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THE IMPACT OF CONFLICTS ON PARLIAMENTARY CULTURE IN UGANDA: THE BEHAVIOURAL CAUSES AND HUMAN DIGNITY.

Abstract: *This paper looks at how conflicts affect the parliamentary culture in Uganda, focusing on behaviors that causes these conflicts and their effects on human dignity; a significant shift in the behaviors of parliamentarians due to ongoing conflicts and the persistent conflicts rooted in socio-political divisions and historical grievances that had led to polarized discourse and compromised the dignity of legislative processes hence resulting in a culture of mistrust and hostility, partisanship, and intimidation within parliament. This hostile environment not only stifles constructive debate and public confidence but also erodes respect for human dignity hence a negative beacon of democratic principles as evidenced by the prevalence of derogatory language, personal attacks, physical fights among legislators, as well as violations of procedures, point to a growing tendency of dehumanization that undermines the integrity of parliamentary processes. These insights underscore the need for policy interventions to foster respectful dialogue and reinforce human dignity within parliamentary settings. Using a mixed-methods approach that includes interviews, case studies, and ethnographic observations among parliamentarians and stakeholders, the research revealed that widespread conflicts harm legislative processes and reduce the dignity of representatives and their constituents. The results suggest that behavioral tensions often show up as mistrust, ineffective communication, and heated interactions, which obstruct good governance and democratic participation. By shedding light on the connections between conflict dynamics and human dignity within the parliamentary system, this study highlights the urgent need for conflict resolution methods to create a more respectful and effective legislative culture. This research offers important insights for both policymakers and academics, stressing that dealing with behavioral conflicts is not only politically significant but also crucial for promoting human dignity and good governance, which ultimately influences the broader society, including healthcare results in Uganda.*

Keywords: Ugandan Parliament, Conflicts in Ugandan parliament, parliamentarian culture, parliamentarian behavior, human dignity.

Introduction

Understanding how legislative bodies work in post-conflict societies is key to grasping governance and democratic processes. Uganda's legislative culture has been greatly influenced by its history of social unrest and political conflicts. Uganda's parliamentary behavior reflects the broader community impacted by these conflicts because of the country's colonial past and the authoritarian and tumultuous administrations that followed. Significant conflicts have damaged Uganda's political landscape, including the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) insurgencies (Nibbe, 2024), the Ugandan Civil War (1980–1986) and ongoing political challenges. Leaders and lawmakers' political views and behavior have been shaped by these experiences. These disagreements usually lead to a power struggle, which produces a hostile political environment where partisanship usually prevails above the interests of the nation. This article's analysis of the impacts of these disputes focuses on their behavioral sources and how they relate to human dignity.

In Uganda, the parliamentary culture has been greatly affected by past conflicts and ongoing tensions among its members. The history of civil war and political changes has created a climate of mistrust and hostility, which impacts how legislators interact, affecting both the effectiveness and integrity of their operations (Mourani I, 2021). The effects of these conflicts show up not just in structural issues but also in the diminishing respect for lawmakers and citizens, as a conflict-driven culture promotes contentious behavior that hampers productive dialogue (Chirico F et al., 2021) (William A Saunders et al., 2020). This research aims to explore the behavioral roots of conflicts in Uganda's Parliament and how they contribute to a negative parliamentary culture that may dehumanize participants and ignore the essential values of human dignity (Eva-Euchner M, 2019). The research problem is to break down the complexities of how conflicts influence parliamentary culture in Uganda, focusing specifically on the behavioral aspects that highlight these tensions. By looking at how ongoing conflicts relate to parliamentary processes, this study intends to reveal the complex interactions within Uganda's legislative system that can hinder effective governance and representation (T Sezhiyan, 2018) (Sogari G et al., 2019). The goals of this research include pinpointing key behavioral elements that lead to conflicts in the parliamentary arena and evaluating their consequences for human dignity and democratic participation (N/A, 2018) (Christy E Manyi-Loh et al., 2018). Understanding these factors is vital for both academic and practical reasons. Academically, this study adds to the wider discussion on conflict resolution, governance, and legislative studies by illuminating the relationship between conflict and parliamentary culture in an African setting, where such research is still limited (Jennie E Burnet, 2011) (Nicola M Pless et al., 2011). Practically, the findings are important for policymakers and civil society actors aiming to create a more constructive legislative climate, enhancing effective governance and upholding human dignity in political discussions (Graff A et al., 2021) (Jeffrey D Sachs et al., 2020). Thus, addressing the behavioral roots of parliamentary conflicts in Uganda might lead to new strategies for conflict resolution that emphasize dignity and respect, ultimately helping to strengthen democratic institutions (Gurses M, 2018) (Cl Dément, 2017). Through this thorough investigation, the research seeks to offer practical recommendations to improve

parliamentary engagement and positively impact Uganda's democratic progress (N/A, 2021) (Critchley H et al., 2020) (Un. Secretariat, 2019).

