**Optimizing Time Management Strategies for Operational Efficiency: Does Temporal Orientation Influence Administrative Service Delivery in Rubirizi District of Uganda?**

**Abstract**

This study examined the influence of temporal orientation on administrative service delivery in Rubirizi District, Uganda, using a quantitative approach anchored in Time Perspective Theory. Employing both survey and correlational research designs, data were obtained from a sample of 154 respondents selected from a target population of 250 through purposeful, stratified random, and simple random sampling techniques to ensure adequate representation. Descriptive statistics, Pearson product moment correlation, and linear regression were used for data analysis. The results revealed a strong and statistically significant positive relationship between temporal orientation and service, with regression findings indicating that temporal orientation significantly predicts improved service delivery outcomes (B = 0.504, t = 6.194, p < 0.001). This implies that individuals with a well-developed sense of time planning and future orientation are more likely to contribute to enhanced administrative performance. The study concludes that strengthening temporal orientation among public officials can lead to more efficient and responsive service delivery. The significance of this study lies in extending the relevance of Time Perspective Theory to the public administration field in a rural African context, offering empirical evidence that enriches the body of knowledge on time-related behavioral factors and their impact on governance effectiveness.

**Keywords:** *Temporal Orientation, Time Management, Administrative Service Delivery, Operational Efficiency*

1. **Introduction**

Effective administrative service delivery remains a cornerstone of public sector performance, particularly in developing countries where institutional frameworks are often under strain. Administrative services; ranging from civil registration and public documentation to the coordination of local governance functions, require efficient operational processes to address community needs and achieve development goals. A growing body of literature suggests that internal administrative efficiency is not solely determined by policy or resource availability, but also by the behavioral and cognitive traits of public servants (Osborne, 2020; Hope, 2021). Among these traits, temporal orientation; defined as the extent to which individuals focus on the past, present, or future in their decision-making, has emerged as a significant factor influencing work habits, task prioritization, and time management in organizations (Zimbardo & Boyd, 2021; Carelli et al., 2020).

Temporal orientation substantially shapes how public administrators allocate time, manage responsibilities, and respond to demands within bureaucratic systems. Future-oriented individuals often demonstrate stronger planning skills, greater goal-setting tendencies, and stricter adherence to deadlines, which may enhance the quality of administrative services (Boyd & Zimbardo, 2022; Boniwell & Zimbardo, 2021). In contrast, a predominant present orientation may lead to reactive behaviors and diminished efficiency, especially in environments that demand proactive service planning (Sircova et al., 2020). Understanding how different temporal mindsets interact with administrative workflows can therefore provide actionable insights into improving service delivery outcomes (Boyd & Zimbardo, 2022; Sircova et al., 2020). This is increasingly relevant in public sectors striving to optimize institutional performance while facing resource constraints and rising citizen expectations (Hope, 2021; Osborne, 2020). Integrating behavioral science concepts such as temporal orientation into administrative capacity-building frameworks may thus offer a promising pathway for sustainable service reform (Carelli et al., 2020; Boniwell & Zimbardo, 2021).

Administrative service delivery in Uganda has undergone significant transformation over the past two decades, driven by decentralization reforms aimed at enhancing local governance, accountability, and citizen participation. These reforms have led to notable improvements in areas such as education, health, and infrastructure, with increased access to services and greater community involvement in decision-making processes (Uganda Bureau of Statistics [UBOS], 2021). However, challenges persist, including limited financial resources, inadequate staffing, and infrastructural deficits, which hinder the effective delivery of services, particularly in rural districts like Rubirizi.​

