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African Liberty Camp 2026

Mixed-Methods Evaluation:

Promoting Liberty Through Camp Events in Africa

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Abstract

This mixed-methods study integrates quantitative participant survey data with qualitative insights from organizers and speakers to evaluate the potential of intensive liberty camp events as a vehicle for advancing liberty-oriented ideas in the African context. Drawing on feedback from 23 of the 64 participants at Africa Liberty Camp 2026 and five interviews with organizers and speakers, the analysis examines points of convergence, divergence, and expansion between the two strands.

Quantitative findings show substantial self-reported knowledge gains across core liberty-related topics and high levels of perceived influence on understanding, confidence, leadership, entrepreneurial mindset, networking, and desire for change. Qualitative accounts supply a coherent theory of change centered on exposure, debate, first-time conversion, and residual engagement, while also identifying constraints related to partner commitment, program structure, resource limitations, selection processes, and residual cultural resistance. Integration reveals that positive short-term effects are real but conditional.

The study formulates practical design principles focused on protecting high-quality input and dialogue, treating residual engagement as a core outcome, improving selection through scholarships, strengthening organizational discipline, and maintaining realistic incremental expectations. Conducted by Action for Development Initiative (AFODI), this paper completes the Africa Liberty Camp 2026 Impact Trilogy and contributes open-access evidence on the strengths and limitations of intensive liberty education programs in Africa.

Keywords: mixed methods, liberty education, Africa, intensive camps, program evaluation, AFODI

1. Introduction

1.1 Context of Africa Liberty Camp and the Impact Trilogy

Africa Liberty Camp has been held annually in Uganda for over a decade and reached its 11th edition in 2026. Organized collaboratively by free-market oriented organizations including Action for Development Initiative (AFODI), Mtindo Network Development Initiative, Action for Liberty and Economic Development (ALED) and other partners, the camp has grown into one of the most established locally organized platforms for introducing young Africans to the ideas of individual liberty, free markets, entrepreneurship, and limited government. The 2026 edition, held under the theme “A Free and Prosperous Africa,” brought together students, young entrepreneurs, professionals, and civil-society actors for an intensive residential program of keynote lectures, panel discussions, networking sessions, and fireside conversations.

This paper constitutes the third and final study in the Africa Liberty Camp 2026 Impact Trilogy. The first study presented a quantitative evaluation of participant-reported knowledge gains, perceived impacts, and behavioral intentions based on feedback from 23 of the 64 attendees (Kayser et al., 2026a). The second study offered a qualitative analysis of organizers’ and speakers’ perspectives on design, delivery, and perceived mechanisms of influence (Kayser et al., 2026b). The present mixed-methods study integrates these two strands to generate a more comprehensive understanding of the camp’s effects and the conditions under which intensive camp events can advance liberty-oriented ideas in the African context.

1.2 Rationale for Mixed-Methods Integration

Quantitative participant surveys provide valuable evidence of self-reported outcomes, yet they offer limited insight into the intentional design of the program or the practical realities that shaped delivery. Qualitative accounts from organizers and speakers illuminate goals, constraints, and perceived pathways of influence, but cannot alone establish the scale or distribution of participant effects. Integrating the two data

sources allows for complementarity, triangulation, and the development of meta-inferences that neither strand can produce independently (Creswell and Plano Clark, 2018; Fetters, Curry and Creswell, 2013).

An explanatory sequential design is particularly appropriate here: the quantitative findings identify patterns of knowledge gain, perceived influence, and residual commitment, while the qualitative findings help explain how and under what conditions those patterns emerged. The integration also supports the generation of practical design principles for future liberty-oriented camp events in Africa.

1.3 Research Aim, Questions, and Objectives

The aim of this study is to integrate quantitative participant survey data with qualitative insights from organizers and speakers in order to develop a more comprehensive understanding of the potential and limitations of short intensive camp events as a means of promoting liberty-oriented ideas in the African context.

The study is guided by three research questions:

RQ1. In what ways do the quantitative patterns of knowledge gain, perceived impact, and behavioral intention converge with, diverge from, or expand upon the accounts provided by organizers and speakers?