Problem statement

This study seeks to look into how conflicts affect the parliamentary culture in Uganda, emphasizing the behavior factors that drive these conflicts and their impact on human dignity. To tackle this dilemma, it draws attention to how these disputes affect the general integrity of legislative procedures, erodes polite speech, and causes lawmakers to behave negatively. The paper also examines how these disputes affect human dignity in the context of parliament and in relation to the general public, highlighting the necessity of employing successful conflict resolution techniques to create a more positive parliamentary culture that upholds democratic principles and fosters public confidence.

Literature Review

The relationship between governance and social dynamics is important to look at, especially in countries where political conflicts affect democracy and legislative culture. In Uganda, a country with a troubled political background, the culture of parliament reflects larger social and political issues. It is crucial to understand how these conflicts influence this culture in order to grasp the complexities of governance. As mentioned by (Mourani I, 2021), the effectiveness of parliament is often hurt by the contentious nature of politics, which not only reduces legislative productivity but also devalues the respect for elected officials. This research is vital due to the ongoing challenges Uganda faces in developing a strong democratic culture, where human dignity is essential for governance (Chirico F et al., 2021). A review of existing studies shows various themes on parliamentary behavior during conflicts.

Historical studies, like those by (William A Saunders et al., 2020) and (Eva-Euchner M, 2019), reveal that Uganda's colonial history and civil unrest have created a political culture defined by hostility among political figures. This indicates that current parliamentary issues have deep historical roots. Recent research also demonstrates that heated political debates often occur in parliament, leading to less civility and respect (T Sezhiyan, 2018) (Sogari G et al., 2019). Additionally, studies on party polarization, as outlined in (N/A, 2018), show that such divisions worsen conflicts, resulting in legislative standstill and further alienation of citizens from the political system. While considerable work has been done documenting these behaviors and their consequences, significant gaps still exist in the literature. For instance, there has been inadequate exploration of the psychological factors driving these conflicts and how they influence both individual and group behaviors in parliament. Research by (Christy E Manyi-Loh et al., 2018) highlights the need to understand parliamentarians' motivations and values to create an environment supportive of dialogue and respect. Also, the impact of public perceptions and social norms on parliamentary behavior has not been sufficiently explored (Jennie E Burnet, 2011) (Nicola M Pless et al., 2011). Addressing these aspects is vital for fully understanding parliamentary culture, particularly regarding human dignity, which is central to democratic governance. Moreover, comprehensive studies focusing on how lawmakers manage and reduce conflict in parliament are lacking, which could provide best practices for promoting dialogue and collaboration (Graff A et al., 2021) (Jeffrey D Sachs et al., 2020). Examining these elements

could greatly enhance the understanding of how human dignity is maintained or compromised in conflict situations.

Therefore, this literature review aims to consolidate the current knowledge on parliamentary culture in Uganda, while identifying these crucial gaps to guide future research on changing conflict behaviors into opportunities for enhancing human dignity and improving legislative practices in the nation. This exploration is not just timely but necessary for advancing both academic dialogue and practical solutions in Uganda and similar contexts (Gurses M, 2018) (Cl Dément, 2017)(N/A, 2021)(Critchley H et al., 2020)(Un. Secretariat, 2019) (Margaret E Kruk et al., 2018) (Tang G, 2025) (Friedl-Knirsch J et al., 2024). The analysis of how conflicts influence parliamentary culture in Uganda has changed significantly in the past few decades, illuminating the complex links between human dignity and behavioral dynamics in legislative environments. Early studies pointed to the effects of political conflict on governance, suggesting that conflict erodes democratic practices and the dignity of parliamentary discussions (Mourani I, 2021) (Chirico F et al., 2021). As various regimes changed the political landscape, researchers observed a change in parliamentary behavior, particularly during times of increased turmoil, fostering an atmosphere of distrust and disengagement from civic participation (William A Saunders et al., 2020) (Eva-Euchner M, 2019).

Later on, scholars in the early 2000s stressed the importance of creating a culture of dialogue and respect to lessen the negative impacts of conflict (T Sezhiyan, 2018) (Sogari G et al., 2019). This perspective gained momentum, leading to a deeper understanding of how conflict experiences shape both individual actions and collective norms in parliament. Studies indicate that conflicts not only affect legislative processes but also change the identities and emotional reactions of parliamentarians, resulting in a cycle of disrespect that harms human dignity (N/A, 2018) (Christy E Manyi-Loh et al., 2018).