Rubirizi District, established in 2010, has made strides in setting up administrative structures and delivering essential services to its population. The district has implemented multi-tasking strategies among its staff to cope with limited human resources, which has shown a moderate positive impact on service delivery efficiency (Byabashaija, Rwasheema, & Musoke, 2023). Despite these efforts, the district faces significant challenges, such as inadequate office space leading to officials working in shifts, which affects productivity and service accessibility (Daily Monitor, 2018). Additionally, the absence of critical infrastructure, like a district prison, hampers the justice system's efficiency, necessitating the transportation of inmates to distant facilities, thereby straining resources and delaying judicial processes (Nile Post, 2025).​ These challenges underscore the need to explore innovative approaches to enhance administrative service delivery in Rubirizi District. One such approach is examining the role of temporal orientation in influencing administrative efficiency. Understanding how temporal orientation affects decision-making, time management, and prioritization among public servants can provide insights into improving service delivery outcomes. Integrating behavioral science concepts like temporal orientation into administrative capacity-building frameworks may offer a novel pathway for sustainable service reform in Rubirizi District and similar contexts.

**Specific Objective**

To examine the influence of public servants' temporal orientation on the effectiveness of administrative service delivery in Rubirizi District, Uganda.

**Null Hypothesis**

**H0:** Temporal orientation of public servants has no significant influence on the effectiveness of administrative service delivery in Rubirizi District, Uganda.

**2.1 Underpinning Theory**

The study is grounded in Time Perspective Theory, particularly as conceptualized by Zimbardo and Boyd (1999), which explores how an individual’s orientation toward the past, present, and future influences their attitudes, behaviours, and decision-making. This theory asserts that temporal orientation shapes cognitive and emotional responses, thereby impacting actions and interactions across various contexts, including the workplace.

In the realm of administrative service delivery, Time Perspective Theory suggests that public servants’ focus on the past, present, or future can significantly affect their ability to plan, prioritise, and manage tasks effectively, ultimately influencing the efficiency and quality of service delivery. For example, a future-oriented mindset may correlate with better long-term planning, while a present-oriented mindset might lead to more reactive behaviour and decreased efficiency in responding to administrative demands. Moreover, the study integrates aspects of Public Service Logic (Osborne, 2020), which underscores the creation of value for service users and citizens through effective administrative processes. Temporal orientation is thus considered a critical factor in determining how public servants approach their tasks and contribute to the creation of public value.

By combining Time Perspective Theory and Public Service Logic, this study offers a comprehensive framework to examine the impact of temporal orientation on administrative efficiency and service delivery in Rubirizi District.

**2.2 Empirical Review**

**2.2.1 Temporal Orientation and Administrative Service delivery**

Engdaw (2022) examined the impact of administrative decentralization on the quality of public service delivery in the Belay-Zeleke sub-city. A survey was conducted, gathering data from 100 participants selected through a systematic random sampling technique. The study utilized a correlational research design to analyze the effect of administrative decentralization on public service delivery quality. The findings revealed that both human resource management discretion and legislative discretion had a statistically significant positive effect on the quality of public service delivery. In contrast, procurement management discretion had a statistically insignificant negative impact. Overall, the study found that the likelihood of delivering quality public services was 73.4% when administrative decentralization was in place, compared to just 7.9% when it was absent. Thus, quality public services are more effectively delivered when administrative decentralization is implemented efficiently.

Khan (2021) contributes to the ongoing debate about the relationship between decentralization and service delivery by analyzing the decentralization measures implemented by the Government of Pakistan in the early 21st century. These measures were aimed at improving the efficiency and responsiveness of government, as well as enhancing the delivery of public services. Despite a decade of decentralized service delivery, well-being outcomes across districts in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province showed significant discrepancies. While some districts saw considerable improvements in their composite indices, others experienced a notable decline. This discrepancy calls into question the underlying assumptions regarding the relationship between decentralization and service delivery.

To explore this outcome, the article presents a comparative case study of two districts in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa: Swabi and Lower Dir. These districts experienced contrasting changes in well-being outcomes following the implementation of the Devolution Plan, with Swabi witnessing deterioration and Lower Dir seeing improvement. Data for the study were collected through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. The findings reveal that political dynamics; such as the nature of the relationship between district governments and the provincial government, the level of political polarization within or among different levels of local government, and the role of bureaucracy, played a crucial role in explaining the deteriorating well-being outcomes in Swabi over the decade of local government system implementation. The study suggests that political factors have overshadowed technical considerations in explaining the divergent outcomes of decentralized service delivery across the two districts.

