

Abstract

INSTITUTIONAL FACTORS INFLUENCING STUDENTS' DISCIPLINE IN UNIVERSITIES IN UGANDA: A CASE STUDY OF MAKERERE UNIVERSITY AND KAMPALA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

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Prompted by the growing concerns about discipline in Universities in Uganda, the study set out to examine the influence of institutional factors on students' discipline, with particular focus on Makerere University and Kampala International University. Anchored in the philosophies of pragmatism and constructivism, the study employed a qualitative duo descriptive case study design to explore the extent to which rules and regulations, management practices, and service provision influence student discipline. Data were collected through FGDs, interviews, and documentary reviews. The Study engaged students, administrators, lecturers, and security personnel as participants. Thematic analysis was used to generate patterns from the data. Findings revealed that clearly defined and consistently enforced rules and regulations, effective management practices, and comprehensive service provision contribute to promoting discipline among university students. Each of those three institutional factors was found to enhance students' sense of responsibility, honesty, compliance with regulations, and determination. The study concluded that institutional factors play a critical role in shaping student behavior and maintaining discipline in university settings. It recommends that university councils and management should design and enforce comprehensive discipline strategies, strengthen orientation programs, and establish robust frameworks for delivering high-quality student services that meet or even exceed learners' expectations. These interventions are likely to foster a holistic approach to student management and contribute to the cultivation of responsible and disciplined graduates.

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