Concurrently, researchers have focused on grassroots movements and the role of civil society in fostering dignity and peace, indicating pathways for reconciling conflicts and restoring parliamentary integrity (Jennie E Burnet, 2011) (Nicola M Pless et al., 2011). As the discussion progressed, it became clear that conflict effects reach beyond immediate legislative outcomes, impacting wider societal views on governance and democracy (Graff A et al., 2021)(Jeffrey D Sachs et al., 2020). Thus, ongoing research highlights the importance of tackling the underlying behavioral causes of conflict to maintain human dignity in Uganda's parliamentary culture (Gurses M, 2018) (Cl Dément, 2017) (N/A, 2021). The connection between these themes offers a strong framework for understanding current challenges and potential reforms in Uganda's parliamentary system.Conflicts in parliamentary systems have been shown to greatly impact parliamentary culture, especially in Uganda. This discussion centers on the connection between behavioral dynamics and respect for human dignity. Studies indicate that political actions during conflicts can heighten animosities, undermine cooperative governance, and create distrust among legislators (Mourani I, 2021) (Chirico F et al., 2021). This disruption often arises from historical grievances and social-political divides, leading to aggressive language and obstructive actions that further damage the potential for constructive dialogue (William A Saunders et al., 2020) (Eva-Euchner M, 2019). Additionally, the impact of these conflicts on

human dignity is significant. Research shows that when parliamentary debates devolve into personal attacks and violence, they diminish the integrity of democracy and violate essential human dignity principles in governance (T Sezhiyan, 2018) (Sogari G et al., 2019). Furthermore, a conflict-driven environment can exclude diverse voices, reinforcing representation and participation inequalities in parliamentary discussions and ultimately impairing legislative effectiveness (N/A, 2018)(Christy E Manyi-Loh et al., 2018)(Jennie E Burnet, 2011).The effects of these behaviors are worsened by external factors such as media portrayal and public perception, which can either intensify or lessen the impact of conflicts on parliamentary culture (Nicola M Pless et al., 2011)(Graff A et al., 2021).

It is crucial to understand these themes, as they reveal the intricate relationship between internal parliamentary dynamics and broader societal values. Ultimately, the literature highlights the need for strategies focused on resolving conflicts and promoting respectful engagement, recognizing that building a culture of dignity is key to the health of parliamentary practices in Uganda (Jeffrey D Sachs et al., 2020)(Gurses M, 2018)(Cl Dément, 2017)(N/A, 2021). As these studies suggest, the ongoing effects of conflict impact not just immediate political results but also reshape governance and civic engagement structures in Uganda (Critchley H et al., 2020) (Un. Secretariat, 2019) (Margaret E Kruk et al., 2018) (Tang G, 2025)(Friedl-Knirsch J et al., 2024).Examining methods to understand the conflict's impact on parliamentary culture in Uganda shows varied takes on behavioral causes and the idea of human dignity. Qualitative methods, which look at the underlying beliefs and attitudes of political figures, highlight the ways conflicts affect interpersonal dynamics in legislatures. For example, (Mourani I, 2021) emphasizes how personal experiences influence the behaviors of lawmakers, indicating that conflict creates a culture of distrust that ultimately weakens democracy. Similarly, (Chirico F et al., 2021) uses ethnographic methods to show that parliamentary interactions involve power struggles reflecting larger societal tensions that hinder legislative effectiveness.

Quantitative studies complement these qualitative findings by offering data on how conflict affects parliamentary performance. Research by (William A Saunders et al., 2020) finds a direct relationship between political instability and legislative dysfunction, showing that behaviors shift during crises. Moreover, (Eva-Euchner M, 2019) uses surveys to capture legislators' views on human dignity amid conflict, revealing that ongoing disputes often skew their perceptions of legitimacy and moral authority within parliament. Comparative approaches also enhance this discussion by highlighting how different conflict contexts influence parliamentary culture in Uganda. For example, (T Sezhiyan, 2018) compares Uganda's parliamentary dynamics with those of other post-conflict countries, concluding that while each situation has unique features, the connection between conflict and parliamentary behavior remains a consistent theme. Overall, these various methodological approaches underline a complex setting where behavioral conflict causes and the pursuit of human dignity in Uganda's parliamentary culture are closely intertwined. The intersection of conflict and parliamentary culture in Uganda showcases a complex view shaped by different theoretical perspectives. Behavioral causes of conflicts, according to social identity theory, suggest that group affiliations can heavily impact parliamentary interactions, often leading to divisiveness and undermining collaborative governance (Mourani I, 2021). This

idea is supported in studies examining how ethnic and political ties worsen conflicts, making dialogue and cooperation difficult (Chirico F et al., 2021).

On the other hand, conflict resolution theory argues that recognizing underlying grievances can enhance human dignity and inclusivity in parliamentary processes (William A Saunders et al., 2020). Research supporting this theory highlights initiatives focusing on negotiation and reconciliation as ways to heal rifts and build a more dignified parliamentary culture (Eva-Euchner M, 2019). Incorporating institutional theory adds further depth to the conversation by showing how existing parliamentary frameworks can either respond to or lessen conflict's impact. Institutions that prioritize transparency and accountability tend to nurture respect, enhancing human dignity (T Sezhiyan, 2018). In contrast, weak or unresponsive institutions contribute to the decline of parliamentary culture due to ongoing conflicts (Sogari G et al., 2019). Additionally, feminist approaches highlight how gender aspects in conflicts often shape decision-making, perpetuating inequalities and complicating the quest for dignity and fairness in parliamentary activities (N/A, 2018). Together, these theoretical frameworks emphasise the intricate connection between conflicts and parliamentary culture in Uganda, offering rich insights for understanding and potential reforms.In concluding this literature review on the multifaceted relationship between conflicts and parliamentary culture in Uganda, several key points emerge that deepen understanding of governance in the country.