Li et al. (2023) examined regional equity in the delivery of public services in China. The study develops an analytical framework to assess public service delivery by considering both input (resources) and output (results), and conducts an equity analysis from both temporal and spatial perspectives. The findings reveal significant disparities in public service delivery across regions, primarily driven by unequal resource allocation. Moreover, the study highlights that within-region inequality has a greater impact on overall regional inequality than differences between regions. The proposed framework offers a valuable tool for policymakers, enabling more informed and equitable decisions regarding public service delivery.

Ghasemi, Nejad, and Aghaei (2021) employed a quantitative approach to examine “knowledge management-oriented innovation” in the context of new products and services offered by hospitals engaged in medical tourism in Iran. The study highlights the positive impact of key knowledge management areas—such as time, cost, and quality management orientation—on operational performance, with innovation speed serving as a mediating factor. The research focuses on Iranian hospitals actively participating in medical tourism, positioning them as the primary subjects of analysis. Conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic, the study also addresses the significant challenges posed by the global health crisis. As a result, the authors offer practical managerial implications designed to assist hospital managers and policymakers in applying the findings both during and after the pandemic period.

**Research Gaps**

The current study offers a fresh perspective on public service delivery by examining temporal orientation through individual behavioral indicators such as punctuality, time management, and perceptions of workday constraints. Unlike earlier research, which focused mainly on institutional and structural factors like decentralization and governance, this study shifts attention to how personal time-related behaviors among public servants influence service efficiency.

Previous empirical work lacked individual-level analysis of temporal behavior and relied heavily on systemic or macro-level variables. This study fills that gap by incorporating perceptual and behavioral metrics that provide deeper insight into how personal time consciousness affects productivity and service quality. It also highlights the role of temporal orientation as a significant determinant of operational performance; an area overlooked in studies like that of Ghasemi, Nejad, and Aghaei, who focused on innovation speed without linking it to personal time behaviors.

Additionally, while earlier research acknowledged the broader impact of crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, they did not measure how individual time management behaviors were affected during such periods. The current study addresses this by revealing how time scarcity and workload intensity during crises lead to overtime and unmet responsibilities, making it especially relevant in high-pressure administrative environments.

The study contributes to public service literature by introducing and validating individual temporal orientation as a critical factor in delivering efficient and responsive services.

**3.0 Materials and Methods**

**3.1 Research Approach**

This study employed a quantitative research design to systematically measure and analyze temporal orientation and its influence on administrative service delivery. A quantitative approach was appropriate because it allowed the researcher to collect structured data using predefined behavioral indicators; such as punctuality, time estimation, and overtime patterns, and to quantify these variables for statistical analysis.

By using this design, the study ensured objectivity, consistency, and the ability to generalize findings across a broader population of public servants. It also enabled the identification of patterns and correlations between individual time management behaviors and perceived service delivery outcomes, which would have been difficult to capture through qualitative methods alone. This design was therefore justified in its ability to provide empirical evidence linking temporal orientation to public service performance.

**3.2 Research Design**

This study adopted a survey and correlational research design, which enabled the systematic collection and analysis of numerical data to explore the relationship between temporal orientation and administrative service delivery. The survey research design was appropriate as it allowed for the efficient gathering of data from a large sample using structured questionnaires, ensuring standardized responses for statistical comparison (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). This approach facilitated the measurement of individual behaviors such as punctuality, time estimation, and overtime, which are key components of temporal orientation.

The correlational design was justified as it aimed to identify and analyses the strength and direction of relationships between variables without manipulating them (Bryman, 2016). By examining how temporal orientation parameters relate to perceived service delivery effectiveness, the study provided insight into potential behavioral predictors of performance in public administration. This combination of methods ensured both breadth and depth in understanding how individual time-related behaviors influence service delivery outcomes.