RQ2. What do the integrated findings reveal about the conditions under which a camp of this type is more (or less) likely to strengthen participants' engagement with liberty ideas?

RQ3. What practical design principles and conceptual insights emerge for the future use of intensive liberty camps as an educational and advocacy strategy in Africa?

The corresponding objectives are:

- To systematically compare and contrast participant-reported outcomes with organizers' and speakers' perspectives on intended and actual effects.
- To identify areas of complementarity, divergence, and expansion between the two data strands.
- To develop meta-inferences regarding the strengths, limitations, and contextual conditions of the camp model.
- To translate the integrated findings into concrete recommendations for the design of future liberty-oriented interventions.
- To contribute both empirically and methodologically to the evaluation of short-term liberty education programs in African settings.

1.4 Contribution and Positioning

This evaluation is conducted by Action for Development Initiative (AFODI). To the best of our knowledge, AFODI is currently the only organization systematically studying the outcomes of Africa Liberty Camp and making the findings available through open-access publication. By completing the Impact Trilogy, the

present paper consolidates quantitative and qualitative evidence into an integrated assessment that can inform both scholarly understanding and practical program improvement.

2. Methodology

2.1 Mixed-Methods Design

This study employed an explanatory sequential mixed-methods design (Creswell and Plano Clark, 2018; Fetters, Curry and Creswell, 2013). In this approach, quantitative data are collected and analyzed first; qualitative data are then used to explain, expand, and contextualize the quantitative patterns. The final stage involves deliberate integration of the two strands to generate meta-inferences that neither dataset can produce independently (Tashakkori and Teddlie, 2010).

The design is particularly suited to program evaluation, where participant-reported outcomes benefit from being interpreted in light of the intentions, constraints, and observations of those who designed and delivered the intervention (Greene, Caracelli and Graham, 1989). The present study integrates the quantitative participant survey (Study 1) with the qualitative organizer and speaker interviews (Study 2) to assess the potential and limitations of intensive liberty camp events in the African context.

The purpose of this mixed-methods evaluation, and of the trilogy as a whole, is to examine participant-reported outcomes, organizers' and speakers' perspectives, and the integrated implications for program design. It therefore does not include the full list of speakers, detailed session schedules, or a comprehensive documentary account of the event.

2.2 Quantitative Strand

The quantitative strand drew on feedback from 23 of the 64 participants who attended Africa Liberty Camp 2026 (response rate approximately 36%). The instrument captured self-reported knowledge gains across five core topics, perceived influence on six domains, most impactful session types, logistics ratings, behavioral intentions, and recommendation likelihood. Analysis was primarily descriptive, focusing on frequencies, percentages, and before–after comparisons of knowledge ratings (Kayser et al., 2026a).

2.3 Qualitative Strand

The qualitative strand was based on five complete semi-structured interviews with three organizers and two speakers (n = 5). Data were collected via online forms hosted on Fillout.com and analyzed using thematic analysis following Braun and Clarke's (2006, 2021) six-phase approach. The analysis focused on intended goals and pathways of influence, facilitating and constraining factors, assessments of program effectiveness, and lessons for future design (Kayser et al., 2026b). The sample size is consistent with recommendations for focused key-informant studies guided by information power (Malterud, Siersma and Guassora, 2016).

2.4 Integration Procedures

Integration occurred at three levels (Fetters, Curry and Creswell, 2013):

1. **Design level** — sequential timing, with quantitative findings informing the interpretation of qualitative accounts and vice versa.
2. **Methods level** — the two datasets were connected through the shared focus on the same event and overlapping constructs (knowledge, impact, engagement, organizational conditions).
3. **Interpretation level** — joint displays and narrative weaving were used to identify points of convergence, divergence, and expansion. Meta-inferences were developed by asking how the qualitative findings help explain the quantitative patterns and what additional insights emerge only when both strands are considered together (Bazeley, 2018; Guetterman, Fetters and Creswell, 2015).