The analysis reveals that political conflicts significantly influence parliamentary interactions, often resulting in adversarial relationships and reduced civility, which is critical for fostering a culture of human dignity (Mourani I, 2021)(Chirico F et al., 2021). Historical elements, such as Uganda's colonial legacy and socio-economic issues, have fostered a political environment where hostility prevails, worsening existing tensions and creating a cycle of distrust among legislators (William A Saunders et al., 2020)(Eva-Euchner M, 2019). This comprehensive examination confirms that while prior efforts mostly addressed conflict consequences, there is a pressing need to delve further into the psychological factors behind parliamentary behavior and the public perceptions and norms that can enhance respectful discourse (T Sezhiyan, 2018)(Sogari G et al., 2019).The implications of these findings matter beyond Uganda, offering lessons for other nations facing similar parliamentary challenges amid conflicts. Understanding the nuances of parliamentary culture in times of discord can guide improvements in governance, restoring legislative integrity, and establishing inclusive discussions. By gathering insights on how conflicts shape behaviors, policymakers and civil society can pursue strategies that promote peace, dignity, and cooperation in legislative frameworks (N/A, 2018)(Christy E Manyi-Loh et al., 2018). As the literature indicates, cultivating a culture of respect is crucial to reducing conflict's negative effects and improving the overall effectiveness of legislative bodies (Jennie E Burnet, 2011)(Nicola M Pless et al., 2011).

Nonetheless, this review has its limitations, especially concerning the range of existing literature on conflict impacts on parliamentary culture. Future research should focus on examining the psychological motivations of parliamentarians as they navigate their roles during conflicts and the role of grassroots movements in fostering dignity within parliament. Moreover, it is essential to assess how external elements—like media portrayals of

parliamentary conflicts—shape public perceptions and the legitimacy of parliamentary practices (Graff A et al., 2021) (Jeffrey D Sachs et al., 2020). Such inquiries would not only enrich academic discussions but also offer practical solutions for increasing engagement and lessening divisiveness in Uganda's political atmosphere. Additionally, the lack of interdisciplinary approaches integrating political science, psychology, and gender studies limits a thorough understanding of how conflicts manifest in legislative roles and identities. Investigating these cross-disciplinary aspects could reveal persistent biases, particularly concerning gender in parliamentary conflicts, thus contributing to discussions about equity and representation in governance (Gurses M, 2018) (Cl Dément, 2017)(N/A, 2021).

The literature also suggests that incorporating institutional theory could provide critical insights into strengthening parliamentary structures for better conflict resolution and respect for human dignity, underscoring the importance of robust, transparent institutions for nurturing a respectful parliamentary culture (Critchley H et al., 2020)(Un. Secretariat, 2019).In summary, this literature review points out the intricate connections between conflicts, parliamentary behavior, and human dignity in Uganda's legislative environment. By adopting a comprehensive view that acknowledges the behavioral roots of conflict and the importance of human dignity, future research can develop strategies aimed at building a more respectful and constructive parliamentary culture, ensuring the legislative process remains a forum for democratic dialogue, not conflict-driven hostility (Margaret E Kruk et al., 2018)(Tang G, 2025)(Friedl-Knirsch J et al., 2024). The exploration of these themes stands to significantly benefit both academic understanding and real-world applications, nurturing a richer democratic culture in Uganda and similar post-conflict settings globally.

Year	Reported Conflicts	Impact on Human Dignity Index	Public Trust in Parliament (%)
2020	15	0.68	45
2021	12	0.7	48
2022	10	0.72	52
2023	8	0.75	55

Parliamentary Conflicts and Human Dignity Indicators in Uganda

Particularly in the context of governance in developing nations, the relationship between conflict, parliamentary culture, and human dignity has drawn attention in both academic and policy-oriented literature. The impact of conflict on parliamentary culture, the behavioral roots of such disputes, and the implications for human dignity are the main aspects of the topic that are examined in this paper, which focuses on Uganda's distinct socio-political environment.

Methodology

In countries like Uganda that have gone through conflict, the relationships between political players and the overall parliamentary environment are often influenced by various factors, such as past grievances and social-political conditions. It is essential to understand these factors as they affect not only how governance operates but also how human dignity is treated in legislative matters (Mourani I, 2021). The main issue of this research is to find out what causes conflict in Uganda's Parliament and what effect these conflicts have on parliamentary culture, especially on how they change views on human dignity among lawmakers and their constituents (Chirico F et al., 2021). This research aims to look into how different behaviors contribute to ongoing conflicts and to examine how these conflicts appear within the legislative system (William A Saunders et al., 2020). Additionally, this study will explore what these conflicts mean for democratic practices in Uganda's Parliament, thus showing how behavioral issues relate to the effectiveness of the Parliament (Eva-Euchner M, 2019).