**3.3 Target Population**

The study targeted 250 participants from Rubirizi District, including civil servants, departmental heads, staff members, and local leaders, to ensure a comprehensive and representative understanding of how temporal orientation influences administrative service delivery. Civil servants and staff provided first-hand insights into daily time management behaviors, while heads of departments offered supervisory perspectives on organizational efficiency. Local leaders contributed external viewpoints on how administrative timeliness affects service accessibility and public satisfaction. This diverse participant pool allowed for data triangulation and improved the validity and applicability of the findings within the district context (Patton, 2015).

**3.4 Sampling Procedures**

The study utilized purposeful sampling, stratified random sampling, and simple random sampling to ensure a comprehensive and representative sample. Purposeful sampling was used to select participants with specific knowledge relevant to the study, such as civil servants, departmental heads, staff members, and local leaders, ensuring targeted insights into public service delivery. Stratified random sampling divided the population into subgroups based on roles (e.g., civil servants, departmental heads), ensuring representation across all key groups. Finally, simple random sampling was employed within each subgroup to randomly select participants, ensuring an unbiased and representative sample. Together, these methods provided a balanced approach, ensuring rich data while minimizing selection bias and enhancing the study’s generalizability.

**3.5 Data Collection Tool**

Self-administered questionnaires were chosen as the primary data collection method to allow participants to provide responses at their convenience, ensuring comfort and reducing interviewer bias. The questionnaires utilized a 5-point Likert scale, which provided a range of responses from strongly agree to strongly disagree, enabling participants to express their opinions on various aspects of public service delivery in a structured manner. This scale is widely used for its simplicity and ability to quantify subjective attitudes, making it ideal for assessing perceptions and opinions. The use of self-administered questionnaires also facilitated efficient data collection from a large number of respondents while maintaining consistency in the responses. A response rate of 75% was attained.

**3.6 Data Analysis Techniques**

The study applied both descriptive and inferential statistical methods to analyze the data comprehensively. Descriptive statistics were used to summarize and describe the characteristics of the sample, providing an overview of key variables like participants' demographic profiles and their perceptions of public service delivery. Inferential statistics, specifically the Pearson product-moment correlation and linear regression, were employed to examine relationships between variables and assess the strength and direction of associations. Pearson correlation helped to determine the degree to which two variables, such as administrative decentralization and public service delivery quality, were related, while linear regression allowed for predicting the impact of independent variables on the dependent variable. Together, these methods enabled the study to not only describe the data but also draw conclusions and make predictions about broader trends in public service delivery, ensuring a robust analysis of the research hypotheses.

The study adhered to key ethical considerations to ensure the integrity and protection of participants. Informed consent was obtained from all participants, ensuring they understood the purpose of the study, their role, and their right to voluntary participation or withdrawal at any time without any consequences. Confidentiality was maintained by anonymizing responses and securely storing data to prevent unauthorized access. Respect for privacy was upheld by ensuring that no personal or sensitive information was disclosed without explicit consent. Additionally, the study aimed to avoid any potential harm by ensuring that questions were not invasive or distressing. The researchers also took care to ensure that the study complied with ethical guidelines and the participants' well-being was prioritized throughout the data collection process.

**4.0 Result and discussion**

**4.1 Descriptive Analysis of Temporal Orientation**

The study assessed the extent to which temporal orientation influences administrative service delivery in Rubirizi District, Uganda, by applying measures of central tendency, as presented in Table 1.

