

**Land Rights for Widows:  
Cultural Practices of Depriving Widows the Right to Land Ownership and its effect on their Welfare.  
“A case study of Widows in Bunambutye sub county Bududa District-Uganda.”**

An Abstract of the Thesis By

Modong Jane Rebecca Mulukwat

The study was conducted in Bunambutye Sub-County Bududa District in Uganda. The major purpose of the study was Land Rights for Widows: “exploring cultural practices of depriving widows the right to land ownership and its effects on their welfare”.

The study objectives included to; find out the factors that contribute to the violation of widows’ rights to land ownership; establish how cultural practices affect widows’ access to land rights and their welfare; assess how the legal frameworks influence widows’ access to and control over land; and suggest interventions for securing widows access to their land ownership rights. A sample size of 86 respondents was used. A Self-administered questionnaire was designed for data collection alongside interview guide and focused group discussions. Data analysis was done both qualitatively and quantitatively through SPSS programme. The study findings revealed that cultural practices were depriving widows of their rights to own land and welfare because they lack formal education, and are ignorant of their rights. Many believe in their subjective norms which are derived from the position of women in the community and beliefs about what their elders, traditional leaders and ancestors (because these are the people they trust) say or think the person should do and the individual's motivation to comply with their wishes. Recommendations emphasizing education both formal and informal for both widows to understand their property rights and to change their attitudes, behavior and perceptions about women’s rights to resource ownership. Widow’s property rights seemed to be a taboo due to cultural setting that had also educationally and economically disadvantaged the position of girls and women worsened issues, as they cannot pursue their course in court.