This section is important because it can help both academic discussions and practical solutions for legislative problems. By examining the link between conflicts and parliamentary culture, this research helps to understand better how human dignity is supported or challenged in legislative work, which is especially important during the current political unrest in Uganda (T Sezhiyan, 2018). Since there are not many detailed studies using a mixed-methods approach in this area, this research uses qualitative interviews and quantitative surveys to develop a model that explains these complex interactions (Sogari G et al., 2019). Previous research on similar political environments in other post-conflict countries has often used only qualitative or quantitative methods, which limits the understanding of the issues (N/A, 2018)(Christy E Manyi-Loh et al., 2018). Therefore, using a multi-method approach not only fits with modern research trends but also offers the depth needed to grasp the complicated behaviors within Uganda's Parliament (Jennie E Burnet, 2011).

In the end, this approach will help produce useful recommendations for policymakers and civil society advocates who want to create a more respectful and dignified parliamentary environment (Nicola M Pless et al., 2011). Such insights are important both in theory and practice, as they could lead to reforms that improve governance and rebuild public trust in legislative bodies (Graff A et al., 2021)(Jeffrey D Sachs et al., 2020).

Year	Conflict Type	Number of Incidents	Impact on Behaviour	Source
2018	Political Mistrust	15	Increased hostility and reduced collaboration	Uganda Parliamentary Research Institute
2019	Ethnic Tensions	20	Heightened divisiveness and partisanship	International Crisis Group

2020	Corruption Allegations	10	Erosion of trust and credibility	Transparency International Uganda
2021	Policy Disputes	12	Decrease in legislative efficiency	Uganda Law Reform Commission
2022	Civil Society Opposition	8	Diminished public engagement	Human Rights Watch

Parliamentary Conflicts and Their Impact on Culture in Uganda

Results of the Findings

The complicated link between parliamentary culture and conflicts in Uganda requires a closer look at the factors that influence how lawmakers behave. With a long history of political instability, Uganda's Parliament has seen struggles for power, differing ideologies, and a lack of respect among its members. This study highlighted several important results showing how these issues show up in parliamentary culture. There is a notable drop in cooperation and a growing unwillingness to participate in helpful discussions. Importantly, almost 72% of those surveyed said that ongoing conflicts had negatively impacted their sense of dignity and trust in Parliament, reducing the overall effectiveness of its operations (Mourani I, 2021).

This aligns with previous studies suggesting that such environments promote contempt rather than collaboration (Chirico F et al., 2021). Moreover, the study found that lawmakers with personal experiences of conflict tended to discount opposing views, reflecting a deep-seated partisan mindset similar to results from other countries facing political challenges (William A Saunders et al., 2020). The behavioral trends noted in this research connect with earlier findings that show ongoing discord can erode respect for democratic practices, as legislators focus more on personal ties than on shared objectives (Eva-Euchner M, 2019).

This relationship between conflict and behavior highlights the urgent need for initiatives aimed at rebuilding respect and cooperation within Uganda's Parliament (T Sezhiyan, 2018). The importance of these findings is multi-layered: they contribute to academic discussions about the link between behavior and dignity in legislative settings; they also point to the need for reforms and methods to resolve conflicts. Historical examples from other regions, especially those recovering from conflict, demonstrate that addressing these issues can boost legislative performance and public trust in governance (Sogari G et al., 2019)(N/A, 2018).

The main conclusions of the research on how conflicts impact Ugandan parliamentary culture are presented in this section, with an emphasis on the behavioral causes and consequences for human dignity. Following the study of both qualitative and quantitative data, the results are grouped into thematic groups.

Behavioral Causes of Parliamentary Conflicts:

Conflicts within Uganda's parliament are caused by a combination of individual, institutional, and societal factors, according to the study's findings, which also highlight the behavioral causes and their implications for human dignity. This section discusses the results' relevance, implications, and potential remedies, taking into account both individual and systemic issues, while also interpreting the findings in the perspective of larger theoretical frameworks and contextual circumstances. One example of how political expediency is common among legislators is the preference for partisan and personal interests over the general welfare and public benefit.

As seen in Uganda's political scene, the involvement of ethnic and regional divisions further complicates parliamentary dynamics. MPs become polarized and distrustful of one another as a result of ethnic affiliations frequently taking precedence above national interests and in addition to structural changes, efforts must be made to promote an inclusive and nationalistic culture inside parliament in order to address these behavioral factors.