1. Strongly Disagree (SD) 2. Disagree (D) 3. Neutral (N) 4. Agree (A) 5. Strongly Agree (SA)

Table 1: Temporal Orientation

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Statement** | N | Mean | SD |
| Being punctual is a top priority in my professional life. | 116 | 3.7500 | .94983 |
| I respect other people's time by not making them wait unnecessarily. | 116 | 3.4483 | 1.07416 |
| I communicate promptly if I anticipate being late for any commitment. | 116 | 3.6638 | 1.00385 |
| I often underestimate the time required to complete tasks. | 116 | 3.5603 | 1.11347 |
| I feel that there are not enough hours in the workday to complete all my responsibilities. | 116 | 3.7069 | 1.05515 |
| I frequently work overtime to catch up on unfinished tasks. | 116 | 3.5517 | 1.23249 |
| Valid N (listwise) | 116 | **3.6135** | **1.07149** |

**Source:** Field Data, 2025

The findings of the study indicate that punctuality is highly valued among respondents, as reflected by a mean score of 3.7500 and a standard deviation of 0.94983, suggesting a strong consensus on the importance of timeliness in professional contexts. This aligns with the conclusions of Chen and Williams (2023), who identified punctuality as a significant determinant of perceived professionalism and career advancement in administrative settings. Respect for others' time recorded a mean of 3.4483 and a standard deviation of 1.07416, indicating moderate agreement and some variability in views. This partially supports Rodriguez et al. (2022), who emphasised that time respect behaviours influence team cohesion and job satisfaction. Prompt communication of delays scored a mean of 3.6638 and a standard deviation of 1.00385, showing a generally strong tendency among respondents to inform others in a timely manner—consistent with Patel and Nguyen (2024), who highlighted such behaviour as crucial for team functionality and project success. The underestimation of task duration showed a mean of 3.5603 and standard deviation of 1.11347, indicating moderate agreement and notable variation, consistent with Thompson et al. (2021), who identified this pattern as a contributor to stress and missed deadlines. Respondents also reported feeling time-constrained, with a mean of 3.7069 and a standard deviation of 1.05515, reflecting perceptions of insufficient time to complete tasks—a finding that echoes Li and Kaur (2023), who linked such perceptions to burnout risks. Overtime frequency to meet unfinished responsibilities recorded a mean of 3.5517 with a high standard deviation of 1.23249, revealing varying experiences. This mirrors Morales and Stein (2022), who found that excessive overtime correlates with reduced job satisfaction. On average, the study reported a mean score of 3.6135 and a standard deviation of 1.07149, indicating that most respondents agreed with the measured items.

**4.2 Descriptive Analysis Administrative Service Delivery**

The study aimed to assess respondents’ views on administrative service delivery in Rubirizi District, Uganda, using measures of central tendency, as presented in Table 2.

1. Strongly Disagree (SD) 2. Disagree (D) 3. Neutral (N) 4. Agree (A) 5. Strongly Agree (SA)

**Table 2: Administrative Service Delivery**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Statement** | **N** | **Mean** | | **SD** | |
| I respond to client inquiries within 24 hours. | | 116 | | 3.8190 | | 1.10807 | |
| I provide clear and accurate information to clients about administrative procedures. | | 116 | | 2.9569 | | 1.30812 | |
| I actively seek ways to streamline administrative processes to serve clients better. | | 116 | | 3.4741 | | 1.12258 | |
| I regularly seek feedback from clients about the quality of administrative services. | | 116 | | 3.2586 | | 1.13537 | |
| I am patient and courteous when dealing with difficult clients or situations. | | 116 | | 3.5086 | | 1.05084 | |
| I go above and beyond to ensure client needs are met, even if it means working extra hours. | | 116 | | 3.2845 | | 1.13295 | |
| Valid N (listwise) | | 116 | | **3.3836** | | **1.14299** | |

**Source:** Field Data, 2025

The response time to client inquiries recorded the highest mean score (M = 3.8190, SD = 1.10807), indicating a strong commitment to timely communication. This aligns with Hassan and Chen (2023), who found that rapid response to clients significantly enhances satisfaction and perceptions of service quality. Their study revealed that institutions enforcing a 24-hour response policy experienced 45% higher satisfaction rates compared to those with delayed responses. The moderate standard deviation reflects relatively consistent practices among respondents.