Particular attention was paid to complementarity (how one strand elaborates the other), triangulation (confirmation or disconfirmation of findings), and expansion (how the combined results extend understanding beyond either strand alone).

2.5 Trustworthiness and Rigor

Trustworthiness was addressed for each strand separately and for the integrated analysis. For the quantitative strand, transparency in reporting frequencies, response rates, and limitations was prioritized. For the qualitative strand, credibility, dependability, and confirmability were supported through systematic coding, retention of original wording, and full transcript disclosure in the Appendix of the qualitative paper (Lincoln and Guba, 1985). At the mixed-methods level, rigor was enhanced by explicit documentation of integration procedures and by grounding meta-inferences in both datasets (Onwuegbuzie and Johnson, 2006).

2.6 Ethical Considerations

Both component studies involved voluntary adult participants reflecting on a completed educational event. Data were anonymized, and consent covered use in multiple related publications within the trilogy. The integrated analysis relies solely on already-collected and anonymized data and introduces no additional ethical risks. The research was conducted as a low-risk program evaluation without formal institutional review board approval, consistent with established guidelines for such evaluations (British Educational Research Association, 2018).

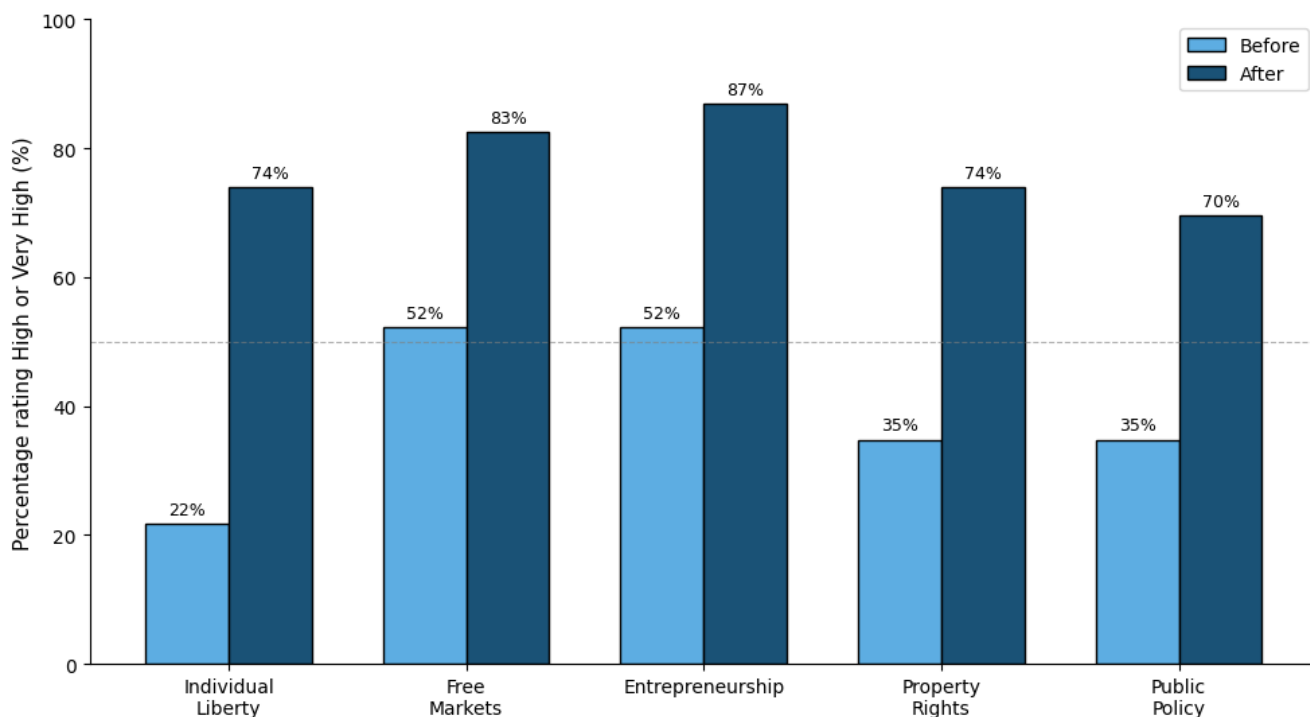
3. Integrated Findings

The integrated analysis brings together the quantitative patterns reported by participants ($n = 23$) with the qualitative accounts of organizers and speakers ($n = 5$). Findings are organized thematically to highlight points of convergence, divergence, and expansion.