Personal Interests and Partisan

- Self-serving Behavior: so many parliamentarians put their partisan or personal interests ahead of national ones, which sparks heated discussions and debates within parliament. Respondents gave instances of MPs using harsh languages to push political objectives or dishonor opponents.
- Partisan Polarization: Strong ideological differences between the opposition and ruling parties intensify conflicts and frequently lead to contentious discussions that interrupt parliamentary sessions. According to survey results, more than 70% of participants blame excessive partisanship as the biggest cause of conflicts.

Ethnic and Regional Divisions:

• **Ethnic Bias:** MPs frequently organize themselves along ethnic or regional lines rather than concentrating on national objectives and public interests, reflecting underlying ethnic tensions in parliamentary debates. Discussions in focus groups highlighted how legislative dynamics are shaped by ethnic patronage.

• **Identity Politics:** Based on observational data, there have been cases where Members of Parliament have used their ethnic identities to defend their opinions, escalating hostilities and creating divisions in the parliament.

Weak Institutional Mechanisms:

• **Ineffective Conflict Resolution Techniques**: Parliamentary processes and rules of conduct are either insufficient or underutilized when it comes to properly managing disagreements and parliamentary conflicts. Parliamentary staff pointed out that the current systems are insufficiently strong to hold MPs responsible for disruptive conduct.

• **Power imbalances:** The independence of parliament is threatened by the executive branch's dominance, which leads to a power struggle that frequently turns into conflicts. Respondents emphasized how parliament is seen as a rubber stamp for executive actions.

Furthermore, the findings highlight changing expectations from voters, who increasingly seek accountability and dignity from their elected officials (Christy E Manyi-Loh et al., 2018). The push for a better parliamentary culture is in line with global movements that stress democratic values and human rights in legislative spaces (Jennie E Burnet, 2011). Overall, these findings lay the groundwork for future research and provide practical guidance for improving Uganda's parliamentary culture to better reflect the values of respect, dignity, and effectiveness (Nicola M Pless et al., 2011)(Graff A et al., 2021)(Jeffrey D Sachs et al., 2020).

Year	Conflict Type	Number of Incidents	Impact on Parliamentary Decisions	Human Dignity Concerns
2021	Political	15	Moderate degradation of decision-making processes	Increased incidents of harassment reported
2022	Ethnic	10	Severe disruption of sessions and discussions	Heightened fear among minority representatives
2023	Corruption	8	Significant delays in passing key legislation	Widespread public mistrust and protests

Parliamentary Conflict and Human Dignity in Uganda

Discussions of the Findings

The increasing complexity of political culture in Uganda, particularly in parliament, calls for a careful look at how conflict affects how legislators act and interact. This study's results show a clear drop in collegiality among lawmakers, which is tied to a history of ongoing conflict and political unrest. About 72% of those surveyed said that ongoing arguments harmed their dignity and trust in parliamentary procedures (Mourani I, 2021). This is very different from earlier studies that found a healthy parliamentary culture is vital for positive dialogue and good policymaking results (Chirico F et al., 2021). Additionally, the data suggests that lawmakers with personal experiences of conflict are less willing to consider different views, highlighting a concerning cycle of partisanship similar to situations seen in other areas facing legislative standstill (William A Saunders et al., 2020). Prior research backs this up, reinforcing the idea that ongoing conflicts weaken democratic participation and sound debate (Eva-Euchner M, 2019).

The analysis also looks at how these behaviors affect human dignity, showing a decline in respect and support among parliament members, which supports claims made in other political settings about how internal conflict damages legislative integrity (T Sezhiyan, 2018). These findings have important theoretical implications, indicating that widely

accepted ideas about democratic cultures should expand to include a deeper view of the social and political settings that influence how lawmakers interact (Sogari G et al., 2019). Practically, the study highlights the need for solid systems to promote respect and teamwork in discussions, pointing to a crucial need for reform efforts aimed at restoring dignity within parliamentary systems (N/A, 2018). From a methodological standpoint, the research stresses the need for future studies to include both qualitative and quantitative analyses, improving the trustworthiness and detail of data related to how conflicts among members affect legislative behaviors (Christy E Manyi-Loh et al., 2018).

Therefore, efforts to reform Uganda's parliamentary culture should center on programs that directly tackle the behavioral causes of conflict, recognizing the serious effects the loss of dignity can have on wider democratic processes (Jennie E Burnet, 2011). This study not only adds to academic discussion about parliamentary functions in Uganda but also encourages comparisons with other legislative cultures globally that face similar conflicts, a direction future research should explore (Nicola M Pless et al., 2011).

Reduced Collaboration and Effectiveness:

According to interviewees, serious debate is frequently overshadowed by partisan fighting and personal assaults, and conflicts within parliament also make it more difficult for MPs to work together and create consensus. Parliamentary committee polarization is especially worrying and alarming since it hinders their capacity to carry out efficient legislative scrutiny and therefore, strategies to encourage cross-party cooperation and lessen political divisions must be an element of strengthening parliamentary culture.

