positive and statistically significant associations emphasize the instrumental roles these factors play in shaping the trajectory of electrification initiatives. Stakeholder engagement emerges as a linchpin for aligning projects with community needs, fostering cooperation, and ensuring compliance. Simultaneously, the robust relationship between Team Capacity and Project Performance highlights the pivotal role of skilled, collaborative, and critical-thinking project teams in navigating the complexities of electrification projects. The nuanced insights gained from this analysis contribute to the growing body of knowledge on rural electrification, providing a foundation for future research, policy formulation, and strategic interventions aimed at enhancing project outcomes in Southwestern Uganda.

Contribution to literature and theory

This study significantly contributes to the existing literature and theoretical frameworks in the field of rural electrification projects, particularly in Southwestern Uganda. The findings extend our understanding of the critical factors influencing project performance by highlighting the substantial impact of stakeholder

involvement and team capacity. The positive relationship observed between stakeholder engagement and project performance aligns with the works of Turner and Zolin (2017), Discenza and Forman (2017), and Probst (2016), providing empirical support to the theoretical assertions regarding the importance of involving stakeholders in project activities. By emphasizing the roles of engagement, communication, and compliance, this research contributes nuanced insights into the specific dimensions of stakeholder involvement that are most influential in the unique context of rural electrification projects in Southwestern Uganda.

Furthermore, the study enriches existing theoretical perspectives on project success by underscoring the pivotal role of team capacity. The positive and statistically significant relationship between team capacity and project performance resonates with the findings of Brooks and Silva (2016), Figl (2017), and Dasí et al. (2021), emphasizing the importance of individual and collective competencies within project teams. This contribution refines our understanding of the dynamics within project teams, indicating that attitudes, knowledge, critical thinking, and collaboration collectively shape project success in the context of rural electrification. Theoretical frameworks in project management and rural development can benefit from integrating these nuanced insights, recognizing the multifaceted nature of team capacity in driving successful outcomes in the unique setting of electrification projects in Southwestern Uganda. Overall, this research advances the theoretical discourse on rural electrification by offering context-specific evidence on the roles of stakeholders and project teams, bridging gaps in the existing literature and providing a foundation for future theoretical development in the field.

5. Conclusion and Recommendations

In conclusion, the regression analysis of Rural Electrification Projects in Southwestern Uganda has unearthed significant insights into the dynamics of stakeholder involvement, team capacity, and their influence on project performance. The findings reveal a robust positive relationship between stakeholder involvement and project performance, emphasizing the pivotal role of engaging stakeholders in the success of rural electrification initiatives. As indicated by the beta coefficient (Beta=.238, $p < .05$), each incremental increase in stakeholder involvement corresponds to a substantial 0.238 increase in project performance. This underscores the importance of proactive engagement, communication, and compliance with stakeholders, aligning with existing literature (Turner and Zolin, 2017; Discenza and Forman, 2017; Probst, 2016). Moreover, team capacity emerges as a critical determinant of project success, showcasing a statistically significant positive relationship (Beta=.446, $p < .05$). Enhancing team capacity, encompassing attitudes, knowledge, critical thinking, and collaboration, is associated with a noteworthy 0.446 increase in project performance. These findings align with the work of Brooks and Silva (2016), Figl (2017), and Dasí et al. (2021), highlighting the integral role of competent and collaborative teams in driving project success.

Furthermore, the study's holistic view, considering both stakeholder involvement and team capacity, indicates that 41.9% of the variations in project performance are explained by these factors. This underlines the interconnectedness of stakeholder engagement and team capabilities in shaping the outcomes of rural electrification projects. The unaccounted 58.1% suggests the existence of other unexplored factors influencing project performance, opening avenues for future research. These findings carry significant implications for policymakers, project managers, and stakeholders involved in rural electrification endeavors in Southwestern Uganda. Prioritizing strategies that enhance stakeholder engagement and team capacity becomes imperative for fostering successful project outcomes. The study not only contributes empirical evidence to the field but also provides a basis for strategic interventions and policy frameworks aimed at optimizing the impact of rural electrification initiatives in the region.

Recommendations: Based on the comprehensive analysis of Rural Electrification Projects in Southwestern Uganda, several recommendations emerge to optimize project performance. Firstly, stakeholders involved in rural electrification initiatives should prioritize proactive engagement, effective communication, and compliance mechanisms. The positive and significant relationship found between stakeholder involvement and project performance underscores the need for structured approaches to involve communities, local authorities, and other relevant stakeholders in decision-making processes. This could be achieved through participatory planning, regular communication channels, and adherence to compliance standards. Secondly, enhancing team capacity is crucial for project success. Project managers should focus on fostering positive attitudes, providing

continuous training, promoting critical thinking skills, and encouraging collaboration within project teams. The significant positive relationship identified between team capacity and project performance emphasizes the pivotal role of competent and collaborative teams in achieving successful outcomes. Thirdly, policymakers and project managers should consider implementing interventions that simultaneously address both stakeholder involvement and team capacity. The study's finding that 41.9% of the variations in project performance are explained by these factors underscores their interconnected nature. Strategic interventions, training programs, and policies that synergistically enhance both stakeholder engagement and team capabilities are likely to yield more significant positive impacts on rural electrification projects. Finally, given the limitations of the study, further research is recommended. Future studies should explore the dynamics of stakeholder involvement, team capacity, and project performance in different geographical, cultural, and socio-economic contexts to enhance the generalizability of findings. Longitudinal research designs, mixed-methods approaches, and comparative studies could provide richer insights into the temporal and contextual nuances of these relationships.

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