3.1 Knowledge Gains and Pathways of Influence

Quantitative results showed clear self-reported increases in understanding across all five core topics. The proportion of participants rating their knowledge as High or Very High rose substantially: Individual Liberty from 22% to 74%, Free Markets from 52% to 83%, Entrepreneurship from 52% to 87%, Property Rights from 35% to 74%, and Public Policy from 35% to 70%.

Figure 3.1: Knowledge Gains (Quantitative Study, 2026)



Source: AFODIresearch, 2026

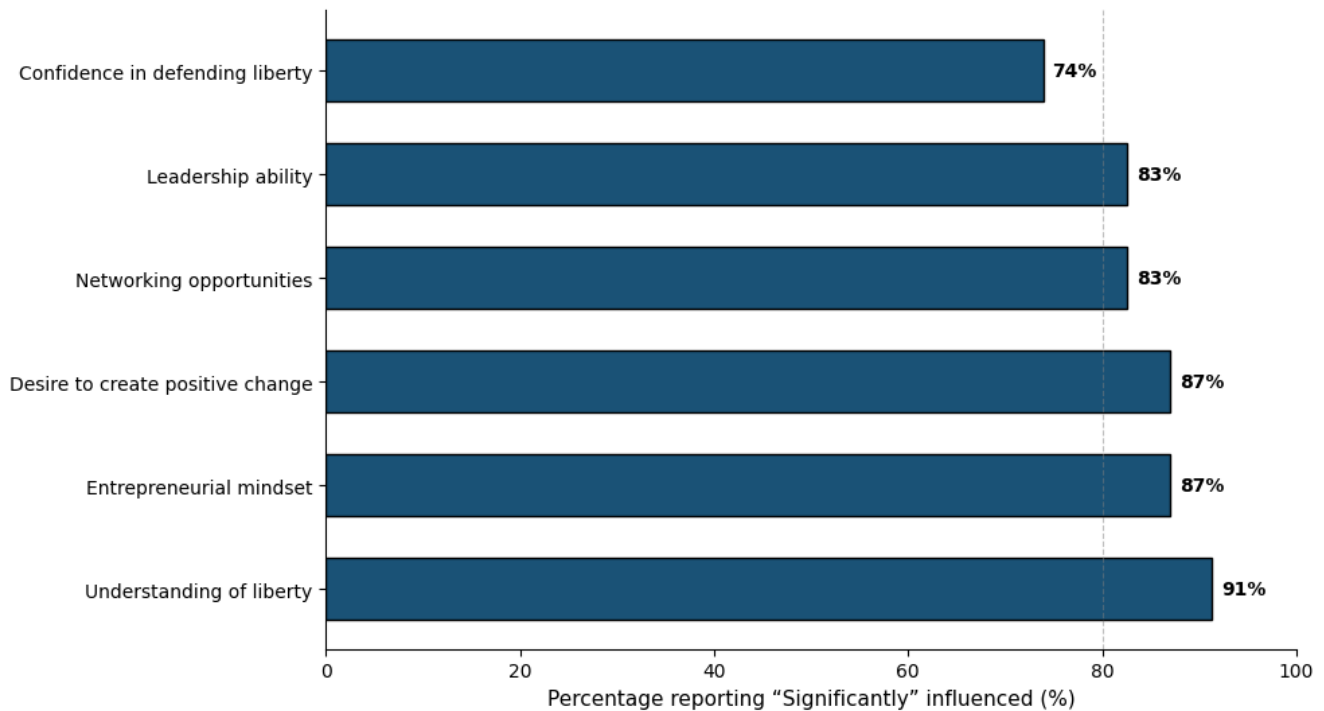
These patterns converge strongly with organizers' and speakers' descriptions of the camp's intended pathways of influence. Qualitative respondents consistently framed success in terms of exposure, discovery, and the conversion of first-time participants. One organizer described the most important outcome as "having first-time attendees who end up adopting and appreciating the ideas and principles of liberty and freedom... changing one stone at a time." Speakers similarly emphasized the creation of debate, critical thinking, and residual engagement. The quantitative knowledge gains therefore align with, and give scale to, the qualitative theory of change centered on incremental personal conversion rather than immediate mass transformation.