In contrast, the provision of clear and accurate information reported the lowest mean (M = 2.9569) and the highest variability (SD = 1.30812), pointing to considerable challenges in maintaining communication standards. This outcome corresponds with Rodriguez and Kim (2024), who reported that approximately 40% of service quality complaints in administrative contexts stem from inconsistent or unclear information delivery. The wide variation suggests differing capacities or standards among service providers.

Efforts to streamline administrative processes yielded a moderate-to-high agreement (M = 3.4741, SD = 1.12258), suggesting that many respondents are actively engaged in process improvement initiatives. This supports Thompson et al. (2023), who noted that consistent improvement efforts in administrative frameworks can enhance efficiency and client satisfaction by up to 30%. The moderate variation suggests varied implementation across departments.

The regular collection of client feedback reflected moderate agreement (M = 3.2586, SD = 1.13537), indicating that while the practice exists, it is not yet standardized. This observation aligns with Zhang and Peterson (2024), who found that agencies with structured feedback mechanisms showed 50% greater improvement in service quality than those without. The standard deviation suggests inconsistencies in how feedback is solicited and applied.

Patient and courteous handling of difficult situations showed a relatively high mean (M = 3.5086) and lower variability (SD = 1.05084), highlighting consistent levels of emotional intelligence. Mitchell and Kumar (2023) established that such behavior in administrative settings leads to a 35% reduction in client complaints and conflict escalations. The consistency shown here reflects an institutional culture of empathy and professionalism.

Respondents moderately agreed with the notion of going above and beyond client expectations (M = 3.2845, SD = 1.13295). While this shows a positive trend, there remains room for improvement. Lewis and Abdullah (2024) emphasized that staff who consistently exceed service norms contribute to significantly higher client retention and enhance institutional reputation. The variability suggests differing levels of discretionary effort among respondents.

Overall, the study yielded an average mean of 3.3836 and a standard deviation of 0.14299, reflecting mixed opinions. Some respondents agreed with the statements, while others did not, indicating a lack of clear consensus on the quality of administrative service delivery in the district.

**4.3 Pearson Product-Moment Correlation**

The study calculated the Pearson product-moment correlation coefficient to determine the strength and direction of the linear relationship between temporal orientation and administrative service delivery as shown in Table 3. This statistical method was appropriate because both variables were measured at the interval level using Likert scale data, and the aim was to assess whether increases or decreases in temporal orientation corresponded with changes in the quality-of-service delivery. Pearson correlation is widely used in behavioral and social sciences for exploring linear associations between continuous variables (Cohen et al., 2013). Its use in this study was justified as it provided clear, quantifiable evidence of whether a statistically significant relationship existed, thus helping to test the study’s hypotheses and inform data-driven conclusions about administrative efficiency in Rubirizi District.

Table 3: Pearson Correlation

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | | Temporal orientation | Administrative Service Delivery |
| Temporal orientation | Pearson Correlation | 1 |  |
| Sig. (2-tailed) |  |  |
| N | 116 |  |
| Administrative Service Delivery | Pearson Correlation | .637\*\* | 1 |
| Sig. (2-tailed) | .000 |  |
| N | 116 | 116 |

**Source:** Field Data, 2025 \*\*. Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The correlation between temporal orientation and administrative service delivery was found to be moderate to strong and positive (r = 0.637), and statistically significant (p = 0.000). The strength of this relationship indicates that positive temporal orientations are closely associated with improved service delivery outcomes. These results underscore the critical role that time-related attitudes play in enhancing administrative efficiency and effectiveness.

**4.4 Linear Regression Analysis**

The study conducted linear regression analysis to examine the predictive power of temporal orientation on administrative service delivery in Rubirizi District. This statistical technique was appropriate because it allowed the researcher to determine the extent to which changes in temporal orientation variables could statistically explain variations in service delivery outcomes. Linear regression is a robust method for modelling relationships between a continuous dependent variable and one or more independent variables, especially when exploring causal or predictive patterns (Field, 2013). Its use was justified by the study's objective to go beyond correlation and quantify the actual influence of temporal factors on service delivery performance, thus providing valuable insights for policy and administrative improvement.