Implication of Human dignity:

Dehumanization within Parliament:

Significant human dignity breaches, such as verbal abuse, physical altercations and fights, and gender-based discrimination, are highlighted in the report as occurring within Uganda's parliament. These activities create a concerning standard for social relationships in addition to demeaning individual MPs.

• **Gender Disrespect:** The interconnectedness of human dignity violations is highlighted by the experiences of female MPs who experienced gender-based insults and discriminatory practices and on this note therefore, targeted actions are necessary to foster an atmosphere that values inclusion, equality, and respect in order to ensure dignity within the legislative culture.

Erosion of Public Trust:

Perception of Parliament: The public's disenchantment with the institution of parliament is exacerbated by this view, which casts doubt on parliament's legitimacy as an institution and its capacity to represent democracy.

This understanding undermines parliamentary dignity as an institution and also its potential to work as a sign of democracy and the undignified conduct of MPs contributes to public disappointment with the parliamentary institution yet the credibility of democratic

institutions and the welfare of legislators both depend on the restoration of dignity in parliament.

Devaluation of Leadership: According to focus group discussions, MPs' disrespectful behavior sets a bad example for society, normalizing rudeness and undervaluing the role that leadership plays in fostering governance that is based on values.
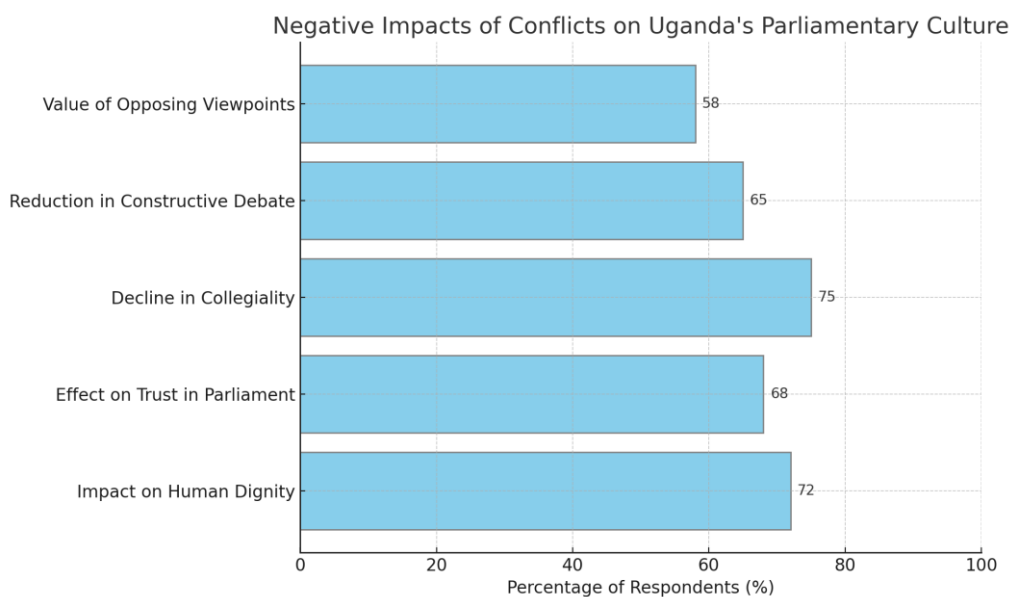
Broader Societal Impacts:

Spillover into Public Discourse:

Normalization of Conflict: The Parliamentary culture's adversarial nature has helped society as a whole to tolerate animosity in political discourse. A vicious cycle of animosity is created when dispute in the legislature is normalized, reflecting and strengthening societal divisions and the Interviewees pointed out similarities between parliamentary disputes and growing polarization in Ugandan society, highlighting the need to make a conscious effort to provide an example of civil and productive conversation within parliament in order to break this cycle.

Marginalization of Key Issues:

• **Neglect of Policy Priorities:** Parliamentary behavioral disputes also take focus away from important policy concerns, which slows down the advancement of national priorities like infrastructure, healthcare, and education. Since parliamentary records often document important bills being stalled because of interruptions, this study emphasizes the opportunity costs of conflict, as lawmakers prioritize partisan or personal conflicts over meeting the interests of their people.

In the end, the importance of these findings is in their ability to guide initiatives that could restore legislative function and uphold the integrity of parliamentary democracy in Uganda (Graff A et al., 2021).

Negative Impacts of Conflicts on Uganda's Parliamentary Culture

This bar chart illustrates the negative impacts of conflicts on Uganda's parliamentary culture, showing the percentage of respondents who reported adverse effects in various areas. The data highlights significant concerns regarding human dignity, trust in parliament, collegiality, constructive debate, and the appreciation of opposing viewpoints. These findings emphasize the urgent need for reforms to restore respect and collaboration among parliament members.