3.2 Perceived Impact and Mechanisms

Between 74% and 91% of survey respondents reported that the camp had influenced them "Significantly" across six domains: understanding of liberty (91%), entrepreneurial mindset (87%), desire to create positive

change (87%), leadership ability (83%), networking opportunities (83%), and confidence in defending liberty (74%).

Figure 2: Perceived Influence (Quantitative Study, 2026)



Source: AFODIresearch, 2026

Qualitative accounts help explain these high levels of reported influence. Speakers highlighted the value of debate, civic dialogue, and ongoing group discussion that continued after the camp. Organizers pointed to the motivational effect of seeing participants engage seriously with liberty ideas. At the same time, qualitative data introduce important nuances not visible in the survey numbers. One organizer identified residual cultural resistance as a constraint: even when participants intellectually appreciated liberty ideas, some continued to defend traditional cultural beliefs, limiting deeper transformation. This suggests that the high quantitative ratings of influence may coexist with incomplete shifts in underlying worldviews—an expansion of understanding that emerges only through integration.

3.3 Session Formats and Organizational Conditions

Keynote speeches were identified by 43% of participants as the most impactful session type, followed by panel discussions (26%) and networking sessions (22%). Fireside chats were cited by 9%.

These preferences align with qualitative assessments that valued high-quality external input and interactive formats. However, organizers and speakers also identified significant organizational constraints that shaped delivery: uneven partner commitment, last-minute speaker cancellations, weak time discipline, and program fluidity. Time management received the weakest quantitative logistics ratings, confirming the

qualitative reports of abrupt programming and reactive adjustments. Accommodation was another relative weakness, while venue, meals, and registration were strongly endorsed.

The integration reveals a clear pattern: the educational core (especially keynotes and discussion) was experienced as highly effective, yet operational shortcomings reduced the overall professionalism of the event and forced continual adaptation.

3.4 Behavioral Intentions, Residual Commitment, and Sustainability

Willingness to remain engaged was exceptionally high. Ninety-six percent of respondents indicated readiness to volunteer in organizing future camps, 83% to mentor new participants, 83% to join research projects, and 74% to speak at future events. Nearly all stated they would recommend the camp.

These quantitative indicators of residual commitment converge with qualitative observations of continued group discussion and personal identification with liberty ideas. Organizers explicitly linked success to the creation of ongoing engagement rather than one-off exposure. At the same time, qualitative respondents raised structural questions about sustainability: annual organization was viewed by some as insufficient yet constrained by the resource demands of multi-organization collaboration; expanded scholarships and clearer partner roles were proposed as necessary conditions for reaching more motivated participants and reducing dependence on ability to pay.

3.5 Points of Convergence, Divergence, and Expansion

The following joint display summarizes how the quantitative participant findings and the qualitative organizer/speaker accounts relate to one another.