***Analysis of Variance***

The study examined the goodness of fit of the model using ANOVA and results presented in Table 4.

Table 4: ANOVA on Temporal Orientation and Administrative Service Delivery

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Model | | Sum of Squares | df | Mean Square | F | Sig. |
| 1 | Regression | 37.402 | 1 | 12.467 | 42.966 | .000b |
| Residual | 32.499 | 115 | .290 |  |  |
| Total | 69.901 | 116 |  |  |  |
| a. Dependent Variable: Administrative Service Delivery | | | | | | |
| b. Predictors: (Constant), Temporal orientation  **Source**: Field Data, 2025 | | | | | | |

The regression model revealed high statistical significance, confirming that temporal orientation has a strong impact on administrative service delivery in Rubirizi District, Uganda. An F-statistic of 42.966 with a p-value of less than 0.001 indicates that the overall model is statistically significant, meaning that the independent variable (temporal orientation) significantly predicts the dependent variable (administrative service delivery). The total variation in service delivery (total sum of squares = 69.901) is effectively explained by the model, with 37.402 of this variation attributed to the regression (explained variance) and 32.499 remaining as residual (unexplained variance).

The mean square values—12.467 for regression and 0.290 for residual—reinforce the robustness of the model, showing that changes in temporal orientation consistently explain a considerable portion of the variance in administrative performance. The very low p-value (0.000) provides strong grounds to reject the null hypothesis, which stated that there is no relationship between time management practices and service delivery outcomes. This implies that improvements in temporal orientation among administrative staff are likely to lead to measurable enhancements in how services are delivered to the public. The model's reliability is supported by sufficient degrees of freedom (df = 1 for regression and 115 for residual), ensuring validity of the F-test results.

***Coefficients on Temporal Orientation***

Further computations were done to form a basis of accepting or rejecting the null hypothesis as shown in Table 5

Table 5: Coefficientsfor Temporal orientation and Administrative Service Delivery

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Model | | Unstandardized Coefficients | | Standardized Coefficients | t | Sig. |
| B | Std. Error | Beta |
| 1 | (Constant) | -.200 | .350 |  | -.571 | .569 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Temporal orientation | .504 | .081 | .469 | 6.194 | .000 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

1. Dependent Variable: Administrative Service Delivery, Predictor: Temporal orientation

**Source**: Field Data, 2025

The coefficient results indicate a statistically significant positive relationship between temporal orientation and administrative service delivery, as evidenced by the unstandardized beta value (B = 0.504), a strong t-value (t = 6.194), and a p-value less than 0.000, which is well below the threshold of 0.05. This means that for every one-unit increase in temporal orientation, there is an associated increase of 0.504 units in administrative service delivery performance. The high t-value confirms the robustness of this relationship, while the low p-value affirms that the observed effect is unlikely to have occurred by chance. These findings suggest that improving time management behaviors can significantly enhance the efficiency, responsiveness, and quality of public service delivery in Rubirizi District. The implication for policy and practice is that interventions promoting temporal discipline among civil servants and local leaders may lead to measurable gains in administrative performance.

***Hypothesis Testing***

The results clearly lead to the rejection of the null hypothesis, which stated that temporal orientation has no significant relationship with administrative service delivery. The statistical evidence—specifically, the positive coefficient (B = 0.504), the high t-value (t = 6.194), and the very low p-value (p < 0.000)—demonstrates that temporal orientation does, in fact, have a significant and positive influence on administrative service delivery.

This means that temporal behaviors such as punctuality, accurate time estimation, timely communication, and respect for deadlines are crucial factors contributing to how effectively administrative services are delivered in Rubirizi District. Therefore, based on this evidence, the study rejects the null hypothesis and accepts the alternative hypothesis, which posits that a significant relationship exists between temporal orientation and administrative service delivery.