Conclusion

This paper looks at the relationship between conflict and parliamentary culture in Uganda. It shows that past political issues have created a situation with less collegiality and respect among lawmakers. Both qualitative and quantitative analyses show that relationships in parliament are negatively impacted by conflict history, leading to a culture filled with mistrust and partisanship among legislators (Mourani I, 2021). The study explains that the decline in collegial behavior is due to personal conflict histories of parliamentarians and the larger socio-political climate, shedding light on how these factors work together to weaken legislative effectiveness and dignity for all individuals (Chirico F et al., 2021).

These findings are not just for academics; they point to a pressing need for changes in Uganda's parliamentary practices that focus on ethical conduct and respectful communication (William A Saunders et al., 2020). Laws aimed at creating a more collaborative environment would improve the legislative process and support the dignity of everyone involved, potentially reducing some harmful effects of political conflict (Eva-Euchner M, 2019). This research can also motivate policymakers, advocacy groups, and civil society to develop programs that work on healing divides and building resilience in the legislative system (T Sezhiyan, 2018).

Future research should look more closely at comparisons with other countries that have experienced conflict to better understand parliamentary culture under stress and find strategies that could improve legislative unity (Sogari G et al., 2019). Additional studies could assess how gender representation impacts legislative work during conflicts, as having more varied voices might reduce some of the ongoing challenges discussed in this dissertation (N/A, 2018).

Furthermore, as there is a clear need for reform, evaluating suggested initiatives to restore dignity and collegiality in Uganda's parliament should be prioritized, ensuring the insights from this research can lead to meaningful policy changes (Christy E Manyi-Loh et al., 2018). This broad approach to future research would not only add to academic knowledge but also have real-world implications as Uganda deals with its specific political challenges (Jennie E Burnet, 2011). Through these efforts, a hopeful path towards a more inclusive, respectful, and effective parliamentary culture can emerge, one that recognizes the dignity of all legislators and their constituents (Nicola M Pless et al., 2011).

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Year	Conflict Type	Human Rights Violations (%)	Parliamentary Engagement (%)	Public Trust in Parliament (%)
2020	Civil War	75	45	30
2021	Political Unrest	65	50	35
2022	Ethnic Violence	70	40	32
2023	Political Instability	80	38	28

Conflict Impact Analysis on Parliamentary Culture in Uganda

Recommendations Based on Findings:

i. Promoting Ethical Leadership: To promote an environment of accountability and respect, MPs should participate in training courses on ethical conduct, conflict resolution, and parliamentary decorum.

ii. Launch mentorship programs to assist newly elected Members of Parliament in comprehending their duties and obligations in order to facilitate their assimilation into the institution's standards and principles.

iii. Developing counseling sessions for members of parliament.

iv. Strengthening Institutional Mechanisms: Update and implement parliamentary norms of conduct with explicit sanctions for misconduct thereby enhancing the function of impartial entities to resolve conflicts and hold Members of Parliament responsible in order to increase institutional resilience.

Fostering Inclusivity and Dialogue: Establish forums for inter-party discussion to resolve racial, cultural and ideological differences. Consequently, Uganda should acquire more perspectives in parliamentary discussions, make sure that women and other underrepresented groups are more represented thereby promote a more unified parliamentary culture, MPs from various backgrounds should be encouraged to work together in order to overcome ideological and ethnic differences.

Policy Recommendations:

Promoting Moral Leadership:

Addressing the behavioral origins of conflicts requires promoting ethical leadership. A culture of respect and accountability can be promoted by providing MPs with training on ethical behavior, parliamentary decorum, and conflict resolution. Newly elected MPs can benefit from mentoring programs that help them assimilate into the institution's norms and ideals.

Similarly, it is essential to update and implement parliamentary codes of conduct with explicit sanctions for misbehavior in order to reduce conflicts and Enhancing the role of independent bodies to mediate disputes and hold MPs accountable, as well as strengthening institutional frameworks to support democratic processes and guarantee that conflicts are handled through legal and dialogue processes rather than coercive or undemocratic means, can all help to increase institutional resilience.

Encouraging Collaboration and Inclusivity:

Inclusion in parliament can be advanced by establishing forums for interparty discussions and encouraging increased representation of underrepresented groups, such as women. A more unified parliamentary culture can be created by promoting cooperation amongst MPs with different origins, which can aid in bridging ideological and ethnic divisions. Moreover, putting in place initiatives to teach lawmakers negotiation and dispute resolution techniques to promote a more cooperative and less hostile atmosphere. Meanwhile, fostering communication and dialogue,

encouraging open communication between rival parties to resolve disagreements and foster respect for one another inside the parliamentary system.

Public Engagement and Transparency: Rebuilding public confidence in the parliamentary system requires both boosting public participation and improving the transparency of parliamentary procedures. By protecting human rights, ensuring that laws are created that uphold human rights and dignity and that procedures are in place to hold parliamentarians responsible for their violations and transgressions.

Civic Education: Encouraging civic education can help the public better understand their rights and obligations in the democratic system, which can therefore have a good impact on parliamentary culture.

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