Table 3.1: Summarizing Overview

Domain	Quantitative Pattern (Participants)	Qualitative Insight (Organizers & Speakers)	Relationship
Knowledge & Conversion	Clear gains across all five topics; largest increase in Individual Liberty (22% → 74% High/Very High)	Success framed as “changing one stone at a time”; emphasis on first-time attendees adopting liberty ideas	Convergence – Quantitative scale confirms the qualitative theory of incremental conversion
Perceived Influence	74–91% reported “Significant” influence across six domains	Debate, critical thinking, residual group discussion, and personal inspiration cited as key mechanisms	Convergence + Expansion – High quantitative ratings are explained by interactive mechanisms; qualitative data add the nuance of residual cultural resistance
Session Formats	Keynotes most impactful	High-quality external	Convergence on the value of

Domain	Quantitative Pattern (Participants)	Qualitative Insight (Organizers & Speakers)	Relationship
	(43%), followed by panels (26%) and networking (22%)	input and discussion spaces valued; abrupt programming and under-use of alumni noted as weaknesses	keynotes and dialogue; qualitative data expand the picture with organizational shortcomings
Organizational Conditions	Time management weakest logistics rating; venue, meals, and registration strong	Partner commitment problems, last-minute cancellations, resource constraints, and selection challenges repeatedly identified	Divergence in emphasis – Quantitative data show high overall satisfaction despite weaknesses; qualitative accounts place heavier weight on coordination and resource limits
Residual Commitment	96% willing to volunteer; 74–83% willing to mentor, speak, or join research; near-universal recommendation	Ongoing group discussion and personal identification with liberty ideas observed; calls for scholarships, clearer partner roles, and higher-level audiences	Convergence + Expansion – Strong quantitative commitment aligns with qualitative observations; qualitative data add conditions needed for sustainability
Overall Assessment	Substantial short-term cognitive and motivational effects; high residual engagement	Valuable but constrained vehicle; success depends on organization, selection, and realistic incremental expectations	Meta-inference – The camp generates meaningful effects among motivated participants while remaining limited by coordination, resources, selection, and cultural factors

Source: AFODI, 2026

This joint display shows that the two strands largely reinforce each other on the existence and nature of positive short-term effects, while the qualitative data supply explanatory depth and identify structural conditions that the quantitative results alone cannot reveal.

4. Discussion

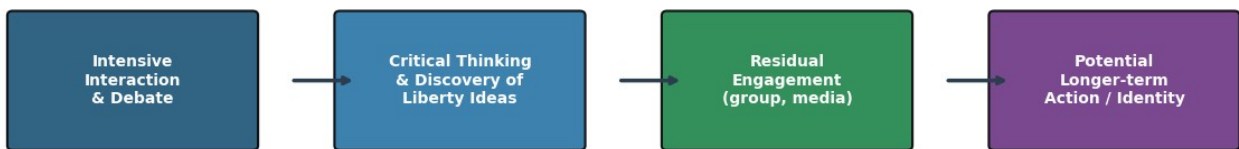
4.1 Meta-Inferences on the Potential of Intensive Liberty Camps

The integrated findings support a clear meta-inference: short intensive liberty camp events of the kind represented by Africa Liberty Camp 2026 are capable of generating substantial short-term cognitive and motivational effects among motivated participants. The quantitative data demonstrate widespread self-

reported knowledge gains and high levels of perceived influence, while the qualitative data supply a coherent theory of change centered on exposure, debate, personal conversion, and residual engagement. Together, the two strands indicate that the intensive residential format remains a viable vehicle for advancing liberty-oriented ideas in the African context, particularly when it successfully creates spaces for critical dialogue and first-time intellectual encounters.

At the same time, the integration reveals important limitations. Organizational coordination problems, resource constraints, uneven partner commitment, selection processes that privilege ability to pay, and residual cultural resistance all constrain the depth and reach of the observed effects. The high quantitative satisfaction scores coexist with qualitative accounts of program fluidity and incomplete worldview shifts. This suggests that positive short-term outcomes are real but conditional: they are most likely when participants are already somewhat receptive, when core educational elements (especially keynotes and discussion) function well, and when operational shortcomings do not overwhelm the experience.

Figure 4.1: Emerging Theory of Change (Qualitative study, 2026)



Pathway synthesized from interview accounts of impact mechanisms

Source: AFODIresearch, 2026

Figure X illustrates the emerging theory of change synthesized from the integrated quantitative and qualitative findings: intensive interaction and debate foster critical thinking and personal discovery of liberty ideas, which in turn support residual engagement and the potential for longer-term action.