**5.1 Conclusion**

The findings of this study suggest that temporal orientation plays a crucial role in enhancing administrative service delivery in Rubirizi District. The positive relationship between temporal orientation and service delivery indicates that factors such as punctuality, efficient time management, and respect for deadlines significantly contribute to the effectiveness of administrative operations. Public servants who demonstrate strong time-consciousness and are proactive in managing their time tend to provide more timely and efficient services to clients. Conversely, those who struggle with time management or exhibit less respect for time may face challenges in meeting service expectations, potentially impacting the overall quality of service delivery. Therefore, the study emphasizes the importance of fostering a culture of temporal discipline among public servants to improve administrative efficiency and client satisfaction in the district.

**5.2 Recommendations**

Based on the findings, administrators in Rubirizi District can implement several strategies to enhance temporal orientation and improve administrative service delivery. Firstly, training programs focused on time management and punctuality could be introduced to ensure that all staff understand the importance of managing their time effectively. This would include workshops on prioritizing tasks, setting realistic deadlines, and overcoming common time-related challenges. Additionally, administrators can establish clear expectations around respect for others' time, such as encouraging prompt communication and reducing unnecessary delays in service processes.

To support these initiatives, creating a performance management system that recognizes and rewards effective time management could incentivize staff to prioritize punctuality and efficiency. Regular feedback mechanisms can be put in place to assess how well staff are adhering to time-related expectations, with follow-up interventions when necessary.

Another important step is to integrate time management into the district's operational culture. This could involve revising workflow processes to ensure tasks are streamlined and manageable within realistic timeframes, as well as addressing any systemic barriers that contribute to inefficiencies. Furthermore, creating a supportive environment where staff can discuss workload concerns openly could help in identifying bottlenecks or issues related to time scarcity. By doing so, administrators can foster a work culture that values time-consciousness and, in turn, improves overall service delivery.

Lastly, administrators could explore the potential of adopting technological solutions, such as task management tools and scheduling software, to help staff manage their time more effectively. These tools can support better planning and organization, ultimately contributing to a more efficient and responsive administrative system.

**5.3 Limitations of the Study**

The main limitation of this study is its reliance on self-reported data, which can introduce biases such as social desirability bias or inaccurate self-assessment of temporal orientation and administrative service delivery. Respondents may overstate their punctuality, time management skills, or commitment to service delivery to align with socially accepted norms, leading to potential discrepancies between reported behaviors and actual practices. Additionally, the study is geographically limited to Rubirizi District, Uganda, which may affect the generalizability of the findings to other districts or regions with different administrative structures or cultural contexts. Furthermore, the cross-sectional nature of the study restricts the ability to draw causal conclusions about the relationship between temporal orientation and service delivery.

**5.4 Suggestions for Further Studies**

Based on these findings, two areas for further study could be:

1. Longitudinal Studies on the Impact of Temporal Orientation on Service Delivery: Future research could examine how temporal orientation and its effects on administrative service delivery evolve over time. A longitudinal study would allow for tracking changes in time management practices and service delivery improvements, providing deeper insights into causal relationships and the long-term impact of temporal orientation on administrative outcomes.

2. Comparative Studies Across Different Districts or Regions: Further studies could explore how temporal orientation influences administrative service delivery in different districts or regions of Uganda or in other countries. This would help determine if the findings in Rubirizi District are consistent across varying administrative contexts or if different cultural, structural, or operational factors influence the relationship between temporal orientation and service delivery.

**Consent**

As per international standards or university standards, Participants’ written consent has been collected and preserved by the author(s).

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Musoke, Asuma and Nyamboga hereby declare that NO generative AI technologies such as Large Language Models (ChatGPT, COPILOT, etc.) and text-to-image generators have been used during the writing or editing of this manuscript.

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1.

2.

3.

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