4.2 Conditions for Greater Effectiveness

Several conditions emerge from the integrated analysis as relevant to strengthening future camps:

- **Clearer partner roles and stronger coordination** reduce the risk of last-minute adjustments and uneven contribution.
- **More inclusive selection**, particularly through expanded and competitive scholarships, can bring in highly motivated participants who might otherwise be excluded by cost.
- **Deliberate use of alumni** as mentors, examples, and continuity agents can reinforce residual engagement.

- **Better time management and program discipline** protect the professionalism of the event and the quality of interaction.
- **Realistic incremental expectations** (“changing one stone at a time”) help align design with the actual pace of ideological and cultural change.
- **Strategic inclusion of higher-level audiences** (policymakers, entrepreneurs, business practitioners) may extend influence beyond the student and early-career cohort that currently dominates.

These conditions do not guarantee transformation, but they identify leverage points that both the quantitative patterns and the qualitative accounts point toward.

4.3 Practical Design Principles

Drawing on the integrated evidence, five practical design principles can be formulated for future intensive liberty camp events in Africa:

- Protect and prioritize high-quality input (keynotes) and structured dialogue.
- Treat residual engagement as a core outcome, not a side effect, and design follow-up mechanisms accordingly.
- Address selection and resource barriers simultaneously through scholarships and clearer partner contributions.
- Invest in organizational discipline (roles, timing, program stability) to match the quality of the intellectual content.
- Frame success in incremental and realistic terms while remaining open to segmented or complementary formats for different audiences.

4.4 Limitations of the Integrated Study

The mixed-methods design inherits the limitations of its component strands. The quantitative sample, while representing 36% of attendees, remains self-selected. The qualitative sample is small and focused on a single event. Integration relies on the researchers’ interpretation of points of convergence and divergence; alternative readings are possible. Longer-term behavioral outcomes and the perspectives of non-responding participants or external observers lie outside the scope of the present analysis.

4.5 Contribution

By completing the Africa Liberty Camp 2026 Impact Trilogy, this study moves beyond separate quantitative and qualitative descriptions to an integrated assessment of both outcomes and mechanisms. It contributes empirical evidence on the potential and limits of intensive liberty camps in an African setting and offers concrete design principles grounded in both participant experience and insider perspectives. Conducted by Action for Development Initiative (AFODI), the work forms part of a broader effort to

generate rigorous, open-access evaluation research on liberty-oriented education and to position AFODI as a leading source of such evidence in Uganda and the wider region.

5. Conclusion

This mixed-methods evaluation integrated participant survey data with organizers' and speakers' perspectives to assess the potential of intensive liberty camp events as a vehicle for advancing liberty-oriented ideas in the African context. The combined evidence indicates that Africa Liberty Camp 2026 generated substantial short-term cognitive and motivational effects among motivated participants. Self-reported knowledge gains were clear across core topics, perceived influence was high across multiple domains, and residual commitment—expressed through willingness to recommend the camp and to remain actively involved—was exceptionally strong.

At the same time, the integration reveals that these positive outcomes are conditional. Organizational coordination, resource limitations, selection processes, program discipline, and residual cultural resistance all shape the depth and reach of the camp's effects. Success is best understood in incremental terms: the conversion of individuals, the stimulation of critical dialogue, and the cultivation of ongoing engagement rather than immediate large-scale transformation.

The findings support a set of practical design principles centered on protecting high-quality input and dialogue, treating residual engagement as a core outcome, improving selection and resource access through scholarships, strengthening organizational discipline, and maintaining realistic expectations about the pace of change. They also affirm the continuing relevance of the intensive residential format while highlighting the conditions under which it is most likely to succeed.

As the final paper in the Africa Liberty Camp 2026 Impact Trilogy, this study consolidates quantitative and qualitative evidence into an integrated assessment. Conducted by Action for Development Initiative (AFODI), it contributes to the still-limited body of systematic evaluation research on liberty-oriented education in Africa and forms part of AFODI's broader effort to generate rigorous, open-access evidence capable of informing both scholarly understanding and practical program improvement.

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